

VOLUME XII • ISSUE 7 • FEBRUARY 2023
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT JANE 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 FEBRUARY 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*? alafnews@alaf.org

alaf.org/submit

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JANE HARDACRE



GIRLS STATE Fundraiser!
Purchase your tickets online; it is easy!! See page 10-11 for the flyer and real proof that it works!

The end of December took me to the 13th District. There we visited Christmas Parties for the children, helped shop

at Walmart for families, and delivered toys to another Unit to hand out. They did all this while taking care of themselves! I am really proud of these Units! They continue to hold meetings, pass out supplies, take care of their communities, and work the Mission. I would like to recognize Valerie, the President of Unit #123 Sanibel Island. She took time out of her day to meet with me and share hope, tears, and most importantly.....LOVE!

January began as busy as all the other months! I attended the District 15 meeting for a Conflict Resolution class on January 7th. It was wonderful hearing the reports from the District Chairman. Our members are working on the programs!

The next weekend took me to my visit in District 12! These Units are working with their Legion Families to help our veterans, military families, communities and Children and Youth! They are busy with stand downs, Girls State, Children and Youth activities! Somehow, they even managed to raise money for the Gary Sinise Foundation Central Florida Chapter's Snowball Express.

They gather gifts for Valentine's Day to give to the Coast Guard, donate supplies for homeless veterans, send out remembrance bears to their members who have lost a spouse, and volunteer at a military store with proceeds going to Veterans Organizations! Having fun while working our Mission really does work!

I didn't have much time before it was my visit to District 8. These Units were hard at work packing bags for veterans at the local Veterans Center, supporting their local elementary schools, giving scholarships to young

women, serving free meals to veterans and helping with the Annual Veterans Expo!

They include their Juniors, and young Sons members while offering free "shredding parties" to their community and only charging school supplies, work membership, planning whiffle ball golf tournaments, and signing valentines for the children at our sponsored Children's Hospitals! One Unit saw a need with their Post home. They ran for offices, brought in business, supported Combat Veterans, all while welcoming their members with a smile!

As I travel around the state of Florida, I am amazed by our kind, loving, and generous members. Hard working ALA brothers & sisters joining together for a greater good! When I walk into a Post Home, the first thing I do is ask if the Commander is there. I want to hear how the Legion appreciates, loves, and needs our ALA members! Keep up the great work, Florida!

Thank you for coloring our world and for saying #colormethere this year! I am humbled to be a part of this great organization!

#ColorMeThere

A donation of \$5 for one (1) ticket or \$20 for five (5) tickets, would make all the difference! The drawing is for a three (3) night stay at Department Convention, your Convention registration fee, and two (2) tickets for the Commander's Dinner. Drawing will be held March 18, 2023. Must be a member of the Legion Family to participate. Go to: www.alaflstore.org

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

DEE BELL



Tap the power of positive thinking, and joy flows!!

Look for the best in a situation, and silver linings shine.

Count one blessing, and more appear.

Trust that even the most ordinary of days will bring you something to smile about and give thanks for, and it does.

When you believe life is good, it is.

CHAPLAIN

RUTH BURGESS



To all of our Colorful members of our American Legion
Auxiliary family in Florida -

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10 (KJV)

Our dearly departed Sisters who have passed from this world:

Tiffany Zicaro	1	Margie Anderson	6	Bonita Mackiewicz	13
Charlotte Patrick	1	Halen Van Hoeve	6	Darlene Young	16
Yvette Moore	1	Carol Joan Hunt	6	Claire A Hansen	16
Angela S. Owens	1	Darleen Ginther	8	Darlene Young	16
Charlotte Patrick	1	Nancy Wolfe	8	Claire A Hansen	16
Voilet Botman	4	Irene K Breeden	8	Jeanne D Kline	16
Stacy F Stepp	5	Evelyn F Higle mann	8	Debora McClure	16
Cheryl Labarge	5	Olivia Northern	11	Carol Davis	16
Ann D Mauro	6	Rachel Shacket	12		
Maryann Canterbury	6	Marge Travis	12		
Elizabeth Mantucci	6	Cindy Grassel	13		

And, please let us each say a prayer of comfort for our Dear Madame President
Jane who lost her mother on New Year's Eve. Amen

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

GEORGIA MACKENZIE



Happy New Year,

I want to wish all a very Safe and Happy New Year. Our last year was a rough one but we are going forward drawing on the strength of our family.

I still know we have a few family members that need help and I hope you are checking into the AEF (Auxiliary Emergency Fund) for help. If you need forms or help please contact me. I will be very glad to help.

Please remember that all this is confidential.

We spend our year doing fund raisers to donate to this fund for just these kinds of natural disasters. Please keep up the great work in working our programs.

Many Auxiliary members have sent in many responds to the help they have received from AEF. They are very thankful and grateful that this program was out there to help our Auxiliary members in time of need. It is a little bit of a process but if you have problems I am here to help you through the steps.

Please follow our Facebook (ALAFL Emergencyfund) page to see the latest Newsletters that come from National and our Southern Division.

If you would be interested in attending the Zoom meeting please let me know so that I can send you the link to join. These meeting are very interesting and we learn a lot about what all other areas may be doing to raise funds for AEF.

Please keep up the great work you are doing throughout the year to raise funds.

We always need to be ready in case of emergencies that may come up.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission and vision statements!

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CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

LISA HOYLAND



Parliamentary Procedure.

It's hard to believe that we are already in February, and we will be starting to form our unit Nominating and Audit Committees.

Here are some tips to assist you and explain the roles of

those leading and attending our Unit Meetings.

Roles of Those Leading and Attending a Meeting

In order to understand the parliamentary process, one must first understand the roles of those responsible for the process of conducting the business of a meetings, those individuals generally are your elected officers, except in the case of the parliamentarian who may be appointed by the president.

Constitution & ByLaws continued on page 6 >>

Committee meetings are conducted by the chairman of the committee, usually appointed by the organization's president.

