

The Liberty Bell

XIII ISSUE 07

FEBRUARY 2024



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* ? alafli.org/submit
alaflinews@alafli.org

Upcoming Events FEBRUARY 2024

- 01 Americanism Month
- 01 Black History Month
- 01 Freedom Day
- 02 Groundhog Day
- 03 Four Chaplains Day
- 10 3rd Annual Tushies and Toes Ride
- 10 District 4: ABC School
- 11-17 Salute to Veteran Patients Week
- 11 District 5: Meeting
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 13 Mardi Gras
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Liberty Bell Articles Due
- 17 District 15: Picnic
- 17 President Dee Bell's Homecoming
- 19 President's Day
- 19 Department Headquarters Closed
- 19 Washington's Birthday
- 19 U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 23 District 8: President's Visit
- 23 District 5: ABC School
- 24 District 12: Meeting
- 24 District - Unit 254: Wiffle Ball Golf
- 25 Post 138: 4th Annual Postarilla

President's Message

Dee Bell



Hello Florida Clappers,

Thank you to all the Units across Florida for Ringing in Membership!!! Congratulations to the Department of Florida for achieving the 85% National goal. Bells are ringing to welcome all the new members who have joined the American

Legion Auxiliary. Membership Chairmen have been working very hard encouraging members to renew and rejoin. Your Unit will be enhanced and benefit from the volunteers, new ideas and enthusiasm you can create. Thank You for your membership, each and every member is important.

National and some Florida American Legion family members will be going to Washington D.C. in February. They will be talking to legislators about issues and Legion priorities concerning our veterans, their families and our military families. The National Commander will also address Congress and report on the great works reported during President Jane's year while COLORing our Auxiliary world.

It is time to start evaluating the time and talents you

have for the 2024-2025 auxiliary year. Are you interested in a leadership role as an officer? Where is your niche or special interest? Which chairmanship would you like to hold? How can you inspire, and motivate members to make a difference in the lives of our veterans, military families, children and your community?

In January, Lisa Hoyland Membership Chairman I were thrilled to visit the 2nd District. Thank You to President Muriel and the members for a wonderful weekend. Visiting the Tallahassee National Cemetery, we saw the progress and development and how veterans are remembered. Every gravesite was still adored with a wreath from Wreaths Across America. We then toured the Old and New State Houses. Legion family members from #100 Marianna and #241 Sneads enjoyed a great dinner and then participated in a moving flag retirement ceremony. Quincy Unit 217 and Havana Unit 84 had a wonderful time, conversation, and buffet lunch at the Quincy Golf Club. Tallahassee #13 members enjoyed a great lunch at a local restaurant with round table discussion. Lisa and I were also excited to visit the 7th District. Meeting the members from Winter Haven Unit 8 and Florence Villa Unit 201 was fantastic. Volunteering in the kitchen at for the Auxiliary Fish dinner was icing on the cake. Visiting Dade City Unit 15 for the first time was amazing. Thank you for the delicious lunch and wonderful discussion. Thank You to District 7 President Audra and the members for a wonderful visit.

Secretary

MARY KELLY-PERKINS



It is getting to be that time of the year where the Units should be ELECTING a nominating committee for the 2024-2025 Unit Officers and elections cannot be held prior to 90 days and no election can be held after May 29, 2024. Please remember that the Unit Officer List must

be completed and sent to Department. You can find a fillable form on the Department website under Forms and Resources.

A change of dues form has been emailed to each Unit and should be returned immediately to our office even if the Unit is not making any changes in the upcoming 2024-25 Auxiliary year. This is also available on our website.

We are currently working to update the website and restoring the Auxiliary store to add new merchandise so please be patient.

All questions pertaining to Girls Sate must be directed

Continued on Page 4 >>

to Paula Fox via email. Her email is girlsstate@alafl.org and her phone number is 407-747-0725.

If your Unit needs to be reinstated to ALAMIS please contact our Membership Coordinator, Patsy Sewell, via email. Her email address is membership@alafl.org Our Treasurer, Brandi, will be invoicing each Unit for the cost of ALAMIS after we receive the report from National, which should be the first week in February. On that note, this is just a heads up that the national membership division will be sending a renewal reminder to expired senior members with an email address (members not renewed since 2021). The email will contain information for how the member can renew online, over the phone or submit payment to

their local auxiliary unit and their 2024 dues amount.

The Department Headquarters will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024, for Presidents Day.

Lastly, if you wish to submit an article for the Liberty Bell please send it to the following email address: alaflnews@alafl.org Please proof read your article as it is printed as received. Units may only send 5 photos. Please feel free to contact me via email if you have questions that have not been answered by the Unit and/or District Presidents or District/Department Chairmen.

Have a wonderful day and keep ringing your bell!

Historian

DARA OLIVER



History happens whether we write it down or not! If it gets documented, then it eventually becomes history. As a New Year's resolution, did you decide to make it a point to add to your groups' history? **EVERYONE can help!!** Please feel free to send me a story or photos of visits that

President Dee has made in your area. I can use them in the department history.

