

The Liberty Bell

XIII ISSUE 08

MARCH 2024



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DEE BELL

#RINGYOURBELL

This Month's Edition



3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Dee Bell*

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

ALSO INCLUDING...

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Upcoming Events MARCH 2024

- 1-31 Women's History Month
- 1-31 Military Caregiver Month
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- 29 Good Friday (Dept Headquarters Closed)
- 30 Eastern Area Ball
- 31 Easter

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

President's Message

Dee Bell



Dear Members of the A.L.A.,

YAHOO!! Bells are Ringing all over Florida in CELEBRATION! On February 28th, the Department of Florida officially attained 101% in membership. Don't stop now, reach out to those who have

not renewed, and encourage potential members to join and realize the benefits of an American Legion Auxiliary membership. Congratulations to Department Membership Chairman Lisa, Area and District Membership Chairmen and especially the Unit Membership Chairmen and members for all your hard work promoting membership in our organization.

During my travels, I have been asked many times – Why should I join? or Why should I renew? How does the Auxiliary benefit me? Well, let me give you some reasons to belong to the American Legion Auxiliary.

- ✓ YOU are part of a "Community of volunteers serving our veterans, military families, children and your community."

- ✓ YOU are able to play bingo and other games of chance at post homes.
- ✓ YOU can be inspired by other Departments and Units through the Auxiliary Magazine.
- ✓ YOU are eligible for assistance through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and Auxiliary Disaster Relief Fund with 3 continues years of service.
- ✓ YOU are able to use your artistic and craft talents, i.e. painting and knitting for the betterment of those we serve.
- ✓ Cheap drinks.
- ✓ YOU are able to have the comradery of new and old friends.
- ✓ Use YOUR leadership skills to hold an office in your Unit, District or Department.
- ✓ YOU can receive discounts from retailers, services and on travel.
- ✓ You can inspire members to make a difference by serving as a Department Chairman.
- ✓ YOU get a sense of pride in your heart knowing you have done something extraordinary.
- ✓ YOU get the warm fuzzies and a smile helping others.
- ✓ and most of all, YOU have the Love, Support and Help when needed, of your American Legion Family.

Secretary

MARY KELLY-PERKINS



Spring is just around the corner and Unit nominations have begun. District Presidents should be scheduling the District Constitutional Conferences (DCC) and to be sure that Department gets the form stating time and place of the DCC. Notifications will be

emailed to each Unit in the District giving them their voting strength.

As a reminder if the Unit will be endorsing a candidate for District President for the ensuing year of 2024-2025, please follow the rules that are listed in the Department Unit Guide and the endorsement must be sent Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested.

As per Department Constitution and Bylaws Article VII of the Constitution Sec 5 which reads:

No person shall be eligible for reelection to the office of Department President, Department 1st

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Vice-President, Department 2nd Vice-President, and Department 3rd Vice-President. No Unit shall have an endorsed candidate for the office of Department President in succession.

District Presidents shall not be eligible for the same office for more than two terms in succession. No

Unit shall endorse a candidate for District President who has not served as it's Unit President for at least six months. A candidate who is not eligible for endorsement for District President may not campaign in advance of or during the District Constitution Conference.

Historian

DARA OLIVER



We received a few submissions for the History Quiz ... but we have decided to extend it 1 more month - so get your answers in to: historian@alafl.org for your chance to win a prize.

You can find the history quiz on our Facebook page - 'ALAFL History' or in last month's edition

of the Liberty Bell newsletter.

February we celebrated some Presidents Birthdays and in March there are several things going on that we can celebrate because of History ~

MARCH 3 — NAVY RESERVE BIRTHDAY

The Navy Reserve was formed in 1915 to support World War I.

MARCH 13 — K-9 VETERANS DAY

Official birthday of the U.S. K-9 Corps. The Army founded the K-9 Corps in 1942 during WWII to train dogs to help troops.

MARCH 15-17 — ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Only months after the end of World War I, Service Members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the very first caucus of The American Legion. The beginnings of an organization that caters to Veterans and Service Members were rooted, and only six months later The Legion was officially chartered by Congress.

MARCH 25 — NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

A day to honor the heroism and sacrifice of those awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest U.S. military award.

MARCH 26 — ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

The Battle of Iwo Jima was one of the bloodiest conflicts of World War II, standing out as the only instance where total U.S. casualties outnumbered Imperial Japan's losses. The strategic value of the battle would later be questioned by officers and historians alike, but the iconic image of U.S. Marines hoisting an American flag atop a hill would prove to be a major boost to American morale in the waning weeks of the war.

MARCH 29 — WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day was not established until 2017, decades after a costly war that sent ripples through American society and fractured millions of veterans' lives.

Hundreds of thousands of Vietnam Veterans still live today, and many still suffer from the effects of lingering physical, mental, and emotional trauma suffered so long ago.

History is part of our everyday life, embrace it and celebrate it when you can!

Do you have some thing that we can celebrate? Did your unit or post home celebrate a significant birthday? Do you know when your unit was chartered? Does your unit have a history book that you can refer back to? Have you let your unit members know significant important times that your unit can celebrate?

