

VOLUME XII • ISSUE 6 JANUARY 2023
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT NE HARDACRE

The Florida *Carvas*

C.O.L.O.R.

Continue Our legacy of Respect

THIS MONTH'S EDITION



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MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of The American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY 2023

7	District 6 Meeting
8	District 5 Meeting
8	District 4 ABC School
13-15	District 12 President's Visit
14	District 13 ABC School
14	District 16 ABC School
14	District 6 ABC School
21	2nd Annual Tushies and Toes Motorcycle Run
21	District 12 ABC School
12	District 2 ABC School



Want to submit an article
and/or photos to *The Florida Canvas*? alaf1.org/submit
secretary@alaf1.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JANE HARDACRE



Here's to another year full of joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories with an amazing family such as the American Legion Family!

As the New Year is upon us, may we never forget our Mission of "Service, Not Self." As I travel across Florida, I run into members who truly keep our Mission going. My December travels started with a visit to District 11. This district practices the concept of FAMILY! They pack boxes for the troops, paint veteran's homes, support veterans, and participate in toy runs for children.

Every event they hold, the family is there to support! Units served veterans breakfast, participated in a Patriot Guard event for a fallen Vietnam veteran, and served Active Duty Army Personnel and other veterans lunch at the Armory. The Legionnaires helped during these events.

The Riders were there when asked to escort us to the next stop. They even gave me a wonderful one-hour motorcycle ride! The Sons of The American Legion helped us paint the house of a veteran. The Family came together for Hurricane Ian relief by gathering supplies, sending disaster relief money, and even cooked hot food for the communities in the 13th District!

What can I say about the fundraising efforts for Snowball Express! Every facet of the family came out to support this cause with a gala. They bid on silent auction items, made donations, and even challenged each other that night to raise more money for these special Gold Star Children! What an amazing experience and what wonderful memories!

The next visit was to District 5. This District cares for the children of the community. They held ice cream socials

for the kids in their after school program, collected toys for those areas affected by Hurricane Ian, and held Christmas parties for local children! One Unit had 150 children attend and was it rewarding! The Legion Family helped cook, entertain, and support the Unit.

The Units were preparing for Wreaths Across America, gifts for the veterans in nursing homes, and raising awareness for our veterans by participating in Deck The Chairs. A chair was decorated for display on Jacksonville Beach. The chair supported all the branches of the service and veterans stopped by it and allowed to take pictures by their branch logo.

Roundtable discussions were held so the Leadership team who joined me could help answer questions the Units may have had. We also were able to enjoy their company and listen to the various ways they worked the mission! The Juniors were present ALL weekend helping and participating! What a wonderful group of Auxiliary members in this District. I thank each and every one of you for hard work.

I would like to thank both of these Districts for coloring our world, and for saying #colormethere this year!

#ColorMeThere

SECRETARY

MARY KELLY-PERKINS



BRANDING

President Jane's shirt is colorful and a fantastic way to let others know what #colormethere means. If a Unit desires to permanently add the logo or emblem it must be approved through department and national. You can purchase a

magnetic Auxiliary patch thru emblem sales that can be worn on this shirt. Please remember that the branding/emblem/logo goes on the left side of clothing. You may use either one of the emblems or logos on stationery for the Unit/District as long as we preserve the integrity of the emblem.

Our brand is our identity. It is our reputation, our promise. It is how the public recognizes us. It defines who we are — a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families. Everyone has a role in creating and maintaining the Auxiliary's brand, but the people who should use this guide the most are communications professionals and volunteers when writing, designing, or producing Auxiliary-related material or when guiding contractors/vendors to produce material. We want to enhance our identity, maintain, and build upon consistency, and simplify and update our look and feel. We need to communicate who we are, what we do, and why it matters. By producing materials that are uniquely ours, the American Legion Auxiliary will be easily recognizable no matter where material is produced or in what format it is published.

You can find the Branding Guide on the National website(alaforveterans.org) for further information

HOW TO GET PERMISSION TO USE THE EMBLEM/ LOGO/BRANDING

Use of the American Legion Auxiliary emblem is controlled by the national organization, but first must be submitted to the department secretary. The emblem usage request form is available on the Department website and requires the following information:

1. Requesting a person's email address and unit/department
2. Manufacturer/printer's name and email address
3. The product name, exact number being ordered, and intended use
4. A mockup of what the product with the emblem/new branding will look like.



CHAPLAIN

RUTH BURGESS



He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither-PSALM 1:13 (NASB)

Lord, when life is changing and we feel unsettled and sad, please let us stay rooted in you throughout this New Year.

Donna Tillery	1	Arlene Wick	6	Peggy Barco	15
Chase M Michael	1	Norma Akins	6	Judith Felshaw	15
Anita Phillips	3	Mary D Roberts	7	Cecelia Sickels	15
Nancy Cummins	3	Linda Jackson	8	Kathleen Caputo	16
Maryanna Dean	5	Joan E Becker	8	Brenda Johnson	16
Eve Marie Widman	5	Shirley Sapna	8	Tammie Anderson	16
Shaun Szynicki	5	Helen Maesky	9	Gloria Spina	16
Carol Blackman	5	Vicky Rosso	12	Renee Smith	16
Barbara Roesch	6	Cindy G Russel	13	Mary Brophy	16
Robert Johnson	6	Delores Rossiter	13	Mary Kaiser	16
Virginia Norman	6	Doris Springmyer	14	Virginia Irene Wygonik	17
Mary LaNoce	6	Claire Jacobson	14		
Carol Jean Hunt	6	Rosemarie Martini	14		

LEADERSHIP

MARY KELLY-PERKINS



Upcoming ABC Classes

January 8, 2023

- Unit 284, Belleview in the 4th District, registration starts at 9 am

January 21, 2023

- Unit 100, Marianna in the 2nd District, registration starts at 9:00 am
- Unit 49, Monticello in the 3rd District, registration starts at 9:00 am
- Unit 318, Port St Lucie in the 12th District, registration starts at 9:00 am

January 14, 2023

- Unit 347, Lady Lake in the 6th District, registration starts at 8:30 am
- Unit 38, Fort Myers in the 13th District, registration starts at 9:00 am
- Unit 273, Madeira Beach in the 16th District, registration starts at 9:00 am

January 28, 2023

- Unit 250, Middleburg in the 5th District, registration starts at 9:00 am

JUNIORS

DARA OLIVER



The ALA FL Juniors Art Show and Sale WAS AMAZING!!!