Are you journaling or taking photos of everyday events at your post or within your unit? Have you thought about taking a photo of your members at a meeting, or the officers this year, while putting their names underneath it to log and remember who those people are in the photo? Hopefully by now historians have already started documenting this year. **"Writing isn't the hardest part ... REMEMBERING is!!!"**

Don't forget, you can follow social media pages, look in the minutes of your meeting or check the calendar of your post home to see what has been going on and write about those events and activities. Be specific... how many Legion family members attended? How many Auxiliary members worked and how many hours did they volunteer? Who did you serve? What committee was it under and can you report it? Those details help you write

your history.

If people send you photos, ask them to send a story about what they are and the people that are in it.

If you're in need of any help, please reach out to me. I'm trying to encourage Every Unit in Florida to have some kind of history to help build our archives. Remember at the department level we have awards for a written history book or a pictorial history book; but wouldn't it be great to have both?

"A generation which ignores history has no past — and no future."

This quote is from Robert Anson Heinlein (7 July 1907 – 8 May 1988) He was one of the most popular, influential, and controversial authors of science fiction of the 20th Century.

Here's a little fun
ALA HISTORY QUIZ -

1. What is the name of the first American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida President?
2. How many districts are currently (2024) in the Department of Florida?

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3. At Convention in 1986 who was voted in as the Department of Florida ALA President?
4. The American Legion Auxiliary has been around since 1919. What year did they update their logo from the emblem to a modern box with the name?
5. What Past Department President had a pin that was a Train.
6. What year and who from Florida served as National President of the ALA?
7. What year was the Department theme, "Lead to Success" with a mascot of a Frog?
8. Can you name a Department President that served more than one year?
9. In what year did the National organization vote to allow men to join the American Legion Auxiliary?

10. The Department of Florida does not have one district number. What is it and what year did that change?
11. Where and what year was the 1st National American Legion Auxiliary convention held?
12. As of January 1, of this year, (2024) how many units are registered in the Department of Florida ALA?

BONUS - Some committees have been cut from the original inception of the ALA, what committee do you miss the most and why? Do you think it should come back?

Answers will be shared next month as well as on our Social Media platforms.

Chaplain

RUTH BURGESS



*"God, grant us tolerance and kindness as we begin a brand-new year.
May our hearts fill with joy, and an abundance of love for you."
B.J. Taylor, Strength & Grace, Daily Devotions*

Our dearly departed Sisters, by district:

Marjorie Deetz, Unit 69, District 8
Toni Irwin, Unit 69, District 8
Virginia Moore, Unit 113, District 8
Norma Hurley, Unit 162, District 9
Annette Robin, Unit 163, District 12
Debra Cripps, Unit 200, District 12
Klinda Stetzel, Unit 359, District 12
Denise Alehonder, Unit 103, District 13
Kathy Elsworth, Unit 103, District 13
Susan Filbins, Unit 103, District 13
Carol L Nausner, Unit 274, District 13

Linda Wilson, Unit 323, District 13
Andrea Hennessey, Unit 186, District 15
Maryann Brodersen, Unit 14, District 16
Genevieve R Borcas, Unit 119, District 16
Marquerite (Margo) Scannell, Unit 125, District 16
Barbara Toureac, Unit 158, District 16
Marryann Connors, Unit 158, District 16
Judith Maines, Unit 173, District 16
Mary Julia West, Unit 238, District 16
Shirley Morris, Unit 305, District 16
Sheila Mitchell, Unit 120, District 17

Department Membership

PATSY SEWELL



MEMBERSHIP HELPFUL HINTS RENEWALS:

- Print legibly and include the membership ID when possible. This enables Department to make sure the proper member is paid.
- Transmittal number – this is a number that your unit/ membership chair generates, but it plays an important role in locating

a transmittal should you have a question regarding the transmittal at a future time.

- Indicate the check number on the transmittal. This also helps locate information if you have any questions regarding a transmittal.
- Please make sure that the last name on the recap sheet is the same last name in ALAMIS.
- Double check that the listed amount of members and amount due match and are correct. **If there are any discrepancies, the transmittal and check will be sent back for correction.**
- Double check if the member is a Junior or a Senior. A Junior member will become a Senior member January of the year the Junior would be 18.
- Double check that the members listed on the transmittal have not already paid for the year. **As no credit is being issued, the transmittal and check will be sent back.**

TRANSFERS:

- These cannot be processed at the unit level and must be sent to Department.
- Indicate whether this is an in-state or out-of-state transfer.
- A recap for transfers is required to be submitted. Please make sure to include a member data form for each transfer, including the unit number and state of their previous unit.
- A transfer may be a non-paying transfer, please be sure to indicate this on the recap sheet.

NEW MEMBERS:

- Please make sure this is an actual new member and is not already a member anywhere. If they are, they would be a rejoin; no matter how long its been or what state.
- If you have already entered the new member in ALAMIS, please indicate the membership ID on the recap/transmittal and there is no longer any need to send the membership applications or eligibility information to Department. The unit needs to keep this information on file for audit purposes.
- If you need Department to enter a new member into ALAMIS, please be sure that all pertinent information is filled in on the membership application. Member information and all eligibility information. If this is not completed, it will be sent back.

REJOINS:

- These cannot be processed at the unit level and must be sent to Department.
- If a member is rejoining, they will need to provide a new member application and eligibility information again to verify that their eligibility has not changed.

FULL ACCESS ALAMIS USERS:

- When you enter a new member, please allow 15-30 minutes for the member to show up as available to pay.
- Dept no longer requires that you send in new member applications/eligibility proof IF you have entered the member into ALAMIS yourself.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- No personal checks. All recaps must be accompanied by a Unit check.
- Do not use staples on any material sent to Department. We are scanning all documents and removing staples can tear the paper.