(1) **Chair:** The presiding officer, usually the president (or vice president if president is unavailable), and is responsible for:

- ↔ Keeping the meeting on schedule and within time limits.
- ↔ Remains neutral by not entering the discussion.
- ↔ Expedites the transaction of business by preparing the agenda and keeping order during the meetings.
- ↔ States motions that are in order or rule them out of order; ask for discussion; ask for a second to the motion; put motion to vote; and declare the result of the vote.
- ↔ **Chair does not vote unless the vote is by ballot or roll call.**
- ↔ If the president wishes to speak during a debate, she should place a vice president in the chair by stating, 'The vice president will assume the chair,' and then the president may speak to the question. She cannot resume the chair again until after the vote has been taken and declared.
- ↔ **The president is an ex-officio member of all standing committees, but never of the nominating committee**

(2) **Vice President:** Will preside in the absence of the president or whenever the president temporarily vacates the chair (e.g., so she can join a discussion regarding a motion). First vice president becomes president in case of illness, resignation, or death of the president, or for the unexpired term, unless rules specify how vacancies shall be filled.

(3) **Parliamentarian:** Appointed by the president, she serves as the expert on parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian should be seen not heard. She advises everyone and is appointed by the President. She sits next to the President and keeps the President on track as well as advises her of any errors or violations which could affect the rights of members.

- ↔ Duties of the parliamentarian before a meeting: Review the agenda with the president to be familiar with the business and possible

procedural problems that may arise. Review and know the bylaws and standing rules of the organization. Work with the committee members who request assistance in preparing reports for the meeting.

- ↔ Duties of the parliamentarian during a meeting: Arrive early to counsel as needed and remain after the meeting for further counsel. Have a copy of the governing document at the meeting. Keep track of the motions to assist the presiding officer. Be as inconspicuous as possible. Provide advice when requested and communicate with the president tactfully and discreetly. Remain impartial and be prepared to cite references if needed.

(4) **Secretary:** In the absence of the president and vice president, the secretary calls the meeting to order and entertains a motion for temporary chairman. The secretary ensures that minutes of the meeting are taken – whether taken by herself or her designee – including recording the type of meeting (regular, special, etc.) place, date, hour, presiding officer, all motions and their disposal, names of motion makers.

- ↔ The names of those who second the motion is not required to be recorded in the minutes, but may be included, and probably should be when business is being conducted at a meeting of the governing board and a verbatim transcript will not be made.
- ↔ Items not included in minutes are discussion, opinion, points of order, or questions of privilege.
- ↔ The minutes are never rewritten after they are presented to the assembly and approved. The secretary should place corrections on the margin of the minutes.

(5) **Treasurer:** Custodian of the organizations' funds, receives and disburses them upon authority from the organization. The treasurer reports on budget performance and the financial health of the organization to the assembly.

- ↔ The budget is adopted by the general membership
- ↔ Financial reports are presented to members and placed on file for audit. The proper motion for accepting the treasurer's report: "I move that the

treasurers report be accepted and filed for audit."

- ↔ The audited financial report is presented to the audit committee and accepted by the membership. The proper motion for accepting the audited financial report: "I move that the audited financial report be accepted and filed."

The Treasurer does not serve on the audit committee however should be available for any questions that may arise upon review from the committee.

(6) Members: All members whose current membership dues are paid are considered members in good standing and are entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership, including those aspiring to and holding office, and voting in the ALA.

- ↔ Rise or raise your hand to address the chair if you want to discuss the motion under consideration or to offer another motion. Wait to be recognized by the presiding officer before beginning to speak after addressing the chair. Say, "I move to..." or "I move that..."
- ↔ Make a motion in an affirmative form, never in the negative. Always address your remarks to the chair, never to another member. Remain silent if you are ready to vote and the presiding officer says, "Are you ready for the question?" Assist the presiding officer promptly by giving your name.
- ↔ State facts rather than beliefs.
- ↔ Understand the types of votes. Majority: the number greater than half the votes cast. Two-thirds vote: To determine a 2/3 vote quickly, double the negative votes cast, and if it is equal to or less than the affirmative votes cast, a 2/3 vote has been attained.
- ↔ Members should speak up while a motion is pending, not after the vote has been taken or after the meeting is over. Members should not discuss the vote at the bar after the meeting, however, support the unit by the outcome. Parking lot meetings don't accomplish and take away from the ALA Mission.

(7) Committees:

- ↔ Members of committees have no authority

except that which is granted by bylaws or by a vote of the assembly.

- ↔ Unless otherwise provided, the member first named to a committee or the one receiving the largest number of votes is the chairman of the committee.
- ↔ Members of committees should not conduct business of the committee without a quorum present. A majority of committee members constitutes a quorum unless the assembly orders otherwise.
- ↔ Motions and resolutions originating in committees need no seconding, if the committee members are also members of the governing body. They already have been seconded by a committee action.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding Parliamentary Procedures.



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EDUCATION

LIZ CLOSE



I hope everyone had a great holiday season. It's hard to believe that time is passing so quickly. Education is the foundation for success in this world. Albert Einstein stated, "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."

Focus on Scholarships."The deadline for all scholarships is MARCH 1, 2023. Be sure to follow the directions carefully being certain to send certified transcripts when requested. The American Legion and Auxiliary Scholarships are available for all ages including for our Juniors and military children. Go to the National website "alaforveterans.org" and the Department website, "alafl.org" and press drop-down Program/ Education and you will see the full details for all.

National Education Chairman, Sallie Rossman, has

provided the Department Education Chairmen throughout our auxiliary with informational Zoom Meetings. Southern Division Chairman, Donna Thurman brought breakout sessions during the call. We all received bulletins keeping us abreast of deadlines, and more.

"Give 10 to Education" was successful at the beginning of the year and units either are now or have been contributing to schools through mid-year school supply drives. Many teachers have to use their own money to make ends meet until the end of the school year. Please remember to include your accomplishments in your year-end reports due APRIL 1, 2023.

Despite 2022's hurricanes that hit South Florida as well as ongoing COVID, flu, and other set-backs, the units kept "Painting the Town for Our Veterans." If you have any questions, please call me. Thank you for all you do!