AND ... have you started writing a history for this year? Don't wait ... we want to celebrate all of the accomplishments that everyone is doing around the ALA in the Department of Florida.

Chaplain

RUTH BURGESS



Let us remember our dear, departed sisters with a smile on our faces –

Some Holy Humor: A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

Ecclesiastes 3:4 - *A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

Our dearly departed Sisters, by district:

Marjorie Deetz, Unit 69, District 8
Judith Williamson, Unit 69, District 8
Anna Skaggs, Unit 69, District 8
Elaine Faas, Unit 69, District 8
Maria Hudyma, Unit 164, District 11
Penny Hamrick, Unit 117, District 12
Elaine Griswold, Unit 117, District 12
Julia A Alfonso, Unit 117, District 12
Ezma Jere McAleney, Unit 117, District 12
Barbara Rossi, Unit 39, District 12
Edith Cueto, Unit 39, District 12
Bonnie Jean Beyer, Unit 126, District 12

Florence Pitt, Unit 323, District 13
Eileen Eslick, Unit 138, District 15
Melody Rosenberg, Unit 125, District 16
Mary Ellen Pender, Unit 158, District 16
Diane Duncan, Unit 305, District 16
Dixie Sherburne Haase, Unit 252, District 16
Bonnie Elsaman, Unit 252, District 16
Susan Hassett Neumyer, Unit 252, District 16
Sandra Moran, Unit 252, District 16
Patricia McKiernan, Unit 252, District 16
Belinda Potter, Unit 252, District 16
Marie Marlowe, Unit 45, District 17

Americanism

TAMMY ZELL



THERE IS NO COMMA

For a child trying to memorize the Pledge of Allegiance, we typically break it down into small stanzas to make it easier to remember. But I've noticed that when a group of us are saying it, many still recite using that

same abbreviated cadence, especially when reaching the phrase "One Nation Under God". What is usually

heard is "One Nation, Under God". In some gatherings, you'll get a handful of people who say it without the comma as it's written and then some say it with a comma, causing it to sound a little jumbled. To clear up this confusion, I'm taking this opportunity to point out that there is NO comma. Say it all in one breath: "One Nation Under God". Repeat it again: "One Nation Under God". Of all phrases that we should make sure we say clearly and in unison, this should be the one!

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You may be wondering why I'm pointing this out or why this should be important enough that I would write an article about it. Besides the fact that it is proper grammar, I wanted to use this as an example and motivation for how we should display our own patriotism. Just as in the Pledge of Allegiance, your sense of patriotism should never have a comma – or in other words, should never take a pause. For instance, when you hear the Star-Spangled Banner, you should stand quietly, hand over heart and show patriotic respect to the anthem. Or if in the presence of a flag being raised or lowered, pause, place hand over heart and stand in reverence until it reaches its destination.

Part of never pausing your patriotism is also in being a good citizen. As an example, if you are called upon for jury duty, show up and do it to the best of your abilities and with a positive attitude so that others can have the privilege of one of the primary cornerstones of our legal systems, the right to a jury of their peers, as part of their trial. Sure, you may have a lot on your plate and the thought of 'wasting' a day waiting for your name to be called – or even having your name called and having to sit in a trial for a few days – may not always come at the best time, but it is our civic duty as good citizens of these United States to make the time for this when called upon.

There are many other more basic things that we can all do to keep the comma out of our patriotism and

set an example as a good citizen. Some examples that readily come to mind: obey the law, pay your taxes, fly the flag, don't litter, learn from history, be open to new ideas and so much more. These are just a few examples, but it essentially boils down to being kind and respectful to others and accountable for your own actions. So, as you move forward in this life, get rid of that comma and make this an even better "One Nation Under God".

And in closing, as we head into this reporting time of year, I would like to remind everyone that per the instructions given in the Americanism Program Engagement Plan, your reports are to be sent forward digitally. Please be sure to email your Unit reports to your District chairmen no later than April 1st and I should be receiving the District reports no later than April 15th at my Department email address: americanism@alafll.org. And PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE include separate photos of your various events and activities from throughout the year. These need to be original photos, preferably jpeg format, and not ones that were pulled from some social media page. I want to be able to make sure the Department of Florida Americanism pillar POPS for our report to National, and I cannot do that without your help. So, let's wrap up this year by taking a moment to #ringyourbell and #popamericanism by sending in a great Americanism report showcasing all the terrific things your Units have accomplished this year.

Children & Youth

LINDA KNOBLACH-HARKNESS



Let's get excited about the Children and Youth Picnic! This year it is April 6th at Post 117, Palm Bay beginning at 12:00. There will be carnival games for the kids, the fire department will be there with the truck, snow cones, cotton candy and a dunk tank. I have been volun-

told by Rick Johnson that I will be in the tank (this whole "contribute and participate in the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion" promise is being put to a test), so warm up your pitching arms.

We will be looking for raffle baskets, so please consider putting a basket together.

We are also looking for items that can be auctioned off. Think of something you would be willing to bid on and donate it.

If you wear your Children and Youth pin to the picnic, you will be entered into a "Special Drawing". If you don't have a pin, they will be available for a \$5.00 donation at the picnic.

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Of course, there's a 50/50 raffle. Doc Holiday will be performing so bring your dancing shoes.