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Membership

LISA HOYLAND



Congratulations to the Department of Florida for being in first place nationally as of 12/20/2023 and we already made the 85% Department Award! This award is awarded to Departments reaching 85% of their 2024 Department membership goal by TAL Birthday, March 15, 2024. We are ahead of where we were last year in membership by 2264 members, and we have 49 Units that have already meet their 100% membership goal. I want to **THANK ALL OF YOU** for doing such a GREAT job so far this year on Membership.

The Next Goal Dates from Department:

85% of unit membership by February 1st, 2024, President Dee Bell's birthday. 95% of unit membership by April 1, 2024. April Fool's Day.

Our second notice from national was mailed on February 1 for the current membership year. Here are a few suggestions on how units can take the opportunity to let members know that they are the Auxiliary's most valuable asset.

HOW TO MAKE A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO GET MEMBERS TO RENEW: Too often the only contact a member receives is their Dues Renewal Notice sent by the national headquarters office. Personal connection is necessary to help members become engaged in the American Legion Auxiliary. Below are samples for how units can reach out and make a personal connection with their members and ask them to renew their membership:

- **Personal phone call** – Remind members why they joined the American Legion Auxiliary. Share the ways the unit has made a difference in the lives of veterans in your community, state, and country. Encourage them to become a part of activities.

Transportation may be an issue, so if your unit members can offer to provide a ride, this may be the key to increasing involvement. Offer to pick up their dues at a scheduled time.

- **Personal letter** – Send letters out to all unit members at the beginning of the Auxiliary year. Outline the events on a calendar for all the exciting things the unit is planning throughout the year and let members know that their membership is important to the mission of the organization.
- **Renewal Open House** – Host an event at the beginning of the year where members can come renew their dues and mingle with other members. Encourage them to bring other family members along. These family members may be eligible for membership, but if not, remind them they are welcome to attend activities and that you do welcome their help in advancing the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Combine this event with your Legion family. It is a win-win for everyone.
- **Celebrate Members** - Plan a Member Day of Recognition - Celebrate the unit's members. At the unit meetings, share information about a member's family history with the Auxiliary, what the member is doing to advance the mission of the Auxiliary, in the community, the member that might have their membership as the unit the longest. Celebrate Membership!
- **Share personal experience as a member**- Let members know there will be ups and downs, but to always keep their eye on the big picture – the mission of the Auxiliary – not just personal rewards.

Membership is everyone's responsibility. Go out and get those renewals – call those members who haven't paid – personal contact is the best way to reach your hand out and pull members back in.

Just **ASK** and keep *Ringin' In Membership!*



— SHOW YOUR — SUPPORT

The American Legion official license plate.

National Security

DAWN DAVIS



Happy 2024! I hope everyone has had a great start to the new year. I thank each and every one of you who continue to “ring those bells” and work the mission to support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve, and transitioning military servicemembers and their families along with Law Enforcement, Fire,

and First Responders. You are so very appreciated, and I am amazed at everything I have seen our units doing across the Department (troop boxes, partnering with Operation Homefront, Gold Star Mothers’ events, some very special projects, and more). I cannot wait to read about it all in your narratives this year. I love working and learning from you.

To begin with, we know that the National Security Program has many components. Throughout this year, I have been sharing different resources and programs that we can utilize and support through National Security via our Facebook Group, our monthly Zoom sessions (third Monday of every month), and more. Last month, there was a great webinar about National Security vs. VA & R from National. During that session, we learned what programs and different activities would be considered National Security and/or VA & R. For example, Wreaths Across America now falls under National Security, so please keep that in mind when you are completing your end of year reports. In addition, many other questions were addressed and answered during this webinar that may have been a bit of a surprise. I encourage you to learn more by visiting the alafl.org/programs/national-security/ and National Security page at legion-aux.org.

One program that falls under National Security are blood drives. The month of January is designated as National Blood Donor Month. Winter months are often times of reduced donations and blood shortages, so hosting a blood drive is extremely vital at this time. Oneblood.org is an organization that many of us utilize for blood drives (many members probably already are registered). You can contact a representative to coordinate a visit from the Big Red Bus to your Post. If you give blood, it falls under National Security, if you are assisting with the blood drive, it will fall under

Community Service. So, it is definitely a win-win. In addition, this is a great event for all Post Family to assist in coordinating and participating; you could even have a fundraiser going on with food or raffles to encourage everyone to come out to support.

Don’t forget...when looking for opportunities to support the National Security Program, always take a look at the upcoming calendar or events going on in your area. You never know when an opportunity presents itself (maybe you live close to a base that might be having an event where your Unit could provide some snacks, reintegration activities for our National Guard, or even host a dinner for military families in your area and more!) There are some fabulous chances for us to support the National Security mission in the upcoming months. I’ve listed some important dates below, but there are still many more.

February & March dates:

Feb 3rd	USO Birthday
Feb 19th	Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
Mar 3rd	Navy Reserve Birthday
Mar 4th	Hug a GI Day
Mar 5th	Seabee Birthday
Mar 13th	K-9 Veterans Day
Mar 15th	American Legion Birthday

One of the most important ways to work the mission is for you to share your voice. You all do inspiring work, but you need to share what you are doing. So, before/ during/after your work did you...post on Social Media (with your hashtags, of course)...send in a newsletter article to the Liberty Bell?...count your hours? Send me pictures at nationalsecurity@alafl.org? Every moment counts, so please make sure and show us what you did.

