DEPARTME XI • ISSUE 10 • MAY 2022 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WANDA BRANDT



FEATURED: President Juniors

# This Month's Featured



**3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** Wanda Brandt



8 JUNIORS Dara Oliver

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### Upcoming Events May 2022

- 1 Dept President visits District 4
- 1 District 11 Constitutional Conference
- 1 District 4 Constitutional Conference
- 1 District 5 Girl State Orientation
- 7 Dept Presidents Luncheon
- 7 District 14 Constitutional Conference
- 7 District 16 Constitutional Conference
- 7 District 6 Constitutional Conference
- 11 National President Dinner at Unit 152
- 12 National President Dinner at District 15
- 14 District 13 Constitutional Conference
- 14 District 15 Constitutional Conference
- 14 District 2 Girls State Orientation
- 14 District 6 Girls State Orientation
- 14 District 8 Constitutional Conference
- 14 National President Dinner at Unit 79
- 15 District 11 Girls State Orientation
- 15 District 15 Girls State Orientation
- 21 District 12 Constitutional Conference
- 21 District 3 Constitutional Conference
- 21 District 7 Constitutional Conference
- 28 District 1 Constitutional Conference
- 28 District 17 Constitutional Conference
- 28 District 5 Constitutional Conference
- 30 Memorial Day

### 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.



Want to submit an article and/or<br/>photos to Conch Charter?alafl.org/submit<br/>secretary@alafl.org

## **President's Message**

WANDA BRANDT



**Greetings Starfishes** 

This year is speeding by, and soon we will on be at Department Conventions which is right around the corner! Hope everyone has sent their chairman report in to their Department Chairman.

Department Chairman, please make sure you get these reports into Southern Division National Vice President and your respectful Chairmanship.

I was going to wait till convention and to speak about my travel's this year; however, the more I thought about it, the more I realize that you all did not want to listen to me for a few hours of talking, this is due to the fact I have a huge book and hundreds of cards and letters, and I have met so many friends along the way and gather so many great memories.

My first visit this year was to the 2nd district, Sept 10-11, where I met 2nd District President Kaye at the Quincy Golf Club along with PDP Kathee Coughlin and auxiliary members from Quincy Unit 217 and Tallahassee Unit 13, we had a wonderful luncheon and I was honored to meet a Korean War Veteran who joined us, along with his wife, a very valuable Auxiliary Member. His wife has been crocheting lap robes for the veterans even though she is legally blind, however he made the coasters that they gave me.

Then with President Kaye traveled the historic town of Sneads, visiting a museum, Kaye being the tour guide, telling me history and stories of Sneads. Then visit with past District President Nell Hewitt and husband Roger, for a great evening and dinner. Saturday it was Patriot Day and School of Instruction at Unit 217 Quincy, the unit members went overboard with decorations "under the sea theme" starting with the front of the building, with sea turtles on the sand crawling back to the water, when I walked through the door there was a Mermaid chair. The SOI started with a Patriot Day service and the SOI Chairman did great job of training, we had lunch which was supplied by Members of Unit 217, these ladies can cook. The class ended with President Kaye playing Tim McGraw "Humble & Kind". What a way to end Patriot Day.

October brought me to the 17th District where President Toni met me at Ormond Beach Unit 267, we then proceeded to Port Orange Unit 270 where we had a Meet and Greet with several units within the 17th district, where we enjoy a meal and conversation as we talked about the ALA mission. Leaving there we visited Unit 361 South Daytona, spoke with the members and then back to Unit 120 Holly Hill for a fabulous steak dinner, cooked by Cookie and her daughter. We also visited with our extended family members, Detachment Commander Bryan Carter & Rita, and District 17 Commander James & Phyllis, and 1st Vice Commander David.

I meant Toni early the next day, and headed to the Coast Guard Station in New Smyrna Beach, I enjoyed our tour there, guided by three "Coastie". Then it was time to return to Unit 267 Ormond Beach for the Breast-Toberfest and German games. All monies being raised for Cancer. After that I was ready to get back to Jacksonville.