There are two hotels close by, the Comfort Inn and the Holiday Inn Express. Unfortunately, we couldn't get special rates, but you can ask for military or senior discounts.

There is a **Poker Run** April 6th **9:30 REGISTRATION am, KSU is 10:30.**

All proceeds are going to COTA. The CEO of COTA will be attending the picnic. Enough about the picnic.

Now onto REPORTS! Yes, it's time. Unit reports are due to District by April 1st. Please don't be late. Please don't assume your unit didn't work the program. Think about what your members have been involved with. Have any of your members volunteered with the Scouts, or other Childrens' organizations? Please include a narrative and pictures. District Chairmen, please send Department your

reports by April 15th. Please include your own narrative and all the pictures. I would also like you to choose 3 or 4 outstanding reports so that one can be selected for submission for a National Award.

April is Month of the Military Child so don't forget to PURPLE UP! Start planning your Military Child Table Ceremony. Maybe you can include military children from the community. April 15th is the official Day of the Military Child so please plan an event to honor these young heroes.

Don't forget those Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards! This is an excellent opportunity to shine the spotlight on these young people. Don't let them stay in the shadows.

Don't forget our Zoom Meetings the second Thursday of each Month. Just email me or message me on Facebook, ALA FL Children & Youth and I will send you the link.

Thank you for all you do for our Children and Youth.

Membership

LISA HOYLAND



As of Wednesday, February 14, 2024, we are currently at 97.54% of our membership goal and remain in first place nationally. We had 109 units across Florida reach the "Bellflowers Bloom" 85% goal! 59 units across the state that are over 100%. CONGRATULATIONS!

To our new members: Welcome and thank you for joining the American Legion Auxiliary! I encourage you to take our online introductory course "ALA 101" in the ALA Academy on the American Legion Auxiliary National website at www.legion-aux.org. These online courses provide you with vital information to help you better serve the ALA mission and the unit you belong to.

Our relationship to the American Legion

In 1919, the ALA was formed to support The American

Legion, the largest organization of U.S. wartime veterans. Our shared commitment is to support and assist veterans, active-duty military and their families, children, and our communities. Our four great principles are justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty.

ALA UNITS

The grassroots work of the American Legion Auxiliary takes place at the unit level. ALA Units are attached to an American Legion post, taking its' name, location, and number (i.e., John F. Brown Memorial Post 350). If the post is no longer active, a unit may continue to function as a widow unit.

ALA Membership dues

The Auxiliary membership year is January 1–December 31. Your ALA membership dues listed on your renewal notice are comprised of three portions, national, department, and unit. Renewal notices are

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sent twice a year by U.S. postal mail and twice a year by email (if an address is on file) from National. You may pay dues directly to the unit by calling the ALA National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500, or online at our national website. Your dues are paid prior to the start of the upcoming year, beginning in July.

Unit Officers

Each unit has an executive committee consisting of its officers. The unit you belong to can tell you more about these offices, their responsibilities, and the members that hold them.

ALA Florida Programs

Our programs are focused on our four pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Legislative
Education
Leadership
Past Presidents Parley
Children and Youth
Americanism
Public Relations

Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Poppy
Florida Girls State
Constitution & Bylaws
Community Service
Junior Activities
Membership
National Security

What is the American Legion "Family"?

The American Legion Family is comprised of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders. At the local level, the American Legion is called a post, the American Legion Auxiliary is a unit, the Sons of the American Legion are a squadron, and the American Legion Riders are a chapter. Working together as a family, we can accomplish so

much more.

What are the benefits of your ALA membership?

While fulfilling our motto of "Service not Self".

The personal rewards of volunteering for our veterans, active-duty military, children, and your local communities will be many and heartfelt. You will receive the Auxiliary's national magazine on a quarterly basis. Your membership gives you access to a wide array of discounts, products, and services. Log in to our national website (go to Member Only > Member Benefits) for a complete list of the valuable benefits available to you.

Upcoming Membership Bellflower Goal Dates

95% - April Bell, April 1, 2024

100% Bluebell, May 14, 2024

Membership Year End

There is no year-end report due for membership. However, I do ask that you email me pictures from your unit of members working membership or any of our programs. I will use those in our slides for the membership parade at the Department Convention. I am looking forward to the Department Membership Parade at the Department convention, and I hope you all are getting some ideas together. Let's celebrate with our members.

Thank you to everyone for doing an amazing job "Ringing in Membership"!



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Happy March to all, WOW! I cannot believe that this term 2023-2024 is ending soon. We all will be busy getting our reports completed. If you have not already, take time to review the program engagement plan (PEP) <https://alafli.org/programs/public-relations/> and read the instructions for the awards, end of year report, and

start preparing your narratives (PDF format), pictures in high-resolution JPEG! I want to see a considerable number of reports, for awards and recognition by ALA Department of Florida and National. Who will be Brand Ambassador for Florida 2023-2024? Check out the awards page for the criteria.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, I taught a class at the ALR Summit in Orlando. Part of the class was about using social media (Facebook) and how important it is to attract new members and engage with our current members. Social media done well, will shine brightly on your unit, and will spotlight our brand, what we do and why we matter. It is digital Public Relations (PR). As of February 1, 2024, 62.3% of the world's population uses social media (5.04 billion), that is 8% year over year (YOY) growth, and there is no slowing down. Also, each user spends over two hours daily on social media. Check out the chart of the world's most used social platforms.