GIRLS STATE

T.K. WILDRICK



Happy New Year! It is that time when our Units have the opportunity to select the Delegates and Alternates for the upcoming Girls State Session 2023. Units should be involved in every aspect of the selection of their ALA Girls State citizens. This is a great program and offers a great way to inform local schools and communities of the many benefits of the ALA FL Girls State program and the ALA mission of Service and Not Self.

Do you know your ALA Girls State Citizens?

Getting your school counselors and teachers involved is a very important step in the selection of your ALA Girl State citizens, however, all too often we find ourselves allowing them to make the final determination in who attends our ALA Girls State

programs without any Unit involvement. This can cause confusion for the students and, in some cases, they cannot even tell you who sponsors this educational program. Units should utilize school counselors and teachers to suggest ALA Girl State candidates but, don't rely on them to select your citizens. Counselors can be a welcome partner when deciding on ALA Girl State citizens and their input can be valuable but the final decision should rest with the ALA Unit. A helpful resource, Girls State Chairman Guide, can be found on the FL Department website: www.alafl.org under the Girls State Program tab.

Do your ALA Girls State Citizens know you?

Prepare them for the experience of ALA Girls State. Introduce your Girl State candidates to the American Legion Auxiliary and explain the mission of the program to them before a selection is made. Sources of information that you can share are the ALA At a

Girls State continued on page 9 >>

<< Girls State continued from page 8

Glance Brochure and the ALA Girls State Brochure = both of these are available on the FL Department website. Always be willing to meet students before the final selection and include your Unit members in the decision making process as to whether a girl meets the requirements and is a good candidate to attend. Let's focus on strengthening our selection process. An informed citizen is a productive citizen.

Have you purchased your ALA Girls State Raffle Ticket yet?

The ALA FL Girls State Raffle fundraiser is well under way! All Legion Family members are eligible to win! The lucky winner will receive 3-night stay at the Department Convention hotel – Hilton Lake Buena Vista, (2) tickets to the Commander's and President's Banquet Dinner and the Convention Registration fee. See details on the enclosed flyer. Don't miss out - the drawing will be held on March 18th!

GIRLS STATE IS GGRREEAATT!!!

I am here for you if you have any questions!

MEMBERSHIP

STACY CUSANO



HELLO ARTISTS!!!!

Great News, as of 01/13/2023 Florida is **FIRST PLACE IN THE NATION!** We have 31 Units that have already meet their 100% membership goal. Be on the look out for your 100% membership pins. Wear them with pride, you have worked hard to earn them!

The Next Goal from National: The American Legion Birthday - 85% Award

Awarded to Departments reaching 85% of their 2023 Department membership goal by TAL Birthday, March 15, 2023. Award will be based on membership entered in the ALAMIS member database by March 15, 2023.

Florida is currently at 83.90% - We are SO CLOSE!

The Next Goal from Department: A special gift will be presented to the Unit President and Membership Chairman, in each membership grouping, with the highest percentage received by Department of processed the week before St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2023.

From our Southern Division Membership Chairman (our very own Dara Oliver!) The biggest discussion we had during our National Membership meeting was; some Units are holding Membership. This is NOT a good practice and should Not be done. If you're holding membership: 1.) your growth percentages for your Department will not be seen as an increase and

won't be shown in the weekly updates 2.) if members don't have their cards, they may not be allowed access into Legions or visiting other Posts 3.) if they aren't a "registered member" they are probably not covered by insurance (God forbid they get hurt at your club or kitchen) 4.) if you are holding their check; it could only be good for 60 – 90 days depending on the banking institution, (Checks expire) their money will be no good and you will need to obtain another one from the member (which could also mess up the members' checkbook and balancing) 5.) if a natural disaster occurs such as recently the Tornados in Georgia and Alabama or the Hurricanes that hit Florida, you could loose all that valuable information and no record or back-up of it. Please Do Not hold onto membership applications and money. It's a Great Reminder to: PLEASE SEND IT IN ASAP.



Girls State Fundraiser

**3 nights at Department
Convention**

Convention registration fee

**Two (2) tickets for the
Commander's Dinner**

\$5.00/ticket or 5 for \$20.00
available at <https://alaflstore.org>

**After your order confirmation, you will
receive a separate email from
Department with your ticket numbers.**

Drawing March 18, 2023*

***winner can be a member of the
Auxiliary, Legion, or Sons**

All proceeds benefit ALA Florida Girls State Program

From: Ecwid <notifications@ecwid.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:28 AM
To: treasurer@alafl.org
Subject: The American Legion Auxiliary, Dept of Florida: New order #972 from Robert Hardacre

You have received a new order from The American Legion Auxiliary, Dept of Florida!



New order #972 >

Total \$20.00 PAID

Jan 11, 2023, 09:27 AM

Items



Girl State Raffle

SKU: #HZ0F99VBQ3Q36

Ticket options: Bundle of Five (5) Tickets

Price per item: \$20.00

Quantity: 1

Subtotal	\$20.00
Shipping	\$0.00
Total	\$20.00

Customer

Robert Hardacre

EMAIL RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT

Robert -

We have received your order for Girls State Raffle tickets. Your ticket numbers are XXX-XXX.

You will not be receiving physical tickets in the mail.

Thank you for your support and good luck!

JUNIORS

DARA OLIVER



ALA FL JUNIOR WEEKEND at VETERANS EXPO
The American Legion Auxiliary Florida Juniors were invited to Avon Park January 6 – 8th for their 8th Annual Veterans Expo to benefit Project Vet Relief. 8 Juniors and 5 young SAL members from across the state attended and helped make it one of their best!

Big thank you to Junior Activities committee members and chaperones: Tara Harris, Michelle Ligeikis, Maryann Spellman, Misty Tomanski, and April Krogh as well as Post 69 Commander: Larry Roberts, their Officers and staff.