Dec 15th found me in the 16th District with President Sue Craft. We met at Unit 273 Madeira Beach, were we sat on the patio, listening to music and meeting Unit 273 members prior to our first stop. Unit 14, St. Petersburg, welcomed us, we enjoyed some Cuban sandwiches and laughs with President Bonnie and 18 Auxiliary members doing a round table discussion. We completed the day, relaxing on the patio, back at Post 273 Madeira Beach. Thank you to Commander Mike, 1st Vice Ed, President Cheryl and the entire Legion Family for the warm welcome! We were back again the next day for a meet and a great luncheon with the Auxiliary, from around the District, at Unit 273, Madeira Beach, with Delicious food and fellowship. The gifts, especially from Peggy, the beautiful art that she designed and created, already has a place in my home. We visit Unit 305

St. Petersburg Beach where we were entertained by a wonderful Fashion Show, ate great desserts, with all proceeds going to "My Warrior's Place". Then Friday found us at Unit 252 Seminole, pool side, being serve by Auxiliary member by the pool with great Auxiliary members eating a great brunch, good conversation and a gorgeous day? The breakfast was exquisite fresh fruit, croissant, quiche, potato casserole, blueberry creeps. Thank You all from the bottom of my heart. What a great way to start a Friday morning.

Speaking of welcome home Treasure Island Unit 158 what a great idea they had to stuff mugs filled with love for our Veterans in the nursing home and the VA Clinic. We had a great time stuffing mugs with the members of the Unit and got to chat about their upcoming projects. Madame President Dee, just wanted to say, Thank You, for all you do to brighten the lives of our Veterans every day. Friday night found us at Safety Harbor Unit 238 having a seafood dinner meeting with members, and received a donation for Project Vet Relief for our Homeless Veterans. Auxiliary members of Unit 238 you rock! It had been a long day, and I was tried and needed to get to bed for an early start.

Saturday morning up early to get ready and go to New Port Richey Unit 79 for a Christmas Party for about 45 kids, I got to play Ms. Clause, handing out gifts to children, from 2 months to 9 years old. Afterwards it was off to the Wreaths Across America at Meadow Lawn and Pine Hill cemeteries where I was the guest speaker at Meadow lawn Cemetery.

Then it was home for a while, visiting family and enjoying the Christmas Holidays.

The New Year started in District 12 what a busy weekend that was. I met Diane at her house then went and met Kim, Karen and Jennifer at the Daily Bread and watched volunteers do veterans intake and give distribution of clothing and food. We proceeded over to the NVHS Transition housing with Jennifer where I met veterans Robert, Kevin and Steven we spoke how they like their accommodation and they were very grateful for Jennifer, we then toured NVHS office. It was off to Palm Bay Unit 394 were we met Auxiliary members, visit had a wonderful lunch and great Then it was off to Barefoot Bay Unit 366, located on the Indian River Lagoon where I met some of the most wonderful ladies around. Most of the members here are Retirees with about 30% of those being full time residents. The rest are "Snowbirds". The Post and Auxiliary runs from October to the following May. The ladies made their own special cookies to share with us, we talked about the programs they are very active in their community, as well as advocates for the veterans that reside there. We finished the night off in Sebastian Unit 189 for Chicken Parmesan and a couple of glasses of wine and Membership Chairman Candace met us there to finish the visit with us.

Saturday started off with a little chill in the air, but when we met Merritt Island Unit 344 Auxiliary for breakfast it was warming up. Thanks to District 4 Natalie Scott for traveling with us for the day. Then we got a tour of the Veterans Memorial Museum where they hold all of their official meeting and business. Then off to Cape Canaveral Unit 348 for a little recreational and fun fishing raising money for My Warrior's Place (what a fun way to raise money). Off we go to Satellite Beach Unit 200 for a Mad Hatters Tea Party. What a great time! Members were all decked out, had their finest costumes what can I say, except we all had a blast!

Sunday morning it off to Palm Bay Unit 117, what a surprise when I found out it was "Breakfast with the Juniors". They presented me with photo book of the activates they did while at "My Warrior's Place" on their retreat and a drinking glass with "Dare to Commit" on it, will enjoyed my ice tea from it. My next visitation, was to Port St. Lucie Unit 318 about 40 Auxiliary members attended, I spoke with them on their activities in the community and what projects they were working. They then presented a donation to Project Vet Relief and we spoke about "My Warrior's Place".