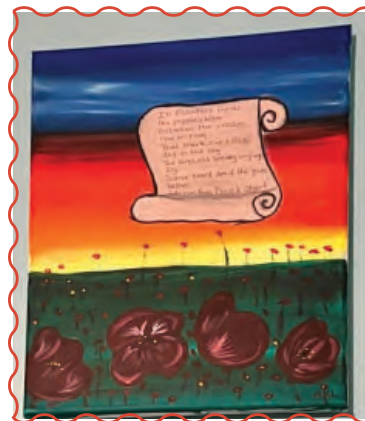
Thanks to 22 Juniors of all ages: Amelia Kay, Favor Deprez, Evelyn Derouin-Davidson, Kylie Edwards, Angelina Vasquez, Jasmine Harris, Channing Cunningham, Annie Shellhammer, McKenzie Krogh,

Charlotte Cunningham, Remi Klocke, Alexandria Doyle, Kenzi Cusano, Averl Krogh, Lily Edwards, Isabella Doyle, Jazzlynn Philpot, Delilah Gregg, Sofia Doyle, Caitlin Henechak, Bella Philpot and Cheyanne McLeary. There were also 3 Young SAL members that also participated: Michael Krogh, Dustin Ligeikis and John Cusano.

Best of Show went to: Angelina Vasquez #5 with 78 votes with her artwork "Keys to Success." We hear that it went to Keni in the Department Office and may be hanging near his desk soon.



Highest Bidding Artwork Award went to: Mea Kay with her #1 "In Flanders Field" and Kenzi Cusano's #13 "Rainbow Handprints" both pieces of art went for \$100. each.



Special Shout-Out to Unit 117 for having the Most Artists participate!

All the young Artists that participated received a certificate signed by not only our Department President but also National President: Vickie Koutz, which she also gave out her pin.



A total of \$1000. was raised by this event and we cannot Thank EVERYONE that bid and bought a #ColorMeThere piece of art. All proceeds will be accumulated to the total for President Jane's Special Project: SnowBall Express.

American Legion Auxiliary
JUNIORS
Department of Florida 🍊

MEMBERSHIP

STACY CUSANO



Wishing all of our Artists a Happy and Healthy New Year! Congratulations to all of the Units who meet the 75% goal by December 7th! We had over 50 units that meet goal! We have some more units that have reached their 100% goals as well.

Take out your membership card. Does it say 2023? If not, your membership has expired. Please try to renew as soon as possible. We need your support to help our Veterans and other programs.

Don't forget to update your Unit's Constitution & By-Laws or your Standing Rules if your unit is looking to increase their membership dues for 2024. Those should be sent to Department immediately, so they can be onfile for the Membership Dues update.

NATIONAL SECURITY

LINDA KNOBLACH-HARKNESS



I hope everyone had a fabulous Holiday Season. Here we are in 2023! First, let me thank you for all you are doing for the National Security Program. As you know, this program has more arms and legs than an octopus. With so many programs it is easy to get confused about where to

report your hard work. So, I hope this will help with your National Security Report. **The Unit report is due to your District by APRIL 1, 2023. District Report is due to Department no later than APRIL 15, 2023.**

What should you include in the report? Anything you did for our Military (Active Duty, National Guard/Reserves), Military Families, Operation Homefront, Blue Star/Gold Star Families, ROTC/JROTC and the USO. Also, anything involving Homeland Security (FEMA, CERT, American Red Cross).

It has been brought to my attention that some clarification needs to be brought in the area of first responders. Do they fall under National Security or under Community Service? Great question.

Here is the answer from Barbara Washburn, our National/National Security Chairman:

"First Responders of all types (law enforcement, firefighters, ems) are included in the National Security program. The primary focus of our committee is on the active-duty military but if you look at the Legion National Security program, you'll see first responders there along with awards for each. The ALA does not have awards, but certainly, **if you have hours/donations for activities involved with first responders, report them to National Security.**"

Also keep in mind that we are promoting the "Back the Badge" award so please submit for it.

I'm looking forward to seeing all your "Flat Member" submissions by March 31, 2023.

And don't forget the USO donations by unit, by grouping award.

We are still doing the Zoom meeting the second Tuesday of the month. I hope to see you there.

We still have more to do and I love working with you. Thank you for all you do and continue to do.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

VIRNA LUKE



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed holiday. As for me and my house, we did.

Making moments with my lovely husband and mom.

I hope you were able to make Fall Conference in Orlando, and attend the classes you were interested in, I know there was

so much packed in one day. I did go live for two of the sessions, and available on our Facebook page ALAFL Public Relations, the topics were Reporting and Respect & Conflict Resolution.

I thank those that kept me company in the two sessions for Public Relations. We discussed why Public Relations is important, how easy social media is, tips of photos, options for e-newsletters, and apps for flyers.

Public Relations is a form of marketing communication, allows the opportunity to connect and share with the general public, they can know **Who we are, What we do, Why we matter!**

Which provides:

- Brand Recognition
- Retain members
- Attract new members
- Presence
- Public Perception and sentiment

PR helps to get the words out about events, causes, needs, and our successes.

Everyone can do PR! When you're in public, wearing your branding, talking to others about the ALA, you are already doing PR. Posting on social media, blogging, sharing, promoting, events, network, meeting and talking to the press. That is all PR. How easy it is to access the media templates available online Legion-Aux.org, search media templates. Letter to the editor to news release templates, that are fillable. From Awards, Patriotic Holidays, Girls Nation/State, Announcements, and Scholarships. Use these free tools. I recommend that you write to your local paper and share the amazing things your members are doing for your community.

Many in the PR sessions at Fall Conference, have been on social media for over 20 years, that is true, many were on MySpace. Social media is part of everyday life from communication, connecting with loved ones, entertainment, consuming news, creating awareness and social change.

There are no time zones, as social media is 24-hour online access. Which provides you the time to do anything.

Social media allows us to think, engage and advocate nationally and locally. From our office desk to laying in bed scrolling through our feed, we can easily support our American Legion Family, Veterans, military and their families, children and youth, and community by simply sharing, likes, join, follow, and participating in the dialogue.

Moreover, a new social media platform takes over the world every few years, for example TikTok which launched September 2016, by mid-2018 had reached half a billion users. Let's embrace our Juniors and allow them to be involved with our social media, as trends take root with our younger generation first. It's important to be open to change and learning a new tool. Social media is here to stay.

Photos! I recommend that you carry an eyeglass cloth and wipe your camera lens on your camera phone, front and back before an event. Also keep the sun, bring lights, and huge windows to your back (as the photographer) to prevent dark shadowy photos. When uploading your photos to social media, tell your story...who, what, when, why, where, and how.