Junior President: Jasmine Harris and her brother Jake arrived as did Lily Edwards, HDJSAA: Averi Krogh and her siblings McKenzie, Michael and Ayden. All 13 kids helped to set up the Juniors tent, with membership applications, raffles, lemonade stand and a poppy painting auction.



Opening ceremony started at 10 am and the kids were deputized and sworn-in by a retired Sheriff, so they were ready to start “arresting people and throw them in PVR Jail.” By the end of the day they had exceeded their expectations and donated the ‘Jail Bail’ to Project Vet Relief.



On Friday evening, Alison Cappelletty, Reagan & Emersyn Tomanski, Brooklynn & Logan Fuqua and Jaxson Dodd made Flat Auxiliary members, colored Poppy and American Flag pictures and met Motorcycle riders that had ridden 22 miles each way to escort the Vietnam Memorial moving wall that the volunteers were putting up.



They learned the significance of 22 miles which represents 22 American Service members that commit suicide every day.

On Saturday, January 7th our Honorary Department

The kids did a great job answering questions, asking for donations for raffle tickets & lemonade, handing out membership applications, as well as encouraging people to bid on the Poppy painting that benefitted President Jane’s Special Project: Snowball Express. It was painted by Junior: Brooklynn and won by Terry Gallagher. They had the opportunity to walk in the 2.2 block parade led by a Marine on horseback, as well as meet & see American Bald Eagle: Liberty.

Some of the children took advantage of visiting all the vendors and we got to see Ms. Kelly from My Warriors

Juniors continued on page 15 >>



Place who hosted ALA FL Juniors Camp last year. The kids had lunch donated by Michelle Ligeikis and were given goodie bags provided by Children & Youth Chairman: Robin Burk.

The best part of the day was when they got to learn about the Vietnam Wall and who and why the names are on it. They received a history lesson of what the proper camouflage print was, as well as what the Soldiers Cross is and represents. With the help of the Patriot Guard volunteer and 1st Vice President: Dee Bell the kids also located several names on both the West & East

sides, that were provided by Chairman: Dara Oliver's neighbors that had lost 4 community members during Vietnam. There is also a War on Terrorism Wall that one of Dara's former students name is also on.

Even though it was exhausting, it was an amazing, fun-filled, educational and humbling weekend for our young members!



POPPIES

BRIDGETTE GREENE



Greetings and Happy New Year! It's only one month removed from the new year 2023, so yes, I'm wishing you all a Happy New Year. Are you one to make new year's resolutions? I'm not. I try to take one word to carry thru the year. This year that word is consistency; having the same attitudes towards people

or things or achieves the same level of success in something. Consistency can be applied in our ALA life. Treat all members the same. Put forth the same effort in all programs your unit supports.

National is wanting all Departments/Unit to support The Little Miss Poppy Contest. The theme is **"Little Miss Poppy Contest – Unit to Unity"**. Hosting a Little Miss Poppy contest is a way to bring the unit together to rally around and support our future the Jrs. Little Miss Poppy is a Jr. member in good standing aged 6 to 12 years old. She supports **Americanism** by distributing poppies on patriotic holidays. She supports **Public Relations** by her appearance in public. Little Miss Poppy supports the **Education**

program by inviting veterans into her classroom/school to promote patriotism and the meaning of poppies. She supports **Community Service** by attending unit organized days of service such as 9/11 Day or Martin Luther King Jr. Day of service. She supports **VA & R** by visiting veterans nursing homes with her unit to hand our Christmas gifts, valentines Day Cards and simply by visiting the veterans to say hello. I've listed five programs that by having a Little Miss Poppy representing your Unit you unit can take advantage of all this your Little Miss Poppy does come reporting time.

Before you know it May will be upon us. Which means.....National Poppy Day! National Poppy Day is the Friday before Memorial Day. Do you have enough poppies for you planned poppy day distribution? Will you be distributing poppies throughout the weekend? If so, you will need to request permission to do so from Department President beforehand. Also, Now is the time to check you inventory. If you're having difficulty finding poppies, please reach out department we may be able to assist you. Emblem sales is also an avenue to pursue but ordering from Emblem sales

Poppies continued on page 16 >>

may not make it to you in time, so plan wisely. Do the planning/preparing now. Don't forget to decorate your poppy distribution table/area to attract those walking by. Distributing poppies is a great way to recruit new members, so have membership applications on hand and auxiliary literature to hand out.

Will your unit sponsor a poppy poster contest at local a school? Start planning now. There are six classes:

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
- Class II: Grades 4 and 5
- Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
- Class V: Grades 10 and 11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs defined as:
 - Those in special education classes
 - A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
 - not in special education class due to lack of facilities, identification contingent upon

discretion of school officials.

Please visit alafl.org for more detail information on the Poppy Poster Contest! Wishing you all great submissions.

Now, back to Poppy distribution - don't forget to send 25% of your poppy proceeds to Department within 30 days of your poppy fundraiser.

Reports are due to your District Chairman by April 1st and to Department Chairman by April 15th

Awards and Deadlines

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program

- Deadline April 15, 2023

Department Little Miss Poppy Contest

- Deadline: April 15, 2023

Visit www.alafl.org under Poppy program for rules and requirements.

Thank you for all you do to keep the poppy program alive! #Poppy Day #Legion Family #colormethere

PUBLIC RELATIONS

VIRNA LUKE



Happy February to all! I have been visiting your Facebook pages and most are doing extremely well in sharing your happenings and photos. This is your public relations and history for the term. On a personal note, I use my FB postings to compile my end of year narratives for the various programs.

Reminder to use the "events" tool on Facebook, the tool is free, and your event will appear on searches and feeds of anyone that resides in your community that is on FB. If interested or going is clicked, automatic reminders are sent. Also, when the event is shared on other pages, it will automatically appear in that group/page's events tab! If you need help with the events tool on FB, search YouTube, there are great videos for beginners, marketing, social media trends, etc. I'm also available, find me on Messenger (Virna Luke), or send

an email to publicrelations@alafl.org.