Please do not forget about the Salute to Service Members Award. “Established in 2003, this award has evolved from honoring women veterans to honoring active duty women, to honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve. One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard/Reserve will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention.

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Recipients will attend the National Convention as guests of the Auxiliary." All nominations are due by June 1st (to National), so now is the time to begin this process. Last year, National had less than ten nominations for the entire nation, so I would love to see Florida have a few nominations this year.

Next, deadlines are real! It's that time of year to start making a timeline of all your hard work for the year. Unit reports are due on April 1st. When reporting, please keep in mind that your volunteer hours are the most important thing to report! Your narrative should highlight each part of your program and what your Unit did to "be the one" and "ring the bells" for the National

Security Program. Take the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone in your unit had on our mission. Please include up to five digital pictures when submitting a report. The February Zoom will review reporting (with a very special guest to help us answer questions that you will have). If you have any questions at all, please let me know.

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

Public Relations

VIRNA LUKE



Happy February Bells in Service, wow, we are two months away from end of year reports. Start to review the programs engagement plans, found on alafl.org, click programs, and select. I advise that you read the respective end-of-year reporting. This will help to prepare you for

what to include in the narrative. If you are submitting pictures, please send them in high-resolution JPEG, this will look best on the jumbotron at the National Convention.

Again, reminder: Unit Chairman end of year report is due to District Chairman by April 1, 2024
District Chairman end of year report is due to Department Chairman by April 15, 2024.

On January 8, I joined a Zoom Call with PR National Chairman Pam Bates, there was a push that we follow National on their social media platforms, not only Facebook. So please go to <https://www.legion-aux.org/social-media> and you can view, all the social media platforms that ALA National is on.

Make sure to follow Florida too, we are on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok, scan the QR code below. Speaking of social media, please be consistent in posting, positivity in messages, use the free tools

available (social media planner, create events, promote options, polls, live video, chat rooms). If you want to learn more about social media apps, search on YouTube, great videos for beginners, marketing tools, what is trending, and much more.

Did you see the message from The American Legion, related to Media & Communications Contest, open to all (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders) deadline for submission is April 15, 2024. The Media & Communications Contest has seven categories for submissions: websites, publications, visual media, social media campaigns, editorial/news writing, editorial/informational writing and public relations/community outreach. There is a \$5 fee per entry submission. All entries must have been published during the 2023 calendar year. Learn more: <https://www.legion.org/media/contest>

For those going to ALR Summit, I look forward to seeing you there, Lamar "Joker" Camacho and I will be leading the "District & Dept Websites" class.

As always, Patricia Grayshaw and I are here to help, so do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns, email publicrelations@alafl.org



3RD ANNUAL TUSHIES & Toes



NEW SOCKS UNDERWEAR AND
SHOES DRIVE FOR SEMINOLE
COUNTY ELEMNETARY SCHOOLS

MOTORCYCLE & CAR FUN RUN



**\$20 PER RIDER (\$5 for passenger)
Plus a donation of socks or undies:**

Includes

**Mardi Gras Style Jambayala with Side
and Dessert**

\$10 for Non-Riders

**Stops include: G's Lounge, Foxhead
Lounge, Shay's Airport Lounge and
Casselberry Veterans Club**

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 10
K/U
10 am**



AMERICAN LEGION
OLD GLORY POST 183
2706 WELLS AVENUE
FERN PARK, FL 32730



FOR MORE INFO:

GATORPENNY@ICLOUD.COM

(407) 879-2528

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273, Madeira Beach, FL
Cordially Invites You to

Dare to Dream

Fashion Show, Plated Dinner, Chinese & Silent Auctions

Thursday, February 8, 2024

5:00 PM

Tickets \$40.

Holiday Inn at Harbourside
401 2nd Street
Indian Rocks Beach

Fashions presented by JoJo's Boutique, Corey Avenue., St. Petersburg, FL.

Chairman Zoe Roseman

Reservation Information Below

(seating is limited – ticketed event)

Checks made to: ALA Unit 273



Dinner Choices:

Preset salad, rolls, butter, ice tea, dessert

Marinated/Grilled London Broil

Sherry-Mushroom Demi Glaze, fresh sauteed vegetables, parsley butter potatoes

Chicken Colada

Sauteed Chicken Breast topped with Tropical Pina Colada Cream Sauce, fresh sauteed vegetables, parsley butter potatoes

Blackened Mahi-Mahi

Lightly Blackened Mahi-Mahi topped with Roasted Corn Salsa, fresh sauteed vegetables, parsley butter potatoes

Cash Bar

Ticket Sales

Hours and Contacts:
Legion Post 273 Main Hall

December 8 and December 29
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

January 5, 12, 19, 26
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Anytime by phone:

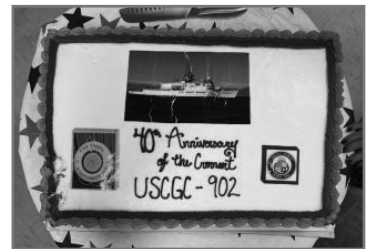
Patti VanTil 616-632-4552

Barb Grasman 727-397-5715

Districts and Units

UNIT 5

Unit 5 - It was a busy December for the USS Tampa Unit 5. We helped host Wreath Across America for our Military cemetery her at the Post on a rainy Saturday. Quickly decorated the hall when the function ended and celebrated the holiday with our Post family Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary. But in Unit 5 style we collected a car full of non-perishable food for Veteran's Pantry, held a 50/50 raffle for AEF, President Dee's charity. But we had the privilege of celebrating a 107th Veteran and Legion member Bill Monfort. But we weren't done yet we supported a young family at MacDill AFV who were really struggling. We got to play Santa Clause. In January we welcomed members of the USCGC Tampa named for our Post on the ships 40th Anniversary. We then helped with the Oratorical contest and AHG Citizenship and Government Badges. Ringing our Bells in Service for our Veterans, Military, and Community. *Submitted by: Susan Nicely*



UNIT 62

Unit 62 - Sunday December 17, members of Dist 11 Unit 62 hosted the children's breakfast with Santa. Children enjoyed pancakes followed by a performance of the nutcracker with real ballet dancers, Santa arrived and delivered presents to all the good girls and boys. The children had fun getting their face painted and petting all the animals at the petting zoo. A huge thank the Girl Scouts for coming out and helping with serving and cleaning up breakfast. They provided much needed and appreciated help. *Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover*



Unit 62 - Florida snow (rain) nor wind could keep us from honoring the veterans at Fernhill Memorial Gardens. Approximately 200 community members and Legion members showed to support Wreaths Across America in the downpour and wind. Approximately 1,400 wreaths were placed at Fernhill and about 3 dozen wreaths were laid at Moore's Cemetery with the help of a Girl Scout and her Mother. *Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover*

UNIT 62

Unit 62 - In December auxiliary members and legionnaires joined together to pack 54 boxes for our troops overseas. Socks were purchased using the funds from the envelopes and other items were donated so the boxes can be filled with items that service members will be able to enjoy this holiday season. *Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover*



Unit 62 - Approximately 40 auxiliary members were in attendance for the monthly December meeting. District president Sandy Swafford presented an award that was earned by Unit 62 at the fall conference in Orlando in November. The award was presented to Membership committee chair NancyAnne Taylor for her achievement of getting and keeping over 100% membership for the Auxiliary. Well done NancyAnne. Congratulations and you Rock!!! *Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover*

UNIT 100

Unit 100 - Unit 100 and 241 co-hosted Dept. Pre. Dee's visit to District 2 on Jan. 4th with a Grilled Chicken meal. Afterwards Post 241 held a Flag Retirement. *Submitted by: Kaye Brown*



Districts and Units

UNIT 125

Unit 125 - American Legion Post #125 Gulfport, Florida replaced the tattered flags at Lincoln Cemetery as part of giving back to the community and making a Difference on this day. *Submitted by: Liz Close*



UNIT 138

Unit 138 - Unit 138 and the rest of the Post family rang in 2024 "Live from 138" in the theme of Saturday Night Live. Costumes abounded of favorite SNL characters, as well as many in 70's and 80's attire. Food, fun, and fireworks made the festivities a night to remember. *Submitted by: Tammy Zell*



UNIT 240

Unit 240 - On behalf of Unit 240 in Pensacola President Brenda English presented Mia Hughes, director of operations at the Fischer House at Elgin AFB a check for \$2,212.00. *Submitted by: Pamela Pannasch*



UNIT 186

Unit 186 - District 15 – After a very hectic pre-holiday season, followed by a period of relaxation, the members of Unit 186 turned their focus to learning ventures. Education Chair, Lynda Anderson, and her committee will initially review and make any alterations to the scholarship application and eligibility requirements, after which the Unit, as well as Department and National, scholarship forms and information will be distributed to our five local high schools, with an early April return date. Upon receipt of applications, the committee will meet, review and judge the applications, and select



the scholarship winners. That process continues through May, and culminates with the presentation of scholarships at the high school Awards Ceremonies. Preparations for the Girls State program are also in full swing, with their application and selection process underway. Girls State Program Chair Eileen Wilson and her Committee will start interviewing applicants and upon completion, the committee will review and analyze the results and select the successful delegates and alternates to attend the June 2024 Girls State Session. Our National Security Chair, Gladys Stover, continues her coupon clipping program, and in the past five months, ending December 31, 2023, Gladys has mailed coupons valued at \$15,931.00 to our troops. Gladys is also heading up a new venture for our Unit, with members purchasing and supplying baked goods to our First Responders, EMT's, Fire and Sheriff's Departments staff, expressing appreciation and thanking them for their service. With positive changes to our Post, and the optimistic working relationship among all our 186 Legion Family, we are in the process of bringing back Bingo. At this point it appears that SAL and the Auxiliary will co-chair, and the work and proceeds will be split. Many of our Post members are looking forward to Bingo's return so, hopefully, this will happen soon. Auxiliary 186 was represented by First Vice Eileen Wilson, Second Vice Mitzi Moscovits and Member-at-Large Patti Motzer at the Dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial held at FNC-Bushnell on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. The memorial is beautiful, and the dedication ceremony was outstanding. *Submitted by: Lynda Anderson*

UNIT 375

Unit 375 - Doing what Auxiliary Unit 375 in Southport does.... To all who helped make both the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals a bit easier for the families, veterans, and our local first responders, we thank you. *Submitted by: Pamela Pannasch*



Districts and Units

UNIT 283

Unit 283 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance, December 10, 2023 - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 283 hosted a table at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance event at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena on Sunday, December 10 2023. The "We Can Be Heros Foundation" sponsored the event as a fundraiser for the Atlantic Coast Young Marines. Our ALA Unit was honored to support the Young Marines with a notable donation in addition to hosting a table in recognition of our Posts namesake Jim J Gilleo and his wife. The speakers and videos presented at the event were inspiring and yet sad to see and hear what these young men at the time went through, and how it affected them throughout their lives.