Our members shared that they use constantcontact.com, smore.com and mailchimp.com for e-newsletters. For flyers they use Canva.com and postermymwall.com. To access the family emblem and brand mark, go to legion.org/emblem/download.

I hope you find some of this information helpful, if you have any questions or feedback, contact me publicrelations@alafl.org.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

CHARLOTTE BASS



Happy New Year

As we enter the new year, our VA Facilities are going to be in need of warmer clothing and other various items to replenish their "closets" A new list of these items should be available soon as our VA Representatives and Deputies will be attending

or have attended their Quarterly VA meetings.

We need to note that when donating items to VA Patients, Clinics, Domiciliary, Nursing Homes and CLC's we need to be careful as to what we are donating. When donating toiletries, we can't donate mouthwash. Certain mouthwashes contain anywhere from 14.5% to 26.9% alcohol. Many medications will react severely to any percentage of alcohol. Also, hand sanitizer, it contains up to 60% ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol. "The sense of smell is a very strong indicator to trigger urges, and impulses of obsession and even craving. When there's no other alcohol around, those who are addicted to alcohol will often turn to whatever substance they can to experience the high that they crave — even if they're in treatment for alcoholism." Cornerstone of Recovery.

When wanting to donate items for celebrations to facilities we can't donate non-alcoholic beer/wine. Non-alcoholic beer can contain up to 0.5% alcohol. Some facilities may request it, however, as per our Risk and Compliance Chairman we cannot donate any non-alcoholic beer/wine as it tends to interact with certain medications.

Our VA Representatives and Deputies receive lists of facility needs, As per IRS and our VA&R National Handbook, VA Representatives, Deputies, District Chairman, and District Presidents cannot ask for gift cards or monetary donations.

It is recommended that if Units would like to donate money to a VA Facility that they use the Donation Remittance Form found on the Department Website under Quicklinks/Forms & Resources/Unit Forms. You

can find the facility that you would like to donate to there and if there is a specific item that you want the money to go to you can also indicate that on the form. Your VA Representative or Deputy will be notified and use the money to purchase that item.

If you or your unit would like to purchase items to take to the facility, each facility has a donation form that they require you use. Your area Auxiliary VA Representative or Deputy will be able to give you a copy of that form.

Items requested by VA Facilities can also be found on <https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/> The requests are listed by the name of each Facility.



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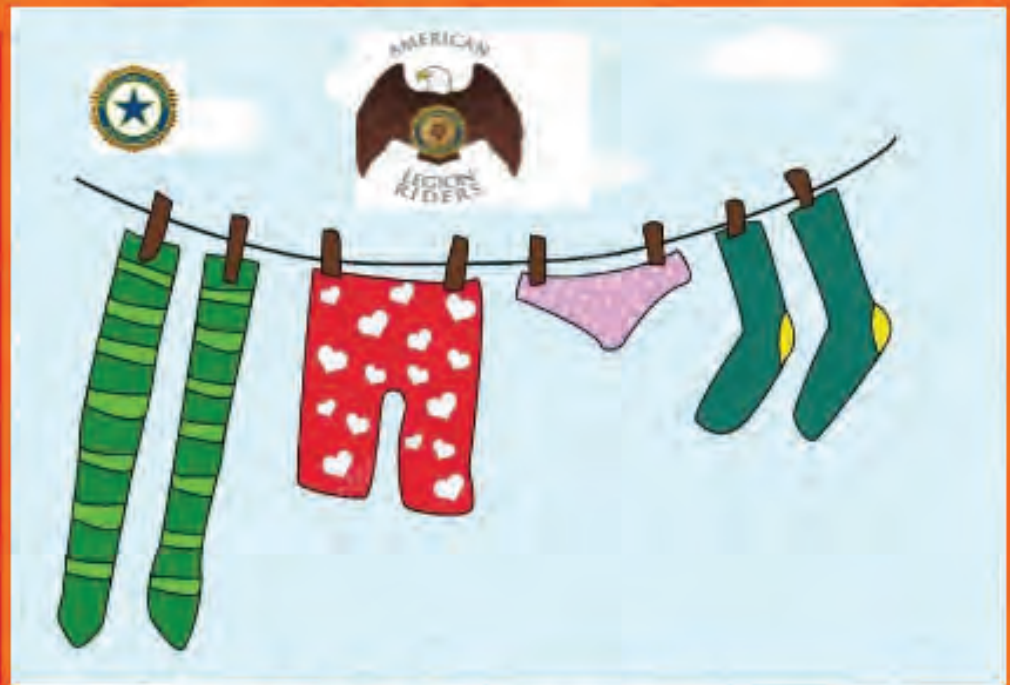
help@edgecomputerconsulting.com



2ND ANNUAL

SATURDAY
JANUARY 21
KICKSTANDS UP
10:30 AM

START:
2706 WELLS AVE
FERN PARK FL
32730



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 183 & AUXILIARY UNIT 183

TUSHIES & TOES

SOCK, UNDERWEAR & SHOE DRIVE & MOTORCYCLE RUN

**\$25 PER BIKE PLUS SOCKS OR UNDIES
KIDS SIZES K-5TH GRADE -**



**LIVE MUSIC BY RUN 4 COVER 1PM-4PM
After Party Starts @ 1 PM**

EVERYONE ON THE RIDE WILL RECIEVE A FREE MEAL WHERE THE
PARTY ENDS ! RAFFLES ! TIKI BAR! FOOD & DRINKS!
Food Available for purchase for \$8 plate for non Riders

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 407-879-2528
OR EMAIL: GATORPENNY@ICLOUD.COM**

2706 WELLS AVENUE , FERN PARK FL 32730 407-831-8004

DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 1



District 1 - National Security Committee chairman Aimee Snelgrove at **Unit 75** Crestview has been busy working her program and bringing her "flat Aimee" with her with every project she works. The latest project was collection stuffed animals for the Crestview Police Department which they can give to children in need. Thanks Aimee for coloring our world.



District 1 - Fall Conference 2022 is in the books! Great training by our Department Leadership and Department President Jane Hardacre made us work, work, work, but later on we played, played, played. Thank you District 1 for your attendance at the Conference. A few pictures from the Membership Parade! We rocked it!

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 1



District 1 - Auxiliary **Unit 75** in Crestview had the privilege to accompany Santa to a classroom in Laurel Hill FL to deliver presents and cookies to children with some learning disabilities. Thank you Twyla Coccione for opening up your K-5 classroom to us. This is why we do what we do. Some of these children may not have had a Christmas if it was not for those who donated gifts this year. Many thanks to those who donated. You made these children smile.