Now, how to get my event covered or article published by media? Here's a response from a reporter: It's pretty much just like we've always been taught as journalists about the five W's and an H. Just be sure to include the who, what, where, when and how and can even use that as your format. But for us it's also about the local angle because newspaper staffs are dwindling down to nothing these days. So we're pretty much going to ignore it unless there's a good local peg. Also, think about anything you can provide that would make it easier to cover or write up because our resources are thin: things like quotes, contacts and photos.

Wow! Right, the local angle! Similar on social media. Followers want organic, personal, educational, and informative postings. I hope you find this helpful. Again, if I can be of any service to you, please send an email.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

CHARLOTTE BASS



This month is The National Salute to Veteran Patients which takes place during the week of February 14th every year. This year, it is from February 12 to 18. The purpose of the holiday is to honor and pay tribute to the brave military veterans who receive medical care at Veterans Affairs (V.A.) medical facilities.

Valentine's Day is a great time to say thanks to our Veterans during the Annual National Salute to Veteran Patients. Some of the ways that you can pay

tribute to our Veterans is by making goody bags, having your Juniors make Valentine's Day cards and dropping them off to your local VA Hospitals, Clinics, CLC's or State Nursing Homes. You can contact our VA Representatives or Deputies in your area to find out what is needed. The Representatives/Deputies information is in our Unit Guide on Pages 18-23.

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.

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 1



District 1 - On December 17th Unit 75 in Crestview were blessed to place Wreaths at Barrancas Cemetery. The amazing people we met, the honor to speak the name of those who have served and then to lay the wreaths was humbling.



District 1 - Unit 193 officers performed an initiation ceremony during the District 1 President official visit. It was a wonderful way to welcome new members to their Unit and make them feel a part of our organization.

District 1 - January is Law Enforcement Month! Today, President Mary Tarrant, Secretary, Rebecca DeBell and Treasurer Linda Bowers from Unit 402 went to the Panama City Beach Police Department to show our respect for all they do. Officer J. Pokipala and Lieutenant Will Bruhmuller were very appreciative.

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 1



District 1 - Today our Ladies Auxiliary Unit 75 in Crestview had the privilege to present Xanai Lock the National Youth Hero Award with \$100 check from our unit. Her father, Kelly Vest and Unit President Jamie Phillips were able to present this award to her with the help of Assistant Principal David Carnley at Davidson Middle School.



District 1 - So much to celebrate this year at Clifford Chester Sims Veteran Home this year. One resident had a birthday party because she turns 100. We also were able to deliver a few of the 100+ therapy pets for Christmas and the others are on their way! Thank you to Karen Azzaro from Unit 392 and Nannette Sullivan the Auxiliary VA representative for working together to start this project. Thank you to all the Units who donated pets and money so every veteran will have a pet on Christmas Day! Also for the others who donated money towards this great project. There aren't enough thank you's out in the world to express how much all you have done to help this come to pass. #colormethere

She was recognized for her courage and bravery. While at the bus stop with a friend, she heard someone screaming for help and ran to assist. A gentleman had fallen off the roof of a house and suffered a compound fracture of his leg. Her friend called 911 and Xanai worked to stop the bleeding. She asked the man to remove his shirt and used it as a tourniquet around his injured limb. Her father told us today the man is in a brace now and he really messed up his leg from the fall. We asked her if she planned on pursuing healthcare in the future. She said yes she does not know what for sure but definitely something in healthcare. We support her in her future!

DISTRICT 4



District 1 - Big Thank You! to our Crestview PD for hosting a game night every 4 th Thursday for our local Adults with disabilities and our ALAUNIT75 for the donations of games and prizes! Our Auxiliary will be teaming up with our City Police Dept to help keep this event going monthly for our H.E.R.O.E.S with donations and we can come enjoy game night as well #colormethere



DISTRICT 4



District 4 - District 4 ABC School was held at Unit 284 in Belleview on January 8. Mary Kelly-Perkins did an outstanding job of presenting information about ALA process, procedures, and protocol to attendees from six units. Anne Parker, Eileen Wilson, and Eleanor Amato, in training to become ABC instructors, assisted as a panel, providing answers to questions presented to them. The attendees were enthusiastic and said they learned a lot from our instructors. It was nice to have our PDP Wanda Brandt in attendance. Wanda is beginning her journey to becoming an ABC instructor. Thank you to Sharon Leard, President of Unit 284, for her hospitality and for providing a very nice lunch to all.



District 4 - Post 237 Beverly Hills Legion Family, sponsored by the Post 237 Riders, annually place wreaths on the gravestones at Bushnell National Cemetery the day after the Wreaths of America event. They do this so that they can honor veterans with wreaths whose gravestones had not received a wreath the day before. This year, a large group arrived on motorcycles and in cars on a very cold day, bundled up in anything they had to keep them warm. Their event, called Wreaths for Our Fallen Heroes, began the day before on December 17 when a group arrived at Post 237 to add red bows to over 2000 wreaths. On December 18, motorcycles, cars, and trucks laden with the wreaths went to Bushnell National Cemetery to lay the wreaths and honor our fallen Veterans. This is a year long event that includes fundraising rides and other events with donations from Post both within and outside of District 4.

DISTRICT 11

District 11- Children's breakfast with Santa, Wreaths Across America, Riders, Legionaries and Auxiliary members escorted and unloaded the boxes of wreaths upon arrival to Fernhill Cemetery in Stuart



OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

DISTRICT 11

District 11- Children's breakfast with Santa, Wreaths Across America, Riders, Legionaries and Auxiliary members escorted and unloaded the boxes of wreaths upon arrival to Fernhill Cemetery in Stuart