Submitted by: Carmen Roden



Unit 283 - Vets4Vets event January 6th 2024 - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 283 was proud to represent our Jim J Gilleo American Legion family at the Vets4Vets gathering at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena on Saturday, January 6 2024. Our table was manned by our Auxiliary President, Kam Sons and Carmen Roden. First Vice-President, Sue Reynolds and Past Auxiliary President Yvette Moore were also in attendance representing tow additional Organizations. The SPIRIT of Volunteerism was alive in the arena as Veterans socialized with each other and made connections with a variety of organizations whose focus is on the well-being of those who have served our country in the military. Thank YOU, VETERANS, for Your Service to our Country!! SERVICE, Not self...

Submitted by: Carmen Roden

Unit 283 - December Children Christmas Party - On December 16th Unit 283 Children and Youth Committee, held their annual Christmas party. What a crazy few weeks getting everything set up. WELL... Santa and Ms Claus had to have a grand entrance. Yes, Rudolph and 2 reindeer led Santa and Ms Claus to the party. The Claus party was in a golf cart with Rudolph and his crew in the front and they were followed by the 283 American Legion Riders. The children and their parents were excited at seeing not just Santa and Ms Claus, but seeing the reindeer and the motorcycles coming down the road. Once out of the golf cart, and into the building, the Children were brought to the front of the room to be able to sit on Santa's lap and get a Christmas card with a crisp two dollar bill inside donated by our own Bruce. After telling Santa what they'd like for Christmas and getting the card from Ms Claus, they were presented with a gift bag that had age appropriate toys. Those attending the party were treated to chicken wings, sandwiches, baked macaroni and cheese and different type of meatballs and appetizers. As the children were leaving, they were each given a gift bag filled with small items, candy and each one got a beanie baby in their treat bags. A HUGE thank you goes out to those who donated so we could give the children a fabulous Christmas. There are way too many members of the Post that helped to make this party the huge success it was to try and say their names, I'm afraid I'd miss someone and that would be awful.... The pictures show the fun that everyone had. On to the next community event.

Submitted by: Suella Reynolds



Unit 283 - December Community events - Our December started out with a flurry of activity. We did Christmas baskets for 43 families in our community and added some Christmas Cheer for the children. The month became busier for the Auxiliary members as we got closer to the Christmas Holiday. Our member, Carmen Roden, does Bingo 2 times a week at the Ft Caroline Assisted Living Facility. While at the last Bingo event for December, Carmen delivered goodie bags to the Veteran Residents. Each bag contained crackers and assorted little items for them, along with a Christmas card. They also received crocheted hats and those who needed, got a crocheted walker bag they could put their items in. These crocheted

items were created and donated by Arlene Freeman, who is a long time member of 283. Those unable to play Bingo that day had their Christmas gifts delivered to their rooms. Well we weren't done with the Christmas cheer!! Next, on to the Five Star Veterans Center. This is a wonderful place for veterans who are getting job training, living arrangements and getting their lives back on track. We met with some of the residents and had bags filled with yummy treats, Christmas cards and inspirational items. These young men were very thankful for the items and invited us to stay, have lunch and talk for a while. What a wonderful way to spread Christmas Cheer!!

Submitted by: Suella Reynolds



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Membership Reports

JANUARY 19, 2024

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	213	0	182	182	85.45%
0193	Pensacola	78	11	49	60	76.92%
0221	Niceville	127	2	134	136	107.09%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	131	1	107	108	82.44%
0240	Pensacola	254	4	197	201	79.13%
0296	Destin	74	0	67	67	90.54%
0340	Pensacola	338	7	294	301	89.05%
0356	Lynn Haven	136	1	100	101	74.26%
0375	Southport	55	2	33	35	63.64%
0378	Gulf Breeze	44	0	53	53	120.45%
0382	Navarre	171	3	138	141	82.46%
0392	Panama City	175	1	152	153	87.43%
0402	Panama City Beach	41	1	41	42	102.44%
TOTALS		1837	33	1557	1590	86.55%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	78	2	58	60	76.92%
0082	Lanark	67	2	51	53	79.10%
0084	Havana	30	13	11	24	80.00%
0100	Marianna	32	4	29	33	103.13%
0217	Quincy	50	2	24	26	52.00%
0241	Sneads	72	13	43	56	77.78%
TOTALS		329	36	216	252	76.60%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	28	0	28	28	100.00%
0057	Lake City	223	6	183	189	84.75%
0107	Live Oak	55	1	46	47	85.45%
0215	Jasper	35	2	18	20	57.14%
0224	Madison	50	0	47	47	94.00%
0291	Steinhatchee	200	3	165	168	84.00%
0383	Old Town	134	3	128	131	97.76%
TOTALS		725	15	615	630	86.90%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	26	0	25	25	96.15%
0027	Ocala	20	1	14	15	75.00%
0058	Dunnellon	29	0	24	24	82.76%
0077	Inverness	68	1	72	73	107.35%
0149	Newberry	31	3	26	29	93.55%
0155	Crystal River	344	4	380	384	111.63%
0166	Homosassa Springs	146	3	152	155	106.16%
0230	Hawthorne	32	3	35	38	118.75%
0236	Bronson	47	0	35	35	74.47%
0237	Beverly Hills	202	0	130	130	64.36%
0284	Bellevue	77	2	63	65	84.42%
TOTALS		1022	17	971	988	96.67%