District 1 - Thank you **Unit 356** for taking such good care of our Veterans at the Clifford Chester Sims Veterans Hospital. These were all delivered today. The veterans will have a wonderful Christmas!



District 1 - Every year **Unit 382** in Navarre FL in conjunction with all families of the Post have a huge Christmas party for the community children. It takes a lot of work and money to do this every year but it always gets bigger and better every year. Thank you to all who made this Ride for the Claus successful.



District 1 - **Unit 340** in Pensacola had their children Christmas party today. The Ensley Fire department graciously brought Santa and Mrs Claus to the Post. The children were so excited to see both the Clauses and the fire department.

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 1



District 1 - **Unit 235** In Ft Walton Beach had a wonderful Christmas party with the kids! Looks like a great time was had by all.



District 1 -Tis the season! Auxiliary **Unit 240** in Pensacola had an evening of presents, games, and Santa. These children (and adults) had a great time.

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 4



District 4 - **Unit 58** Dunnellon members distributed poppies at their local Publix for Veterans Day and received the most they've ever received - \$1684.00 for a 2 day distribution.

DISTRICT 5



District 4 - Plaque presented to President Jane Hardacre by **Unit 9**.

DISTRICT 5



District 5 - President Jane joins the 5th District Juniors at Post 283 to decorate treat bags and make Holiday cards for the Veterans at Clyde E Lassen VA Nursing Home. After the cards and bags were completed, President Jane joined the Juniors and ALA members of Unit 283 for the Unit's Children's Christmas Party. Madam President Jane was able to escort Santa to the Post with fellow ALR members, serve lunch to the families and help pass out gifts to the children. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, fun, and Legion Family Love!



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

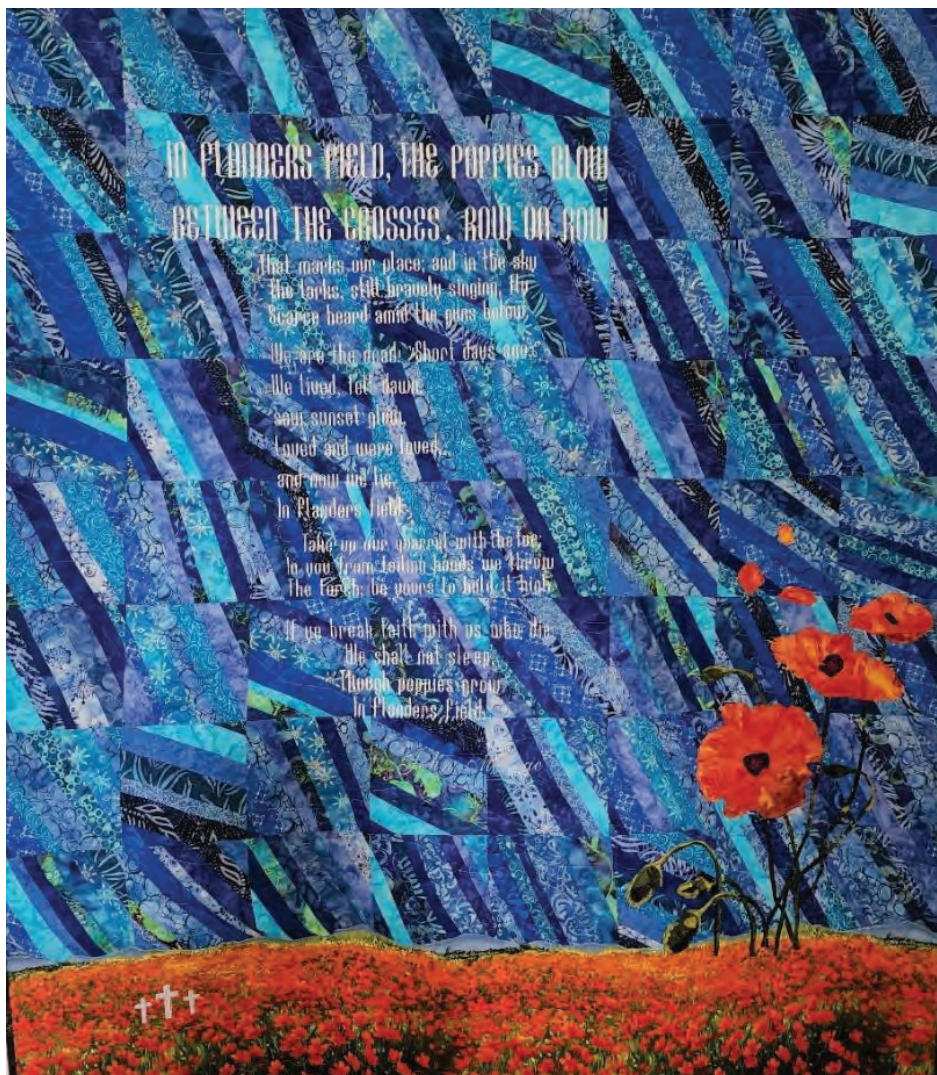
POPPIES OF FLANDERS FIELD QUILT

49" x 58"

TICKETS \$10 EACH

FUNDRAISER SPONSORED BY UNIT 237 BEVERLY HILLS

QUILT MADE AND DONATED BY NATALIE SCOTT



*Tickets available at
District 4 meetings &
at 2023 Dept.
Convention*

*Drawing at ALA Dept.
of FL Convention June
17, 2023*

*Do not need
to be present
to win.*



*All proceeds benefit
President Jane
Hardacre's special
project: Gary Sinise
Foundation –
Snowball Express*



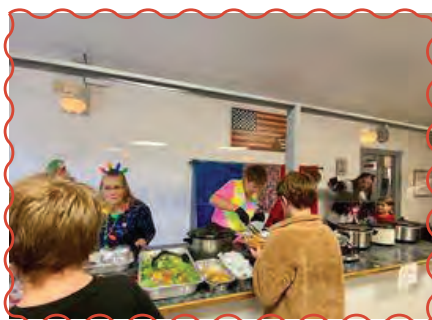
#COLORMETHERE

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 5



District 5 - District 5 was honored to welcome Madam President Jane Hardacre on December 9 - 11. Escorted by 5th District President Nancy Chandler during her visit, President Hardacre attended Auxiliary **Unit 283** and Unit 9 Children's Christmas Party. While visiting with the Juniors at Unit 283, she created Christmas cards for the resident veterans of the Clyde Lasson nursing home in St. Augustine to spread holiday cheer! Card decorating at Unit 283.



District 5 - As the children in the local community arrived for their Christmas party, she was at the heart of serving up a delicious lunch for everyone to enjoy. She also helped to escort Santa and Mrs. Clause to the Post and hand out presents to all of the children! Escorting Santa and serving up lunch!