Here are four social media trends today:

- #1 Raw Content(organic): unique message, your ALA story, connect with your followers.
- #2 Authentic Content: creative, entertaining, short-form videos, working the mission.
- #3 Social Collaboration: share your relationship with the organizations and charities you support. This is where you will provide a small snippet of the mission, website links, pictures of you working together.
- #4 Social Search: use titles/captions, keywords, and hashtags that are relevant to the ALA. For Department of Florida:

#FloridaLegion and #ProudToBeLegion
- Post a photo of your Legion Family

volunteering in branded attire.

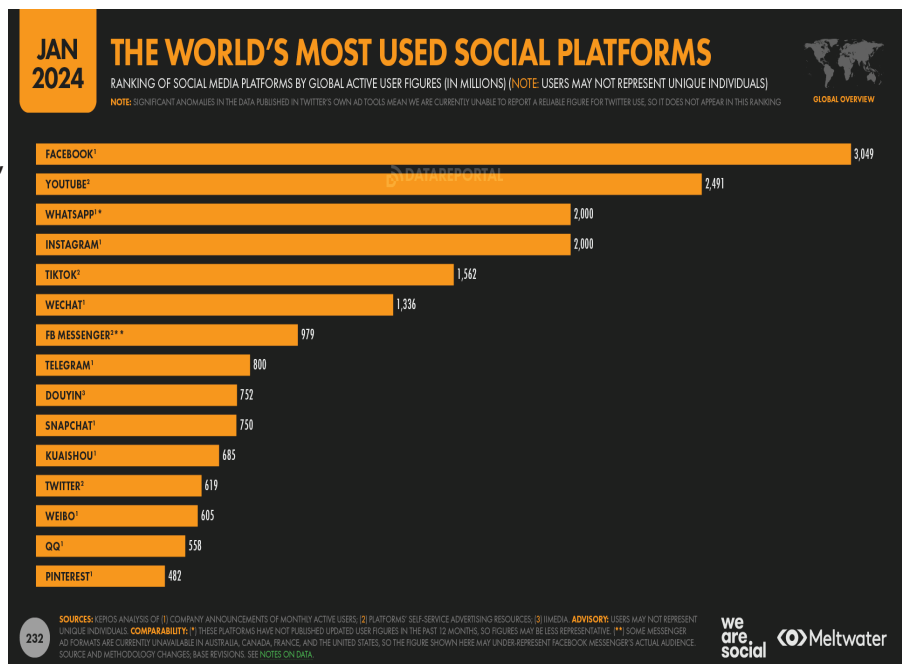
#ALAFLJuniors (also add #ALAJuniors) - Share posts and photos of ALA FL Juniors working the mission.

#RingYourBell - Share posts and photos of ALA members working the mission throughout our great state.

National ALA social media hashtags, click link <https://www.legion-aux.org/social-media>

Make sure to review your unit's Facebook account and other social media platforms. Is the information current, is your address and contact information, correct? Are you using the events tab? Do your followers know when your general meeting is, what are your upcoming events/happenings? Share your successes and engage with your followers (like, comment, message, and be active). Did you know that ALA Florida is on Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and TikTok? Follow us at @alauxflorida

On another note, make sure to check out the Southern Division PR Insider for February, it was uploaded to the "Files" tab on ALAFL Public Relations (Facebook Group). All about press releases and why they matter. Tip: Be sure to include a line or two describing the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) in the closing of your press release. You can use what the ALA provides in the templates at www.ALAforVeterans.org.





Hello Members!

As I speak with members around the State of Florida, I find many who are very willing to volunteer to assist Veterans and their families, but just don't know how to go about it. I want to share with you an experience I had that may

open a path to volunteering in our VA nursing homes in your area.

Last month, I made an impromptu visit to one of our newest nursing homes, Ardie Copas VA Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie. Ardie Copas was a Medal of Honor recipient for heroic action during the Vietnam War.

We entered the facility and was graciously greeted by the front desk attendant. I asked to speak to the volunteer coordinator / activities director. In moments, Sherika escorted us back to her office which was filled to the brim with all kinds of supplies for entertaining the residents. I knew right then that she meant business!

After a brief discussion on how we, as American Legion Auxiliary members, could help at the facility, she presented me with a monthly calendar of events. Wow! Each day has something going on: Trivia, Spa Day, Puzzling, Bingo, Chair Yoga, pet therapy, Sweetheart's dance with entertainment, gardening, movies and computer games. Residents need assistance with wheel chairs to get to and from the activities, help with puzzles, wheel chair dancing and spotting them for exercise class. Just being there to assist with these simple activities is a huge help to not only the residents but the staff. And, it's FUN!

I came prepared: Following our local Veterans Day ceremony, a luncheon was held at a Post in our District. While at the Post, I noticed a name on the "sick bay" board, that of a member who was now at Ardie Copas Nursing Home. I brought this Veteran a thank you card and my husband Jim, Vice Chairman of the Homeless Veterans Program for Dept. of Florida, presented him with a flag/cross pin. Both the veteran and his son, who was assisting him with a jig-saw puzzle, were very friendly and appreciative of our visit.