DISTRICT 5

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	68	2	38	40	58.82%
0054	Fernandina Beach	166	6	209	215	129.52%
0088	Jacksonville	77	1	63	64	83.12%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	359	9	354	363	101.11%
0137	Jacksonville	424	21	352	373	87.97%
0194	St Augustine	69	5	38	43	62.32%
0197	Jacksonville	44	1	26	27	61.36%
0202	Keystone Heights	73	1	58	59	80.82%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	176	18	114	132	75.00%
0244	Jacksonville	33	1	21	22	66.67%
0250	Middleburg	310	20	228	248	80.00%
0283	Jacksonville	460	9	375	384	83.48%
0316	Atlantic Beach	370	37	262	299	80.81%
0372	Mandarin	29	0	31	31	106.90%
0373	Orange Park	32	0	15	15	46.88%
0401	Hilliard	49	1	18	19	38.78%
TOTALS		2739	132	2202	2334	85.21%

DISTRICT 7

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	78	0	70	70	89.74%
0004	Lakeland	63	1	37	38	60.32%
0008	Winter Haven	601	17	638	655	108.99%
0015	Dade City	22	0	20	20	90.91%
0034	Haines City	78	0	79	79	101.28%
0071	Lake Wales	48	0	25	25	52.08%
0072	Mulberry	166	3	121	124	74.70%
0201	Florence Villa	25	1	18	19	76.00%
TOTALS		1081	22	1008	1030	95.28%

DISTRICT 6

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	206	2	183	185	89.81%
0018	Wildwood	21	0	17	17	80.95%
0019	Orlando	109	2	73	75	68.81%
0035	Mount Dora	147	1	121	122	82.99%
0041	Eustis	14	0	9	9	64.29%
0055	Clermont	215	8	217	225	104.65%
0063	Winter Garden	35	0	12	12	34.29%
0080	Saint Cloud	264	16	221	237	89.77%
0101	Bushnell	112	0	94	94	83.93%
0109	Ocoee	13	0	0	0	0.00%
0112	Winter Park	26	2	22	24	92.31%
0183	Fern Park	121	0	76	76	62.81%
0219	Fruitland Park	206	1	196	197	95.63%
0239	Groveland	11	0	14	14	127.27%
0242	Orlando	109	8	95	103	94.50%
0286	Orlando	171	8	150	158	92.40%
0330	Leesburg	69	2	35	37	53.62%
0331	Orlando	14	0	12	12	85.71%
0347	Lady Lake	2563	9	2376	2385	93.06%
0412	Orlando	14	2	5	7	50.00%
TOTALS		4440	61	3928	3989	89.84%

DISTRICT 8

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	36	0	2	2	5.56%
0024	Bradenton	333	1	268	269	80.78%
0025	Lake Placid	395	0	414	414	104.81%
0030	Sarasota	82	8	59	67	81.71%
0069	Avon Park	720	13	620	633	87.92%
0074	Sebring	132	0	102	102	77.27%
0113	Rotonda West	308	1	304	305	99.03%
0159	Venice	711	2	535	537	75.53%
0254	North Port	119	0	133	133	111.76%
0266	Fruitville	159	2	142	144	90.57%
0309	Palmetto	177	0	180	180	101.69%
0312	Oneco	199	2	82	84	42.21%
0325	Ellenton	200	0	173	173	86.50%
TOTALS		3571	29	3014	3043	85.21%

DISTRICT 9

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0092	Hollywood	98	1	69	70	71.43%
0142	Pompano Beach	186	7	134	141	75.81%
0157	Margate	171	0	130	130	76.02%
0162	Deerfield Beach	172	13	121	134	77.91%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	112	0	75	75	66.96%
0209	Dania Beach	18	0	10	10	55.56%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	28	7	16	23	82.14%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	32	0	40	40	125.00%
0287	Deerfield Beach	17	0	21	21	123.53%
0304	Dania	52	0	43	43	82.69%
0310	Hallandale	25	1	28	29	116.00%
0321	Cooper City	230	19	178	197	85.65%
0365	Sunrise	14	2	12	14	100.00%
Total		1155	53	899	952	82.42%