District 5 - From **Unit 283**, she continued her day with Unit 9 at their Children's Christmas party. Before the festivities began, Unit 9 recognized all her hard work and dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary by presenting her with a beautifully-customized plaque. While the children visited with Santa, President Hardacre was instrumental in handing out gifts to all the girls and boys in attendance! She ensured each child had a present specifically picked out for them, handing out over 100 gifts.



District 5 - **Unit 9** Children's Christmas Party

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 11



District 11 - District 11 had the pleasure of Department President Jane Hardacre, Secretary Pro-Tem, Mary Kelly Perkins and Charlotte Bass, 2nd Vice President visiting District 11 the first week in December. In line with President Jane's theme of "Color Me There for our Veterans" several units and post members painted the house of 92-year-old Korean Veteran Mickey Salazar. This action led to a tv interview of President Jane describing the Auxiliary mission. Color District 11 There!



District 11 - We also packed boxes at **Unit 62**, Stuart for troops which went to 3 countries, visited Camp Valor which is a camp for children who have lost a parent while serving their county right here in Florida. Becky Schumacher, Chaplin is also holding our Stanzy and Unit President Shirley Rearick took Stanzy to Camp Valor! Jane, Mary and Charlotte also brought toys for the children who will be attending Camp Valor in January!



District 11 - Delray Beach **Unit 65** provided a wonderful dinner and presented Jane with a check for \$210 to the Gary Sinise Foundation of Florida. **Unit 47**, Lakeworth and **Unit 277**, Boca Raton provided funds for the dinner as well as attended.



District 11 - West Palm Beach, **Unit 199** met with Jane as they Continue Our Legacy of Respect!



District 11 - **Unit 64**, Okeechobee and Unit 20, Belle Glade Provided lunch for Jane, Mary and Charlotte on their way home from their visit to District 11! We had a blast but we all worked really hard continuing our mission of C.O.L.O.R.!



District 11 - We kept everyone busy! **Unit 141**, Palm Beach County and **Unit 277**, Boca Raton served lunch to the service members of the National Guard at the West Palm Beach Armory. Everyone worked very hard but was dedicated to our mission this year!



District 11 - District 11 also sponsored our very first Gala and Silent Auction at **Post 271** that was attended by all Legion Family members. In the first picture Mary Hinton from Renewal Coalition attended and enjoyed the company of Unit 271 Tequesta. The picture on the right is Jane thanking everyone from District 11 with District 11 President, Sandy Swafford. Sandy did a wonderful job of organizing all the projects while Jane was visiting District 11.

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 13



District 13 - District 13 held their District meeting on Sunday, December 11. It was a time of business but also a time of reflection, and a chance to discuss our future. As you know, Hurricane Ian destroyed many things in this district, but it did not destroy our spirit and our ability to have a good time! Because it was so much fun using the frame at Department President Jane's rock 'n' roll party, Jan Farrington made a picture frame for the 13th district. As you can tell from the pictures, people had a blast with it. It was just what we all needed. Please know at this district meeting, there were many, thanks, shout, outs, and appreciation for everything all the Auxiliary's across the state have done for us. We once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

UNIT 79

Unit 79 - ALA Unit 79, 10 Thanksgiving baskets to our veterans from the Hud Hash program and 7 to Steps to Recovery who provide housing to homeless veterans.



UNIT 5



Unit 5 - After our event with Operation Homefront school supply drive, one of our members who worked that event, stated that a number of our young active-duty military families were receiving SNAP benefits to get by. They deserve better. So, USS Tampa ALA and Legion family joined together to raise money to purchase 100 Thanksgiving Turkeys. We were able to use the MacDill AFB PX to purchase and some of those wonderful service men and women to help us distribute them. We are Thankful for to be a part of bring them some joy and we were so successful we have additional plans to help. Thank you, Cynthia Gierke, our JESE Liaison and ALA member, for your help. It was a wonderful success.

UNIT 14



Unit 14 -ALA St Petersburg Unit 14 hasn't had a Poppy event in several years. This year our Chaplain, Ellen Michalski, volunteered to lead us in this program. We were able to raise over \$700 and spent that money on food for the Bay Pines VAMC Food Pantry.

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

UNIT 55

Unit 55 - Members of the South Lake Memorial American Legion Auxiliary Unit 55, Clermon, held a Yard Sale event on November 5, 2022 to benefit the Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express. This amazing organization serves the surviving spouses and children of fallen heroes. Because the holidays can be especially difficult, one of their many events is a special invitation to Disney World in December. The foundation brought together almost 1800 children and family members last week to "honor their fallen and blend fun entertainment and inspiring programs". The families gather with their peers in solidarity and support for one another.

Some of the yard sale volunteers from ALA Unit 55 received a special invitation from Disney Cast members (who are also ALA Unit 55 members) to attend this special event on Tuesday, December 6th as a VoluntEAR. VoluntEARS were ushered into Magic Kingdom at 4:30am and given Mickey hands and American flags. At the appropriate time the families were led by a marching band down Main Street where we joined hundreds of other VoluntEARS dressed in red, white and blue lining Main Street waiving, clapping and giving them a hero's welcome. There were children of all ages high-fiving the VoluntEARS under a blanket of Disney snow. There were a lot of happy smiles and maybe a few tears. They were all lead to Cinderella's castle where letters written to their heroes by the children were placed in a giant cauldron. Some portions of the letters were read over the loud speakers while a Cast Member ensemble sang "Remember Me" from the movie "Coco". Yes, more tears... When the song concluded, the families were asked to ring bells they were given to encourage the "magic" that would send the heartfelt letters to their loved ones in heaven and in true Disney style, the lights and dry ice effects created a very special moment for all.

The opportunity to follow through on our yard sale goals and to see who benefitted from all our efforts was truly priceless and certainly something that won't ever be forgotten.



Unit 55 - Main Street Disney World



Unit 55 - Unit 55 member, Yvonne Hargis, waving her US Flag and Mickey Mouse hand to the children of fallen heroes



Unit 55 - members of South Lake Memorial American Legion Family Post 55 Back Row: Nikki Johnson, Yvonne Hargis, Stephen Oder Front Row L to R Shelia George, Katie Oyer and Jolee Oder

UNIT 62



Unit 62 - Unit 62 provided a home and had a great welcome reception for state president Jane Hardacre, Second Vice Charolette Bass and Secretary Mary Perkins. Plans were made for the rest of the week to end with the Snowball Gala .



Unit 62 - Members of Dist 11 met at unit 62 to assist their members and state President Jane Hardacre and her team to pack 40 boxes for troops overseas. A donation check was also presented to Lt. General Frank Libutti for the Horses For Heros foundation.