How many opportunities to help veterans and their families does this offer to us? Endless! I urge you, through your Unit or District V A & R chairman, to contact your local VA nursing home representative (their names and contact information are in the unit guide) and make a date to go with them to the nursing home to volunteer for an event. Or, take it upon yourself to visit and check it out.

I guarantee you will meet new friends; you will look forward to going to the nursing homes however frequently you can go, and the residents will certainly look forward to seeing you!

Please take advantage of these opportunities to help make the lives of our Veterans and their families joyous!





The Fifth District
Juniors & Young Sons
Proudly Presents

The Military Child Table Setting Ceremony

Sunday ~ April 14, 2024
After 5th District Meeting

American Legion Post 54
626 S 3rd St
Fernandina Bch, FL 32034

The entire
American Legion
Family is cordially
invited to come
and share in this
event to support
our Juniors.





EVENT INFORMATION

**Location: Stonecrest Golf Club
11560 SE 176th Place Rd
Summerfield, FL 34491**

- Shotgun Scramble Start-8:15
- Cost per Golfer-\$85.00
- Coffee & Donuts before golf
- Longest Drive Contests
 - Men&Women
- Hole-in Ones-Men & Women
- Hole-in-One (Golf Cart) #15
- Closest to Pin-Men&Women
- Prizes & surprises
- Mulligans

****After golf please join us
at Post 347, 699 W.Lady Lake
Blvd in Lady Lake for lunch,
raffles, 50/50, auction and
more**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Bronze Hole Sponsor-\$100
- ◆ Silver Hole Sponsor - \$200
- ◆ Gold Hole Sponsor - \$300
- ◆ Platinum Sponsor -\$500 & Up
- ◆ *Includes Table Space
- ◆ **Major Sponsor - \$1,000 & Up**

***Includes Table Space &**

- ◆ **4 Golfers**
- ◆ **Donate a gift to be used as a**
 - ◆ **raffle prize**

**Cut-off date for sponsorships and
gift submissions:**

April 26, 2024

Make all checks payable to:

Squadron 347

P.O. Box 1534 Lady Lake, FL 32158

ATTN: C&Y Golf Tournament

All Proceeds Benefit Children & Youth

CHILDREN & YOUTH PICNIC

SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2024

12pm - 5pm

**Music by
Doc Holiday**



**Raffle Baskets
50/50
Carnival Games
+ More!**

Location:

**American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Drive
Palm Bay, FL 32909**

1/3 Pound Burger or, 1/4 Hot Dog \$10

Kids Under 12 1/4 Burger or Hot Dog \$5

PICNIC MEAL = 65 MINUTE BLANKETS ON GRASS

All Meals Served with Sides

Poker Run

Registration 9:30am KSU 10:30 am

Districts and Units

DISTRICT 5

District 5 - On January 27, 2024 the City of Jacksonville Veterans Affairs held a 2 day event for the military. The first day was for helping the unemployed get job interviews and help with VA Claims. The second day was helping the veterans and the homeless veterans with paperwork, meeting organizations that can help them get housing, and health needs, new clean clothing, dental checkups, and haircuts.

Jim J Gilleo Auxiliary unit 283, Oceans Beaches Auxiliary unit 129 along with First Coast Blue Star Mothers chapter 15 and Women Army Corp chapter 56 had tables next to each other. The Auxiliary members held down dual roles that day. Some of our Auxiliary members are veterans and also Blue Star Mothers. What a great way to help out our veterans than working together as a huge family; to give them much needed items. We handed out almost 100 bags to male and female veterans filled with toiletry items, personal items, socks, hats, sunglasses, etc. Each draw string bag was filled. On our tables we had reading glasses provided by Unit 129 and all 3 groups had a lot of snack items that they could add to their bags for later. The fairground building was almost filled to capacity with so many organizations helping our less fortunate veterans. There was a really good DJ playing music during the event and those in attendance were treated to a breakfast of juice, coffee, breakfast sandwiches, and pastries and for lunch hot dog and hamburger meal.

We are all looking forward to the standdown next year and we are starting to collect items that can be given to our veterans. *Submitted by: Suella Reynolds*



District 5 - A baby shower for expectant military women was held at Post 283. The 22 ladies who attended were gifted with many items needed for a new parent. Games were played, prizes won and a light lunch was held. Each Mother to be received a diaper bag filled with items and 2 gift bags full of onesies, small baby items, diapers and wipes. There were raffles of diaper cakes, laundry baskets full of items and the grand prize was a pack and play. The USO handed out many items to the ladies and there were a couple of husbands there who helped the ladies carry out their goodies. What a wonderful event for our community, the military and so many organizations coming together as one huge family. Way to go everyone here is looking forward to the next community event.