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

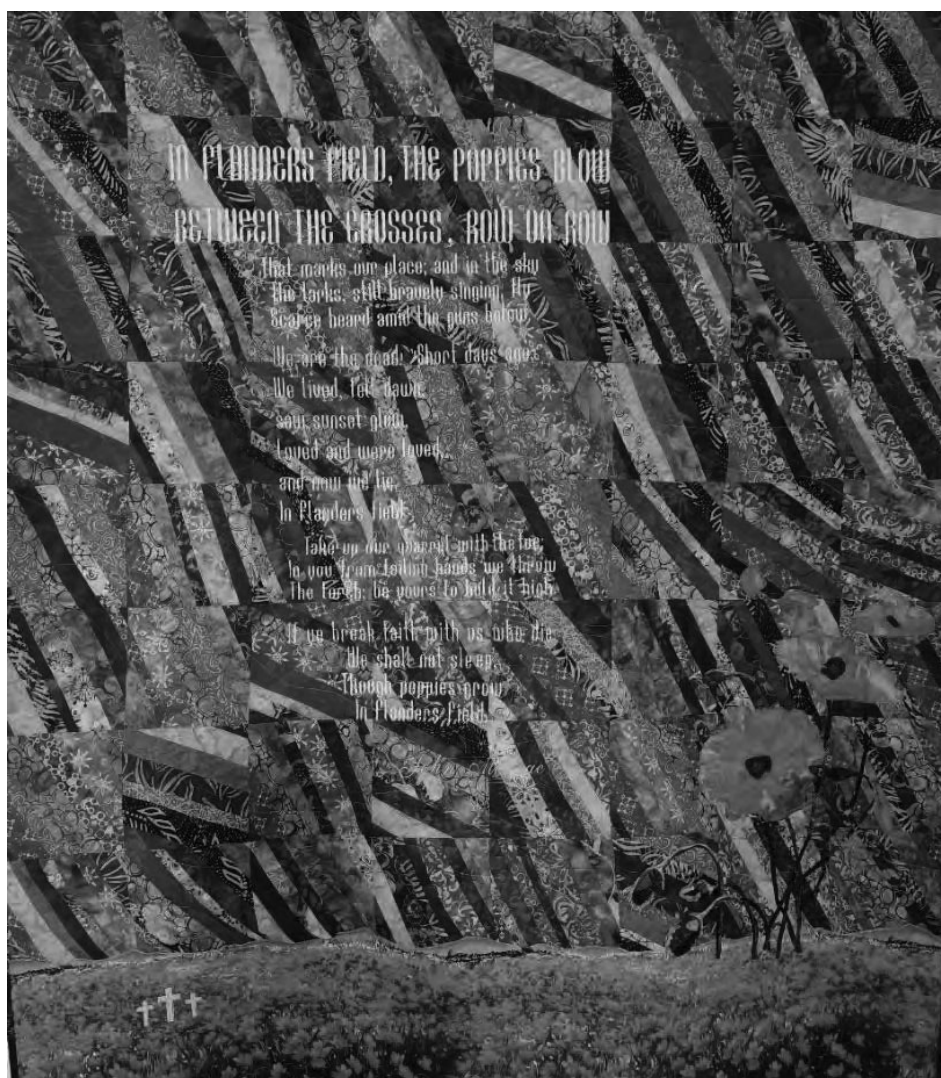
POPPIES OF FLANDERS FIELD QUILT

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 13



District 13 - On Saturday, January 14, District 13 held their ABC school. Instructors Michelle DeGenarro and Mary Kelly Perkins taught an incredible class. We all learned a lot and had so much fun while there. Unit 38 in downtown Fort Myers hosted our event and served an incredible lunch. All the reviews from everyone said it was one of the best they've ever been to! Oh! And Rosie was a huge hit!

DISTRICT 17



District 17 - ALA Unit 270 Port Orange treated their volunteers to a Christmas Luncheon and gift exchange. Fun was had by all.



District 17 - Unit 255 Deltona celebrates a veterans birthday at the PRCC (the Wellness Center)



District 17 - District 17 President Eleanor Amato joins the Unit and Post 285 at lunch in the Armory of the FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD. Doesn't Eleanor have a tough job?



District 17 - ALAFL Unit 285 waiting to feed the FLNG lunch on drill day. Post Commander Kevin Dougherty Prepared ribs and things and the event.

UNIT 138



UNIT 138 - Unit 138, Port Tampa, held its annual New Year's Eve celebration, which is one of their biggest fundraisers of the year. This year's theme was Havana Nights, with the Post home festooned in bright, colorful, island decor. Many guests participated in the theme by wearing tropical attire and fedoras, with some even sporting cigars! The evening kicked off with a delicious meal that included Ropa Vieja, Cuban Potatoes, Seasoned Vegetables, Cuban Bread and various appetizers and desserts. Midnight was rung in with a Champagne toast and fireworks. The funds raised from this event will go to a wide variety of the unit's veterans, and children & youth activities throughout the year. Pictured are just a few of the Auxiliary members that worked hard to put on this fun-filled event enjoyed by many.

UNIT 148

UNIT 148 - Unit 148 Kids Christmas Party; making Goody Bags for USO and Kids party. Preparing for Thanksgiving dinner.



UNIT 148



UNIT 194



UNIT 194 - Dec. 6th, 2022, several Auxiliary members visited Webster Elementary School and presented their 3rd grade class of 56 students with ALA America The Beautiful coloring books and a 50-word essay contest that they would at a later date return to pick-up, judge, and present the children with prizes for.



UNIT 194 - Jan. 8th, 2023, Unit 194 hosted the 5th District monthly meeting and afterwards served a delicious meal provided by the Commander and the Post which consisted of fried chicken, pulled pork sandwiches, Mac and cheese, chicken and rice, cabbage, cake, and drinks

OUR DISTRICTS AND UNITS

UNIT 194



UNIT 194 - Dec. 17th, 2022, our Auxiliary celebrated our Annual Christmas Party with a Jammy Jam where we played fun holiday games, enjoyed good food and good company.



UNIT 194 - Dec. 20, 2022, our unit lost one of our very own and dear friend and former President, Sylvia Wideman.