Unit 62 -President Hardacre rallied a team of veterans and aux members to paint Korean War veteran Mickey Salazar's home. He joined us at the Snowball gala to thank everyone.

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

UNIT 186

Unit 186 - Fifteenth District American Legion Auxiliary, Charles E. Murray Unit 186, once again successfully completed its annual Angel Tree Project and Food Giveaway. Working with the Hernando County School District, Children & Youth Chair Patti Motzer selected Eastside Elementary, a Title I School, this year helping eight families with 34 children. have a Merry Christmas. On November 22, 2022, the Auxiliary decorated Post 186, put up the Christmas Tree, and added our angels. Post family members and friends were encouraged to "adopt" an angel, shop for him/her following suggested instructions, then place their unwrapped gifts under the Post tree. The gifts were picked up, organized by family, wrapped and prepared for the giveaway that took place on Sunday, December 11, 2022. We also provided food bags and paper products to each of the families, purchased with the proceeds from the Children & Youth Christmas Basket Raffle, conducted from September 7th until the Veterans' Day drawing. The food bags contained all the fixings for a holiday dinner plus a gift card, as well as staples such as oranges, peanut butter, jelly, Mac & Cheese, soup, tuna and rice, and paper products that cannot be purchased with food stamps.

In addition to working with a Title I school, Unit 186 provided Christmas gifts for 26 Hernando, Citrus and Pasco County Veterans' children. Working with Unit 248 President Mary McColgan and the Veteran assigned VA Case Managers, children wish lists were provided and the requests filled by our family members and friends. These angels were also added to our Post Christmas tree, and the same procedure for pick up, bagging and organizing gifts was followed. The Veteran children's unwrapped gifts were provided to the individual case managers, who passed them on to the Veteran families.

While this project is very difficult and time-consuming, it is one of the most enjoyable and worthwhile events our Unit 186 conducts. Thank you, on behalf of a child, to all our members who participated in and worked on this project, especially our Chair, Patti Motzer, who ran the project and was involved in all aspects, our assistant raffle ticket seller, Joanne Holobinka, our Post decorators Gladys Stover, Mitzi Moscovitz, and friend Linda, and Giveaway workers Lorraine Freiman, Annette Snyder, Gladys Stover and Eileen Wilson. A huge round of applause for all the family members and friends who so generously supported this cause, providing children's gifts and monetary donations. We couldn't do it without you. UNIT 186 ROCKS!



Extra Extra!!!!!!

NEWLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

In order to be fair to every Unit and District, we need to set a standard as to how many pictures we can receive from each Unit and District. This will allow more efficiency and organization from the Unit to Department

- Units can send up to 5 pictures
- District Presidents can send up to 10 pictures

NOW ALL SUBMISSION SHOULD ONLY BE SENT TO:

ALAFLNEWS@ALAFL.ORG

Constitution & Bylaws:

- When changes are made to your Unit's C&B's you **MUST** send a copy of the governing documents via email to the Department of FL Constitution & Bylaws Chairman at CBylaws@al afl.org
- Once our C&B Chairman has viewed the documents, she will submit them to Department to be posted to the website.
- C&B's that are submitted directly to Department from any unit **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Revision and Adjustments

- MCR's are now being sent via email from Patsy (our Membership Coordinator) to the Units Membership Chairman or whoever's email the Unit has provided to Dept as point of contact pertaining to Membership
- Department no longer has a PO box. We **ONLY** use the street address



OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

UNIT 199

Unit 199 - Enter in His gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. ~ Psalm 100:4

Thanksgiving is for rendering service to others less fortunate.

It is a day for remembering and keeping with the traditions of our Elders who have gone before us.

A day for creating new Traditions for our youth who must carry them into the future.

A day for counting our blessings and being eternally grateful for what we have.

A day for the Love of Family, God, and Country.

The Legionnaires of Post 199 in West Palm Beach, Fla., and The Women's Auxiliary Unit 199, Veterans, Buffalo Soldiers, and those to rode on the beautifully decorated float, and youth began this month of celebration on Veterans Day, marching in a mile-long parade with many other participants.

We continued our community feedings with a Turkey cook-off and community/family dinner, food giveaways, and a Thanksgiving night celebration. We will continue our community feedings throughout the year.

We give Thanks to those who fought to keep our American Democratic Experience a Living Dream and those who continue to keep faithful watch for our country. Blessings and a Happy Holiday Season.



UNIT 273



Unit 273 - Auxiliary Unit 273 held its annual Christmas Party for children of veterans at Post 273 on Saturday, December 10, 2022. Santa arrived in the Madeira Beach fire truck led by Legion Riders. Each child received a special gift with their name on it. District 16 President, Janice B. Hill, was in charge of acquiring the gifts from the sign up list. 27 children enjoyed the party with 18 Unit 273 elves putting everything in order.

UNIT 285



Unit 285 - Edgewater Unit 285 member Dora lee Dawson on the left and District President 17 Eleanor Amato waving to the crowd at the Edgewater Parade. Merry Christmas

YOUR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS
PRESENT



HILLBILLY HOEDOWN

COME DRESSED AS A HILLBILLY!
JEANS—OVERALLS—STRAW HATS
USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

SATURDAY JAN 21, 2023
STARTING AT 12:00PM



LIVE MUSIC BY LAST CALL BAND

RAFFLES!
DINNER!
& MUCH MORE!

TICKETS:

\$25/PERSON \$40/COUPLE

CONTACT A VICE COMMANDER FOR TICKETS

MICHAEL: (618) 616 - 2753

CHRIS: (321) 313 - 3469

JESSICA: (239) 839 - 0602

AMERICAN LEGION POST 117
189 VETERANS DRIVE PALM BAY, FL



PROCEEDS
BENEFIT



PROJECT: VETRELIEF
They Fought for Us. We Fight for Them.

ALA
Florida
Juniors



#COLORmeThere

Department of
Florida
2022-2023
Honorary Dept.
Jr. President:
Jasmine Harris

Color Wheel Patch Challenge

All Juniors are challenged to earn 2
patches this year to win a Certificate

Contact Chairman: Dara Oliver for more information

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

UNIT 283

Unit 283 - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 283 started Dec off packing up 94 bags of non perishable food for 47 families and each received a gift card. Distributed to 5 schools, 7 legion families, and the local USO. The legion family helped support this mission.