Submitted by: Suella Reynolds



UNIT 283

District 5 - On Saturday, February 3, 2024, 8 members of Auxiliary Unit 283 were present for the Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service held at the Chapel of the High Speed Pass at Cecil Field. The story of sacrifice of the Chaplains on the SS Dorchester and Charles Walter David, Jr, the Coast Guard Steward's Mate is humbling. After the ceremony; four citizens who were chosen from many nominees to receive the "Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award", were announced and many of their great deeds were acknowledged. One of the honorees is an Auxiliary member at 283. Beth Heath, CEO of the We Can Be Hero's Foundation demonstrates her commitment "For God and Country" and Military/Vets through her dedicated community service. *Submitted by: Suella Reynolds*



DISTRICT 17

District 17 - During President Dee's trip to District 17, President had many opportunities to visit with veterans at a treatment center for PTSD and TBI patients. Emory Bennett VA Nursing Home and Baracks of Hope transitional housing for homeless veterans. She even was able to visit with potential members of a recharger unit. Thank you President Dee for a wonderful visit. *Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



Districts and Units

DISTRICT 17

District 17 - During her recent visit to District 17, President Dee received a gift for her project AEF Disaster relief. Unit members came to the Post to meet the Department President Submitted by: Eleanor Amato



UNIT 1

Unit 1- American legion Auxillary unit 1 hosted the Ed Sullivan review show to raise money for Girls State . What a great show and dinner before . We had a packed house. Thank you to all that attended. If you missed it plan on attending next year. Submitted by: Mary Pistel



UNIT 6

Unit 6- Members of Post/Unit 6 Deland were very attentive to the speech that President Dee gave on volunteerism during the Friday night visit. All officers took time out to have a picture with the President. Submitted by: Eleanor Amato



UNIT 16

Unit 16 - Debby, Historian for unit 16 in Gainesville shown dropping off food that was donated to homeless and transitioning Veterans. She is also showing off her RED!

Submitted by: Kristy Jordan



UNIT 45

Unit 45 -Unit 45 Palatka had a Tea for Dee on President's visit and was serenade with a clapping version of a birthday song. President Dee also watched a presentation of events that occurred during the past 15 years on this the units anniversary. *Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



UNIT 255

Unit 255 - Unit 255 Deltona President Jamie flew in from Western Texas to meet President Dee at her visit to the VA Clinic. All had the opportunity to greet veterans as they arrive/depart the clinic. *Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



Districts and Units

UNIT 113

Unit 113 -Unit 45 Palatka had a Tea for Dee on President's visit and was serenade with a clapping version of a birthday song. President Dee also watched a presentation of events that occurred during the past 15 years on this the units anniversary. *Submitted by: Tanya Jones*



UNIT 120

Unit 120 - Unit 120 Holly Hill President Chicki gave a hefty donation to President Dee for her project, then Post Commander presented a donation and we cannot forget SAL. This is truly a family. The Garden Bells attended a luncheon and then celebrated President Dee's birthday with the beautiful cake. *Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



UNIT 259

Unit 259 - President Dee not only calls bingo but also plays bingo after lunch with a visit to unit 259 Debary. She was also pinned with a beautiful corsage by Unit president Carol Riley. Submitted by: Eleanor Amato



UNIT 285

Unit 285 - Dual member and Unit 285 Vice President presented President Dee with a contribution to her project. members sang Happy Birthday to President Dee and all members attending posed for a picture with President Dee. Submitted by: Eleanor Amato



UNIT 291

Unit 291 - American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 291 of Steinhatchee had its annual chili cook off. Along with the cook off we had a silent auction of donated baskets and cakes. The event raised \$924.00 to help with the Auxiliary projects. Pictured left to right are the winners of the cook off: 1st Place Ray Van, 2nd Place Don Bo and 3rd Place Karen Tidwell. Thanks to everyone who donated and participated to make this event successful. Submitted by: Karen Tidwell



Membership Reports

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	213	0	191	191	89.67%
0193	Pensacola	78	11	49	60	76.92%
0221	Niceville	127	2	150	152	119.69%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	131	1	108	109	83.21%
0240	Pensacola	254	4	206	210	82.68%
0296	Destin	74	0	72	72	97.30%
0340	Pensacola	338	7	310	317	93.79%
0356	Lynn Haven	136	1	118	119	87.50%
0375	Southport	55	2	34	36	65.45%
0378	Gulf Breeze	44	0	56	56	127.27%
0382	Navarre	171	4	169	173	101.17%
0392	Panama City	175	1	164	165	94.29%
0402	Panama City Beach	41	1	42	43	104.88%
TOTALS		1837	34	1679	1713	93.25%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	78	2	66	68	87.18%
0082	Lanark	67	2	52	54	80.60%
0084	Havana	30	13	14	27	90.00%
0100	Marianna	32	4	31	35	109.38%
0217	Quincy	50	2	25	27	54.00%
0241	Sneads	72	13	43	56	77.78%
TOTALS		329	36	231	267	81.16%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	28	0	28	28	100.00%
0057	Lake City	223	8	221	229	102.69%
0107	Live Oak	55	1	48	49	89.09%
0215	Jasper	35	2	18	20	57.14%
0224	Madison	50	0	51	51	102.00%
0291	Steinhatchee	200	3	177	180	90.00%
0383	Old Town	134	3	145	148	110.45%
TOTALS		725	17	688	705	97.24%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	26	0	28	28	107.69%
0027	Ocala	20	1	14	15	75.00%
0058	Dunnellon	29	0	27	27	93.10%
0077	Inverness	68	1	77	78	114.71%
0149	Newberry	31	3	27	30	96.77%
0155	Crystal River	344	5	407	412	119.77%
0166	Homosassa Springs	146	4	166	170	116.44%
0230	Hawthorne	32	3	36	39	121.88%
0236	Bronson	47	0	35	35	74.47%
0237	Beverly Hills	202	0	136	136	67.33%
0284	Bellevue	77	2	67	69	89.61%
TOTALS		1022	19	1040	1059	103.62%