DISTRICT 12

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	277	11	182	193	69.68%
0022	Cocoa	106	0	105	105	99.06%
0039	Vero Beach	207	6	168	174	84.06%
0040	Fort Pierce	185	3	182	185	100.00%
0081	Melbourne	172	2	190	192	111.63%
0117	Palm Bay	514	11	479	490	95.33%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	1	100	101	51.79%
0163	Eau Gallie	220	8	225	233	105.91%
0189	Sebastian	159	0	167	167	105.03%
0191	Melbourne	81	8	28	36	44.44%
0200	Satellite Beach	171	9	118	127	74.27%
0318	Port St Lucie	1154	3	1287	1290	111.79%
0344	Merritt Island	47	2	20	22	46.81%
0348	Cape Canaveral	211	2	214	216	102.37%
0358	White City	69	0	58	58	84.06%
0359	Port St John	358	10	306	316	88.27%
0366	Barefoot Bay	69	8	44	52	75.36%
0394	Palm Bay	208	2	258	260	125.00%
TOTALS		4403	86	4131	4217	95.78%

DISTRICT 11

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	40	2	41	43	107.50%
0047	Lake Worth	75	1	78	79	105.33%
0062	Stuart	548	7	634	641	116.97%
0064	Okeechobee	116	0	52	52	44.83%
0065	Delray Beach	58	7	46	53	91.38%
0141	West Palm Beach	73	5	58	63	86.30%
0164	Boynton Beach	150	12	107	119	79.33%
0199	W Palm Beach	38	0	45	45	118.42%
0268	Riviera Beach	85	3	53	56	65.88%
0271	Tequesta	158	8	163	171	108.23%
0277	Boca Raton	111	0	86	86	77.48%
0288	Boynton Beach	22	5	10	15	68.18%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	28	3	23	26	92.86%
TOTALS		1502	53	1396	1449	96.47%

DISTRICT 13

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	31	31	83.78%
0090	Cape Coral	287	5	298	303	105.57%
0103	Punta Gorda	649	3	714	717	110.48%
0110	Port Charlotte	635	3	401	404	63.62%
0123	Sanibel	41	0	28	28	68.29%
0130	Labelle	152	0	102	102	67.11%
0135	Naples	367	0	287	287	78.20%
0136	Saint James City	516	7	446	453	87.79%
0192	Fort Myers	21	0	14	14	66.67%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	544	0	340	340	62.50%
0303	Bonita Springs	425	10	337	347	81.65%
0323	Lehigh Acres	409	31	347	378	92.42%
0336	N Ft Myers	440	0	475	475	107.95%
0351	Fort Myers	104	3	59	62	59.62%
0415	Punta Gorda	10	0	18	18	180.00%
TOTALS		4637	62	3897	3959	85.38%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	57	0	43	43	75.44%
0031	South Miami	171	2	95	97	56.73%
0043	Homestead	57	1	29	30	52.63%
0067	North Miami	42	0	26	26	61.90%
0098	Coral Gables	16	0	11	11	68.75%
0133	Miami	63	8	39	47	74.60%
0154	Marathon	146	1	114	115	78.77%
0168	Key West	23	0	17	17	73.91%
0333	Key Largo	78	0	60	60	76.92%
0346	Miami	19	0	9	9	47.37%
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	27	27	64.29%
TOTALS		714	12	470	482	67.51%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	249	0	214	214	85.94%
0014	St Petersburg	117	2	111	113	96.58%
0046	Tarpon Springs	10	2	14	16	160.00%
0079	New Port Richey	458	11	337	348	75.98%
0104	Pinellas Park	255	5	263	268	105.10%
0119	Largo	360	6	267	273	75.83%
0125	St Petersburg	297	26	244	270	90.91%
0158	Treasure Island	256	0	269	269	105.08%
0173	Holiday	259	4	241	245	94.59%
0238	Safety Harbor	314	7	304	311	99.04%
0252	Seminole	1065	6	1068	1074	100.85%
0273	Madeira Beach	3428	4	3223	3227	94.14%
0275	Dunedin	981	5	1025	1030	104.99%
0305	St Pete Beach	150	0	141	141	94.00%
0335	Hudson	96	5	73	78	81.25%
TOTALS		8295	83	7794	7877	94.96%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	38	1	22	23	60.53%
0099	Brooksville	21	1	25	26	123.81%
0108	Land O' Lakes	10	0	18	18	180.00%
0111	Tampa	54	0	35	35	64.81%
0138	Tampa	483	9	522	531	109.94%
0139	Tampa	58	0	80	80	137.93%
0147	Odessa	44	0	31	31	70.45%
0148	Riverview	209	4	171	175	83.73%
0152	Tampa	250	7	217	224	89.60%
0167	Tampa	16	1	6	7	43.75%
0186	Brooksville	369	0	307	307	83.20%
0248	West Tampa	15	1	14	15	100.00%
0418	Spring Hill	10	1	32	33	330.00%
TOTALS		1577	25	1480	1505	95.43%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	104	0	81	81	77.88%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	212	0	174	174	82.08%
0045	Palatka	31	1	35	36	116.13%
0115	Palm Coast	40	0	38	38	95.00%
0120	Holly Hill	216	3	171	174	80.56%
0127	Lake Helen	24	0	12	12	50.00%
0255	Deltona	25	7	20	27	108.00%
0259	Debary	28	6	23	29	103.57%
0267	Ormond Beach	229	0	175	175	76.42%
0270	Port Orange	175	2	174	176	100.57%
0285	Edgewater	125	1	125	126	100.80%
0361	S Daytona	226	6	188	194	85.84%
TOTALS		1435	26	1216	1242	86.55%



#RINGYOURBELL

The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida

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