We hosted our annual Children's Christmas Party, on Dec 10. We had a great turn out with 32 children. Many hands helped get the party started from wrapping presents, decorating, cooking and staging the room thank you to our Legion family, the 5th District Auxiliary members and Juniors. (Units 129, 233, 372,& 316) Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elf came to town at Post 283 escorted by our ALR's. Bringing lots of toys and a special guest – Department President Jane Hardacre. As Santa's helper she passed out gifts to the children.

Our other Department officers and National representatives in attendance were well welcomed and willing to help where needed. (Nat'l Finance Michelle DeGennaro and Nina , Dept. 2 VP Charlotte Bass, Secretary Mary Kelly Perkins) Working together made this a successful event.





UNIT 291



Unit 291 - On December 10, 2022 Steinhatchee celebrated Christmas in the Park. There is a Christmas tree decorating contest and the kids get to visit with Santa. The Auxiliary serves hot cocoa and the Legion served hotdogs to the kids. Pictured on the bench from bottom left to right are Auxiliary members Barbara Hill, Marcie Cantrell, Nina Johnson, Judy Shimp and Karen Tidwell.



Unit 291 - On December 12, 2022 Unit 291 of Steinhatchee had a great meeting. Prior to the meeting the Legionnaires and Sons of the Legion provided us dinner. Dinner was a full bake potatoes bar with dessert. We accomplished so much during the meeting and then did a photo with the Patriotic tree that was decorated by our member Indy Kelly.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

DECEMBER 16, 2022

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	212	0	131	131	61.79%
0193	Pensacola	77	14	26	40	51.95%
0221	Niceville	126	2	95	97	76.98%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	130	3	102	105	80.77%
0240	Pensacola	253	6	150	156	61.66%
0296	Destin	73	0	63	63	86.30%
0340	Pensacola	337	4	234	238	70.62%
0356	Lynn Haven	135	1	77	78	57.78%
0375	Southport	54	0	14	14	25.93%
0378	Gulf Breeze	43	0	23	23	53.49%
0382	Navarre	170	1	127	128	75.29%
0392	Panama City	174	3	139	142	81.61%
0402	Panama City Beach	40	0	34	34	85.00%
TOTALS		1824	34	1215	1249	68.48%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	27	0	26	26	96.30%
0057	Lake City	222	4	162	166	74.77%
0107	Live Oak	54	1	55	56	103.70%
0215	Jasper	34	1	19	20	58.82%
0224	Madison	49	0	37	37	75.51%
0291	Steinhatchee	199	3	157	160	80.40%
0383	Old Town	133	3	88	91	68.42%
TOTALS		718	12	544	556	77.44%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	77	1	57	58	75.32%
0082	Lanark	66	1	46	47	71.21%
0084	Havana	29	7	10	17	58.62%
0100	Marianna	31	4	24	28	90.32%
0217	Quincy	49	1	19	20	40.82%
0241	Sneads	71	18	50	68	95.77%
TOTALS		323	32	206	238	73.68%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	25	0	27	27	108.00%
0027	Ocala	19	1	13	14	73.68%
0058	Dunnellon	28	0	23	23	82.14%
0077	Inverness	67	1	58	59	88.06%
0149	Newberry	30	3	15	18	60.00%
0155	Crystal River	343	3	297	300	87.46%
0166	Homosassa Springs	145	2	105	107	73.79%
0210	Ocala	11	0	10	10	90.91%
0230	Hawthorne	31	4	28	32	103.23%
0236	Bronson	46	0	24	24	52.17%
0237	Beverly Hills	201	0	137	137	68.16%
0284	Bellevue	76	2	70	72	94.74%
TOTALS		1022	16	807	823	80.53%

DISTRICT 5						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	67	2	34	36	53.73%
0054	Fernandina Beach	165	3	133	136	82.42%
0088	Jacksonville	76	1	60	61	80.26%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	358	10	234	244	68.16%
0137	Jacksonville	423	12	286	298	70.45%
0194	St Augustine	68	5	36	41	60.29%
0197	Jacksonville	43	6	32	38	88.37%
0202	Keystone Heights	72	0	47	47	65.28%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	175	31	105	136	77.71%
0244	Jacksonville	32	1	25	26	81.25%
0250	Middleburg	309	22	165	187	60.52%
0283	Jacksonville	459	8	331	339	73.86%
0316	Atlantic Beach	369	41	193	234	63.41%
0372	Mandarin	28	0	24	24	85.71%
0373	Orange Park	31	1	15	16	51.61%
0401	Hilliard	48	3	18	21	43.75%
TOTALS		2723	146	1738	1884	69.19%

DISTRICT 7						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	77	0	49	49	63.64%
0004	Lakeland	62	1	31	32	51.61%
0008	Winter Haven	600	5	470	475	79.17%
0015	Dade City	21	0	7	7	33.33%
0034	Haines City	77	0	50	50	64.94%
0071	Lake Wales	47	0	26	26	55.32%
0072	Mulberry	165	2	83	85	51.52%
0201	Florence Villa	24	1	21	22	91.67%
TOTALS		1073	9	737	746	69.52%

DISTRICT 6						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	205	0	142	142	69.27%
0018	Wildwood	20	0	16	16	80.00%
0019	Orlando	108	4	75	79	73.15%
0035	Mount Dora	146	0	74	74	50.68%
0041	Eustis	13	0	10	10	76.92%
0055	Clermont	214	4	148	152	71.03%
0063	Winter Garden	34	0	8	8	23.53%
0080	Saint Cloud	263	16	197	213	80.99%
0101	Bushnell	111	0	53	53	47.75%
0109	Ocoee	12	2	6	8	66.67%
0112	Winter Park	25	2	21	23	92.00%
0183	Fern Park	120	1	60	61	50.83%
0219	Fruitland Park	205	1	181	182	88.78%
0239	Groveland	10	0	10	10	100.00%
0242	Orlando	108	8	64	72	66.67%
0286	Orlando	170	6	102	108	63.53%
0330	Leesburg	68	2	42	44	64.71%
0331	Orlando	13	0	15	15	115.38%
0347	Lady Lake	2562	8	2075	2083	81.30%
0412	Orlando	13	0	1	1	7.69%
TOTALS		4420	54	3300	3354	75.88%

DISTRICT 8						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	35	9	15	24	68.57%
0024	Bradenton	332	11	227	238	71.69%
0025	Lake Placid	394	0	240	240	60.91%
0030	Sarasota	81	8	54	62	76.54%
0069	Avon Park	719	13	475	488	67.87%
0074	Sebring	131	0	88	88	67.18%
0113	Rotonda West	307	1	166	167	54.40%
0159	Venice	710	3	490	493	69.44%
0254	North Port	118	1	78	79	66.95%
0266	Fruitville	158	2	93	95	60.13%
0309	Palmetto	176	2	137	139	78.98%
0312	Oneco	198	1	109	110	55.56%
0325	Ellenton	199	0	122	122	61.31%
TOTALS		3558	51	2294	2345	65.91%