DISTRICT 5

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	68	2	45	47	69.12%
0054	Fernandina Beach	166	6	239	245	147.59%
0088	Jacksonville	77	1	69	70	90.91%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	359	9	368	377	105.01%
0137	Jacksonville	424	21	377	398	93.87%
0194	St Augustine	69	6	43	49	71.01%
0197	Jacksonville	44	2	45	47	106.82%
0202	Keystone Heights	73	1	63	64	87.67%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	176	20	130	150	85.23%
0244	Jacksonville	33	1	21	22	66.67%
0250	Middleburg	310	20	253	273	88.06%
0283	Jacksonville	460	9	426	435	94.57%
0316	Atlantic Beach	370	37	317	354	95.68%
0372	Mandarin	29	0	34	34	117.24%
0373	Orange Park	32	0	15	15	46.88%
0401	Hilliard	49	4	29	33	67.35%
TOTALS		2739	139	2474	2613	95.40%

DISTRICT 7

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	78	0	81	81	103.85%
0004	Lakeland	63	4	42	46	73.02%
0008	Winter Haven	601	17	688	705	117.30%
0015	Dade City	22	0	22	22	100.00%
0034	Haines City	78	0	79	79	101.28%
0071	Lake Wales	48	0	31	31	64.58%
0072	Mulberry	166	3	121	124	74.70%
0201	Florence Villa	25	1	18	19	76.00%
TOTALS		1081	25	1082	1107	102.41%

DISTRICT 6

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	206	2	197	199	96.60%
0018	Wildwood	21	0	20	20	95.24%
0019	Orlando	109	2	81	83	76.15%
0035	Mount Dora	147	1	131	132	89.80%
0041	Eustis	14	0	9	9	64.29%
0055	Clermont	215	8	242	250	116.28%
0063	Winter Garden	35	0	14	14	40.00%
0080	Saint Cloud	264	16	248	264	100.00%
0101	Bushnell	112	0	106	106	94.64%
0109	Ocoee	13	0	0	0	0.00%
0112	Winter Park	26	2	22	24	92.31%
0183	Fern Park	121	1	95	96	79.34%
0219	Fruitland Park	206	1	211	212	102.91%
0239	Groveland	11	0	17	17	154.55%
0242	Orlando	109	8	108	116	106.42%
0286	Orlando	171	9	158	167	97.66%
0330	Leesburg	69	2	42	44	63.77%
0331	Orlando	14	0	12	12	85.71%
0347	Lady Lake	2563	9	2525	2534	98.87%
0412	Orlando	14	2	5	7	50.00%
TOTALS		4440	63	4243	4306	96.98%

DISTRICT 8

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	36	0	3	3	8.33%
0024	Bradenton	333	1	298	299	89.79%
0025	Lake Placid	395	0	445	445	112.66%
0030	Sarasota	82	8	60	68	82.93%
0069	Avon Park	720	13	722	735	102.08%
0074	Sebring	132	0	113	113	85.61%
0113	Rotonda West	308	1	323	324	105.19%
0159	Venice	711	2	582	584	82.14%
0254	North Port	119	0	144	144	121.01%
0266	Fruitville	159	2	144	146	91.82%
0309	Palmetto	177	0	194	194	109.60%
0312	Oneco	199	2	83	85	42.71%
0325	Ellenton	200	0	191	191	95.50%
TOTALS		3571	29	3302	3331	93.28%

DISTRICT 9

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0092	Hollywood	98	1	76	77	78.57%
0142	Pompano Beach	186	7	148	155	83.33%
0157	Margate	171	0	138	138	80.70%
0162	Deerfield Beach	172	13	135	148	86.05%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	112	0	76	76	67.86%
0209	Dania Beach	18	0	11	11	61.11%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	28	7	16	23	82.14%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	32	0	47	47	146.88%
0287	Deerfield Beach	17	0	21	21	123.53%
0304	Dania	52	1	52	53	101.92%
0310	Hallandale	25	1	29	30	120.00%
0321	Cooper City	230	19	193	212	92.17%
0365	Sunrise	14	2	12	14	100.00%
Total		1155	54	981	1035	89.61%