UNIT 283

UNIT 283 - Saturday, January 15, 2023 Post 283 held a Gold Star Banner Presentation and Dinner



UNIT 194 - Dec. 16th and 17th, 2022, several Auxiliary Members met to assist with set-up and support our Auxiliary President Bridgette Greene as she spearheaded the Marines Toys for Tots at the Solomon Calhoun Center where children were presented with Christmas gifts and bicycles





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*Proceeds benefit Veterans
and their families
in the State of Florida.*

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

DECEMBER 16, 2022

DISTRICT 1						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	212	0	174	174	82.08%
0193	Pensacola	77	14	31	45	58.44%
0221	Niceville	126	2	115	117	92.86%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	130	3	122	125	96.15%
0240	Pensacola	253	6	199	205	81.03%
0296	Destin	73	0	74	74	101.37%
0340	Pensacola	337	5	273	278	82.49%
0356	Lynn Haven	135	1	122	123	91.11%
0375	Southport	54	0	26	26	48.15%
0378	Gulf Breeze	43	0	39	39	90.70%
0382	Navarre	170	4	153	157	92.35%
0392	Panama City	174	3	164	167	95.98%
0402	Panama City Beach	40	0	39	39	97.50%
TOTALS		1824	38	1531	1569	86.02%

DISTRICT 3						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	27	0	30	30	111.11%
0057	Lake City	222	6	201	207	93.24%
0107	Live Oak	54	1	59	60	111.11%
0215	Jasper	34	1	19	20	58.82%
0224	Madison	49	0	44	44	89.80%
0291	Steinhatchee	199	3	196	199	100.00%
0383	Old Town	133	3	114	117	87.97%
TOTALS		718	14	663	677	94.29%

DISTRICT 2						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	77	1	59	60	77.92%
0082	Lanark	66	2	53	55	83.33%
0084	Havana	29	11	12	23	79.31%
0100	Marianna	31	4	28	32	103.23%
0217	Quincy	49	2	22	24	48.98%
0241	Sneads	71	18	50	68	95.77%
TOTALS		323	38	224	262	81.11%

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	65	66	98.51%
0149	Newberry	30	3	17	20	66.67%
0155	Crystal River	343	5	344	349	101.75%
0166	Homosassa Springs	145	2	126	128	88.28%
0210	Ocala	11	0	10	10	90.91%
0230	Hawthorne	31	4	28	32	103.23%
0236	Bronson	46	0	31	31	67.39%
0237	Beverly Hills	201	0	169	169	84.08%
0284	Bellevue	76	2	73	75	98.68%
TOTALS		1022	18	926	944	92.37%

DISTRICT 5						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	67	3	41	44	65.67%
0054	Fernandina Beach	165	4	169	173	104.85%
0088	Jacksonville	76	1	71	72	94.74%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	358	10	280	290	81.01%
0137	Jacksonville	423	14	341	355	83.92%
0194	St Augustine	68	5	49	54	79.41%
0197	Jacksonville	43	6	33	39	90.70%
0202	Keystone Heights	72	1	64	65	90.28%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	175	31	117	148	84.57%
0244	Jacksonville	32	1	27	28	87.50%
0250	Middleburg	309	22	221	243	78.64%
0283	Jacksonville	459	9	397	406	88.45%
0316	Atlantic Beach	369	41	278	319	86.45%
0372	Mandarin	28	1	29	30	107.14%
0373	Orange Park	31	5	22	27	87.10%
0401	Hilliard	48	3	20	23	47.92%
TOTALS		2723	157	2159	2316	85.05%

DISTRICT 7						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	77	0	60	60	77.92%
0004	Lakeland	62	1	31	32	51.61%
0008	Winter Haven	600	7	521	528	88.00%
0015	Dade City	21	0	7	7	33.33%
0034	Haines City	77	0	80	80	103.90%
0071	Lake Wales	47	0	33	33	70.21%
0072	Mulberry	165	5	118	123	74.55%
0201	Florence Villa	24	1	21	22	91.67%
TOTALS		1073	14	871	885	82.48%

DISTRICT 6						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	205	0	170	170	82.93%
0018	Wildwood	20	0	16	16	80.00%
0019	Orlando	108	4	82	86	79.63%
0035	Mount Dora	146	1	105	106	72.60%
0041	Eustis	13	0	10	10	76.92%
0055	Clermont	214	4	200	204	95.33%
0063	Winter Garden	34	0	18	18	52.94%
0080	Saint Cloud	263	16	223	239	90.87%
0101	Bushnell	111	1	81	82	73.87%
0109	Ocoee	12	2	10	12	100.00%
0112	Winter Park	25	2	25	27	108.00%
0183	Fern Park	120	1	89	90	75.00%
0219	Fruitland Park	205	2	208	210	102.44%
0239	Groveland	10	0	10	10	100.00%
0242	Orlando	108	8	66	74	68.52%
0286	Orlando	170	6	129	135	79.41%
0330	Leesburg	68	2	45	47	69.12%
0331	Orlando	13	0	15	15	115.38%
0347	Lady Lake	2562	9	2280	2289	89.34%
0412	Orlando	13	2	3	5	38.46%
TOTALS		4420	60	3785	3845	86.99%

DISTRICT 8						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	35	9	30	39	111.43%
0024	Bradenton	332	11	251	262	78.92%
0025	Lake Placid	394	2	370	372	94.42%
0030	Sarasota	81	8	61	69	85.19%
0069	Avon Park	719	13	563	576	80.11%
0074	Sebring	131	0	110	110	83.97%
0113	Rotonda West	307	1	216	217	70.68%
0159	Venice	710	3	549	552	77.75%
0254	North Port	118	3	116	119	100.85%
0266	Fruitville	158	2	121	123	77.85%
0309	Palmetto	176	2	154	156	88.64%
0312	Oneco	198	1	149	150	75.76%
0325	Ellenton	199	0	160	160	80.40%
TOTALS		3558	55	2850	2905	81.65%