DISTRICT 9						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	37	0	23	23	62.16%
0092	Hollywood	97	1	62	63	64.95%
0142	Pompano Beach	185	6	142	148	80.00%
0157	Margate	170	8	107	115	67.65%
0162	Deerfield Beach	171	15	104	119	69.59%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	111	0	65	65	58.56%
0209	Dania Beach	17	0	11	11	64.71%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	27	8	19	27	100.00%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	31	0	25	25	80.65%
0287	Deerfield Beach	16	0	7	7	43.75%
0304	Dania	51	0	51	51	100.00%
0310	Hallandale	24	1	21	22	91.67%
0321	Cooper City	229	2	133	135	58.95%
0365	Sunrise	13	2	14	16	123.08%
TOTALS		1179	43	784	827	70.14%

DISTRICT 12						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	276	8	184	192	69.57%
0022	Cocoa	105	0	30	30	28.57%
0039	Vero Beach	206	0	105	105	50.97%
0040	Fort Pierce	184	2	132	134	72.83%
0081	Melbourne	171	1	151	152	88.89%
0117	Palm Bay	513	7	336	343	66.86%
0126	Jensen Beach	194	1	109	110	56.70%
0163	Eau Gallie	219	3	146	149	68.04%
0171	Fort Pierce	15	0	13	13	86.67%
0189	Sebastian	158	0	153	153	96.84%
0191	Melbourne	80	8	39	47	58.75%
0200	Satellite Beach	170	8	117	125	73.53%
0318	Port St Lucie	1153	3	879	882	76.50%
0344	Merritt Island	46	3	29	32	69.57%
0348	Cape Canaveral	210	1	140	141	67.14%
0358	White City	68	0	55	55	80.88%
0359	Port St John	357	5	237	242	67.79%
0366	Barefoot Bay	68	10	33	43	63.24%
0394	Palm Bay	207	5	130	135	65.22%
0410	Viera	12	0	5	5	41.67%
TOTALS		4412	65	3023	3088	69.99%

DISTRICT 11						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	39	2	41	43	110.26%
0047	Lake Worth	74	1	70	71	95.95%
0062	Stuart	547	3	463	466	85.19%
0064	Okeechobee	115	1	80	81	70.43%
0065	Delray Beach	57	4	43	47	82.46%
0141	West Palm Beach	72	5	49	54	75.00%
0164	Boynton Beach	149	5	108	113	75.84%
0199	W Palm Beach	37	0	20	20	54.05%
0268	Riviera Beach	84	1	41	42	50.00%
0271	Tequesta	157	4	124	128	81.53%
0277	Boca Raton	110	2	92	94	85.45%
0288	Boynton Beach	21	5	8	13	61.90%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	27	4	29	33	122.22%
TOTALS		1489	37	1168	1205	80.93%

DISTRICT 13						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	36	2	31	33	91.67%
0090	Cape Coral	286	5	208	213	74.48%
0103	Punta Gorda	648	3	453	456	70.37%
0110	Port Charlotte	634	5	399	404	63.72%
0123	Sanibel	40	2	62	64	160.00%
0130	Labelle	151	0	90	90	59.60%
0135	Naples	366	0	280	280	76.50%
0136	Saint James City	515	10	564	574	111.46%
0192	Fort Myers	20	0	14	14	70.00%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	543	2	638	640	117.86%
0303	Bonita Springs	424	18	463	481	113.44%
0323	Lehigh Acres	408	33	243	276	67.65%
0336	N Ft Myers	439	0	353	353	80.41%
0351	Fort Myers	103	0	33	33	32.04%
TOTALS		4613	80	3831	3911	84.78%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	56	0	38	38	67.86%
0031	South Miami	170	5	112	117	68.82%
0043	Homestead	56	0	5	5	8.93%
0067	North Miami	41	0	21	21	51.22%
0098	Coral Gables	15	0	11	11	73.33%
0133	Miami	62	10	51	61	98.39%
0154	Marathon	145	0	95	95	65.52%
0168	Key West	22	0	12	12	54.55%
0333	Key Largo	77	0	47	47	61.04%
0346	Miami	18	0	10	10	55.56%
0374	Key Biscayne	41	0	28	28	68.29%
TOTALS		703	15	430	445	63.30%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	248	0	191	191	77.02%
0014	St Petersburg	116	1	28	29	25.00%
0079	New Port Richey	457	14	297	311	68.05%
0104	Pinellas Park	254	5	214	219	86.22%
0119	Largo	359	1	251	252	70.19%
0125	St Petersburg	296	1	190	191	64.53%
0158	Treasure Island	255	0	189	189	74.12%
0173	Holiday	258	1	191	192	74.42%
0238	Safety Harbor	313	6	225	231	73.80%
0252	Seminole	1064	9	891	900	84.59%
0273	Madeira Beach	3427	2	1508	1510	44.06%
0275	Dunedin	980	3	721	724	73.88%
0305	St Pete Beach	149	0	90	90	60.40%
0335	Hudson	95	6	48	54	56.84%
TOTALS		8271	49	5034	5083	61.46%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	37	1	18	19	51.35%
0099	Brooksville	20	1	18	19	95.00%
0111	Tampa	53	0	44	44	83.02%
0138	Tampa	482	5	392	397	82.37%
0139	Tampa	57	0	63	63	110.53%
0147	Odessa	43	0	37	37	86.05%
0148	Riverview	208	4	155	159	76.44%
0152	Tampa	249	9	156	165	66.27%
0167	Tampa	15	1	14	15	100.00%
0186	Brooksville	368	1	233	234	63.59%
0248	West Tampa	14	1	11	12	85.71%
TOTALS		1546	23	1141	1164	75.29%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	103	0	100	100	97.09%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	211	0	134	134	63.51%
0045	Palatka	30	1	17	18	60.00%
0115	Palm Coast	39	0	36	36	92.31%
0120	Holly Hill	215	1	159	160	74.42%
0127	Lake Helen	23	2	12	14	60.87%
0255	Deltona	24	4	17	21	87.50%
0259	Debary	27	0	22	22	81.48%
0267	Ormond Beach	228	2	175	177	77.63%
0270	Port Orange	174	2	142	144	82.76%
0285	Edgewater	124	1	93	94	75.81%
0361	S Daytona	225	0	134	134	59.56%
TOTALS		1423	13	1041	1054	74.07%



**THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**

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ORLANDO, FL 32810

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