DISTRICT 12

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	277	11	201	212	76.53%
0022	Cocoa	106	0	108	108	101.89%
0039	Vero Beach	207	6	193	199	96.14%
0040	Fort Pierce	185	3	193	196	105.95%
0081	Melbourne	172	4	210	214	124.42%
0117	Palm Bay	514	14	535	549	106.81%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	1	101	102	52.31%
0163	Eau Gallie	220	8	239	247	112.27%
0189	Sebastian	159	0	183	183	115.09%
0191	Melbourne	81	8	41	49	60.49%
0200	Satellite Beach	171	9	126	135	78.95%
0318	Port St Lucie	1154	3	1403	1406	121.84%
0344	Merritt Island	47	3	23	26	55.32%
0348	Cape Canaveral	211	3	237	240	113.74%
0358	White City	69	0	68	68	98.55%
0359	Port St John	358	10	329	339	94.69%
0366	Barefoot Bay	69	8	44	52	75.36%
0394	Palm Bay	208	2	282	284	136.54%
TOTALS		4403	93	4516	4609	104.68%

DISTRICT 11

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	40	2	41	43	107.50%
0047	Lake Worth	75	1	79	80	106.67%
0062	Stuart	548	8	716	724	132.12%
0064	Okeechobee	116	0	55	55	47.41%
0065	Delray Beach	58	7	49	56	96.55%
0141	West Palm Beach	73	5	61	66	90.41%
0164	Boynton Beach	150	12	130	142	94.67%
0199	W Palm Beach	38	0	45	45	118.42%
0268	Riviera Beach	85	3	56	59	69.41%
0271	Tequesta	158	8	174	182	115.19%
0277	Boca Raton	111	0	88	88	79.28%
0288	Boynton Beach	22	5	10	15	68.18%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	28	3	24	27	96.43%
TOTALS		1502	54	1528	1582	105.33%

DISTRICT 13

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	37	37	100.00%
0090	Cape Coral	287	5	323	328	114.29%
0103	Punta Gorda	649	3	776	779	120.03%
0110	Port Charlotte	635	3	443	446	70.24%
0123	Sanibel	41	0	38	38	92.68%
0130	Labelle	152	0	111	111	73.03%
0135	Naples	367	0	350	350	95.37%
0136	Saint James City	516	8	491	499	96.71%
0192	Fort Myers	21	0	14	14	66.67%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	544	0	374	374	68.75%
0303	Bonita Springs	425	12	374	386	90.82%
0323	Lehigh Acres	409	31	379	410	100.24%
0336	N Ft Myers	440	0	512	512	116.36%
0351	Fort Myers	104	3	70	73	70.19%
0415	Punta Gorda	10	0	18	18	180.00%
TOTALS		4637	65	4310	4375	94.35%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	57	0	43	43	75.44%
0031	South Miami	171	4	131	135	78.95%
0043	Homestead	57	1	29	30	52.63%
0067	North Miami	42	0	27	27	64.29%
0098	Coral Gables	16	0	11	11	68.75%
0133	Miami	63	8	43	51	80.95%
0154	Marathon	146	1	117	118	80.82%
0168	Key West	23	0	17	17	73.91%
0333	Key Largo	78	0	64	64	82.05%
0346	Miami	19	0	10	10	52.63%
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	31	31	73.81%
TOTALS		714	14	523	537	75.21%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	249	0	236	236	94.78%
0014	St Petersburg	117	3	119	122	104.27%
0046	Tarpon Springs	10	2	15	17	170.00%
0079	New Port Richey	458	15	388	403	87.99%
0104	Pinellas Park	255	7	292	299	117.25%
0119	Largo	360	6	317	323	89.72%
0125	St Petersburg	297	26	261	287	96.63%
0158	Treasure Island	256	0	290	290	113.28%
0173	Holiday	259	4	271	275	106.18%
0238	Safety Harbor	314	7	336	343	109.24%
0252	Seminole	1065	6	1134	1140	107.04%
0273	Madeira Beach	3428	4	3287	3291	96.00%
0275	Dunedin	981	5	1103	1108	112.95%
0305	St Pete Beach	150	0	147	147	98.00%
0335	Hudson	96	5	73	78	81.25%
TOTALS		8295	90	8269	8359	100.77%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	38	1	24	25	65.79%
0099	Brooksville	21	1	29	30	142.86%
0108	Land O' Lakes	10	0	19	19	190.00%
0111	Tampa	54	0	40	40	74.07%
0138	Tampa	483	9	566	575	119.05%
0139	Tampa	58	0	100	100	172.41%
0147	Odessa	44	0	36	36	81.82%
0148	Riverview	209	5	207	212	101.44%
0152	Tampa	250	7	246	253	101.20%
0167	Tampa	16	1	7	8	50.00%
0186	Brooksville	369	0	345	345	93.50%
0248	West Tampa	15	1	14	15	100.00%
0418	Spring Hill	10	1	32	33	330.00%
TOTALS		1577	26	1665	1691	107.23%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	104	0	87	87	83.65%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	212	1	197	198	93.40%
0045	Palatka	31	1	38	39	125.81%
0115	Palm Coast	40	0	39	39	97.50%
0120	Holly Hill	216	3	181	184	85.19%
0127	Lake Helen	24	1	14	15	62.50%
0255	Deltona	25	7	21	28	112.00%
0259	Debary	28	6	30	36	128.57%
0267	Ormond Beach	229	1	201	202	88.21%
0270	Port Orange	175	2	193	195	111.43%
0285	Edgewater	125	1	141	142	113.60%
0361	S Daytona	226	6	250	256	113.27%
TOTALS		1435	29	1392	1421	99.02%



#RINGYOURBELL

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