DISTRICT 9						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	37	1	27	28	75.68%
0092	Hollywood	97	1	69	70	72.16%
0142	Pompano Beach	185	6	155	161	87.03%
0157	Margate	170	8	138	146	85.88%
0162	Deerfield Beach	171	15	124	139	81.29%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	111	0	76	76	68.47%
0209	Dania Beach	17	0	11	11	64.71%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	27	8	19	27	100.00%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	31	0	36	36	116.13%
0287	Deerfield Beach	16	0	7	7	43.75%
0304	Dania	51	0	55	55	107.84%
0310	Hallandale	24	1	24	25	104.17%
0321	Cooper City	229	17	158	175	76.42%
0365	Sunrise	13	2	14	16	123.08%
TOTALS		1179	59	913	972	82.44%

DISTRICT 12						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	276	10	205	215	77.90%
0022	Cocoa	105	0	71	71	67.62%
0039	Vero Beach	206	4	134	138	66.99%
0040	Fort Pierce	184	2	160	162	88.04%
0081	Melbourne	171	5	175	180	105.26%
0117	Palm Bay	513	7	458	465	90.64%
0126	Jensen Beach	194	1	121	122	62.89%
0163	Eau Gallie	219	4	193	197	89.95%
0171	Fort Pierce	15	0	14	14	93.33%
0189	Sebastian	158	0	169	169	106.96%
0191	Melbourne	80	8	46	54	67.50%
0200	Satellite Beach	170	8	119	127	74.71%
0318	Port St Lucie	1153	3	1101	1104	95.75%
0344	Merritt Island	46	8	30	38	82.61%
0348	Cape Canaveral	210	1	177	178	84.76%
0358	White City	68	0	60	60	88.24%
0359	Port St John	357	5	291	296	82.91%
0366	Barefoot Bay	68	13	46	59	86.76%
0394	Palm Bay	207	5	179	184	88.89%
0410	Viera	12	0	6	6	50.00%
TOTALS		4412	84	3755	3839	87.01%

DISTRICT 11						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	39	2	45	47	120.51%
0047	Lake Worth	74	1	82	83	112.16%
0062	Stuart	547	4	523	527	96.34%
0064	Okeechobee	115	1	99	100	86.96%
0065	Delray Beach	57	4	46	50	87.72%
0141	West Palm Beach	72	5	55	60	83.33%
0164	Boynton Beach	149	12	128	140	93.96%
0199	W Palm Beach	37	0	37	37	100.00%
0268	Riviera Beach	84	1	46	47	55.95%
0271	Tequesta	157	9	134	143	91.08%
0277	Boca Raton	110	2	104	106	96.36%
0288	Boynton Beach	21	5	10	15	71.43%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	27	4	29	33	122.22%
TOTALS		1489	50	1338	1388	93.22%

DISTRICT 13						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	36	2	34	36	100.00%
0090	Cape Coral	286	6	257	263	91.96%
0103	Punta Gorda	648	3	557	560	86.42%
0110	Port Charlotte	634	6	488	494	77.92%
0123	Sanibel	40	2	62	64	160.00%
0130	Labelle	151	0	128	128	84.77%
0135	Naples	366	0	316	316	86.34%
0136	Saint James City	515	10	579	589	114.37%
0192	Fort Myers	20	1	17	18	90.00%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	543	2	638	640	117.86%
0303	Bonita Springs	424	18	464	482	113.68%
0323	Lehigh Acres	408	33	320	353	86.52%
0336	N Ft Myers	439	0	422	422	96.13%
0351	Fort Myers	103	3	62	65	63.11%
TOTALS		4613	86	4344	4430	96.03%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	56	0	45	45	80.36%
0031	South Miami	170	5	137	142	83.53%
0043	Homestead	56	0	27	27	48.21%
0067	North Miami	41	0	27	27	65.85%
0098	Coral Gables	15	0	12	12	80.00%
0133	Miami	62	10	52	62	100.00%
0154	Marathon	145	0	113	113	77.93%
0168	Key West	22	0	16	16	72.73%
0333	Key Largo	77	0	50	50	64.94%
0346	Miami	18	0	11	11	61.11%
0374	Key Biscayne	41	0	29	29	70.73%
TOTALS		703	15	519	534	75.96%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	248	0	218	218	87.90%
0014	St Petersburg	116	2	69	71	61.21%
0079	New Port Richey	457	15	349	364	79.65%
0104	Pinellas Park	254	6	256	262	103.15%
0119	Largo	359	3	287	290	80.78%
0125	St Petersburg	296	12	226	238	80.41%
0158	Treasure Island	255	0	267	267	104.71%
0173	Holiday	258	4	227	231	89.53%
0238	Safety Harbor	313	7	268	275	87.86%
0252	Seminole	1064	9	994	1003	94.27%
0273	Madeira Beach	3427	5	3155	3160	92.21%
0275	Dunedin	980	6	909	915	93.37%
0305	St Pete Beach	149	0	120	120	80.54%
0335	Hudson	95	6	66	72	75.79%
TOTALS		8271	75	7411	7486	90.51%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	37	1	24	25	67.57%
0099	Brooksville	20	1	20	21	105.00%
0111	Tampa	53	0	44	44	83.02%
0138	Tampa	482	5	462	467	96.89%
0139	Tampa	57	0	69	69	121.05%
0147	Odessa	43	0	40	40	93.02%
0148	Riverview	208	4	169	173	83.17%
0152	Tampa	249	9	203	212	85.14%
0167	Tampa	15	1	14	15	100.00%
0186	Brooksville	368	1	281	282	76.63%
0248	West Tampa	14	1	11	12	85.71%
TOTALS		1546	23	1337	1360	87.97%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	103	0	109	109	105.83%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	211	1	170	171	81.04%
0045	Palatka	30	1	29	30	100.00%
0115	Palm Coast	39	0	41	41	105.13%
0120	Holly Hill	215	1	192	193	89.77%
0127	Lake Helen	23	2	15	17	73.91%
0255	Deltona	24	4	21	25	104.17%
0259	Debary	27	0	25	25	92.59%
0267	Ormond Beach	228	2	192	194	85.09%
0270	Port Orange	174	2	165	167	95.98%
0285	Edgewater	124	1	112	113	91.13%
0361	S Daytona	225	8	189	197	87.56%
TOTALS		1423	22	1260	1282	90.09%



**THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**

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