Last stop of the day Fort Pierce Unit 40 Where I met Committee Member Robin Burke who is also President of the Unit and Edie Porter with about 10 members, we had a round table discussion about ideas to improve the programs, fun raising ideas and how to get more members to volunteer (great ides). Thank You District President Kim and District President Diane for a wonderful time and a great view of the Auxiliary 12 Members. "You all have Committed to our Programs and our Veterans" thank you for all you all do every day.

January 13th I was in District 13th for my visitation. District President Joanne (Ms. Fine) met me at the hotel at 8:00 am. We headed at to Saint James City Unit 136, Met some wonderful ladies as we talked about ALA projects and discover they made \$5000 they raised in one day to put the ball across the pond. What a great idea if you have a pond in your backyard. President Angela gave me donations for both of my project this year. Then we were off to Cape Coral Unit 90 where we we meet with the Legion and Auxiliary members during a discussion concerning programs and membership. District President Joanne and I received a local bottle of rum and sea salt popcorn from Cape Coral. Next stop was Fort Myers Beach Unit 274, hosted a luncheon for us, met again some wonderful ladies and a great round table conversation and I was presented with a gift to both of my special projects. No time to waste so we are off to Bonita Springs Unit 303, where we met with several members and talked programs and I was presented with a wood plaque "Be Kind". This unit does a lot within their community, they have donated over 13,000 lbs. of non-perishable to the local food bank. Thank you all for what you do every day for the community and our Veterans. Next stop was Leigh Acres Unit 323 for dinner and a friendly greeting with family (TAL, AUX and SAL) also joining us was NEC Denis Boland and wife PDP Diane joined us after dinner they called me to stage after talking with everyone, they presented a donation for both of my special projects. Thank you, AL Family Post 323, for all your support to our Auxiliary. I soon felt very tried and knew I had another long day tomorrow with (Ms. Fine) night, night.

Saturday, we were of at 7:30 for a visit with Labelle Unit 130, where PDP Linda Teasley and her group made a wonderful breakfast for us, we enjoyed breakfast and conversation as we discussed Auxiliary programs. Saturday they were holding a bartender appreciate night, the Commander, SAL Commander

receiving a basket of local homemade goods from the unit. Next Visit was to Tice Fort Myers Unit 351where this unit has 89 members however only a few members work the programs and what a job they do. I could not believe all they did each month for our Veterans and the Community. Just last year they won "Best Overall" for National Security, Children & Youth, VA&R, Americanism, and Community Service. CPR Classes being taught, they send care packages to our troops they are known for the Pringles Post, Unit also presented me with a check to My Warriors Place. Next visit was to N Ft. Myers Unit 336, were the one and only PDP Mary Henan meet us for lunch and great conversation with 29 members attending. During lunch we talked about programs and presented mentoring pins this unit is blessed with a lot of volunteers ( I tried to find out their secret, so I could pass it along). This Unit works together and puts their hearts and sole into their projects. Next stop Punta Gorda Unit 103, where we met with members and discussed what the unit was doing talked with some of the Legionaries then off to the Vietnam Wall and met members from several units as we walked around the wall it was a reminder what we owe our veterans for our freedom. Then the excitement mounded as we were going to Port Charlotte Unit 110, for dinner and friendship, this post is like home away from home it is always so relaxing. After a few cocktails and great steak, I was presented with gifts then checks for both of my special projects. Then they did a 50/50 and the person who won donated back to my projects. Sunday morning, we were off to Fort Myers Unit 38, where hurricane weather was upon us everyone got drenched. Several unit members from unit 192 and

and Unit President PDP Linda was going to bartender for the night. I would have loved seeing that. After

unit 38 joined us along with SW Area Commander Jessica Moore and Kevin Boyd and SAL Mike Nigbor. Then it was good-by 13th District until we met again.

January 23 brought me to District 11 with District President Dawn Loff, after arriving at Gail McDermott home (Thank You for letting me share your home) District President and I was off to Boca Raton Unit 277 for a greet and meet with Legion and members enjoyed their home post.



Monday morning our first stop was to pick up PDP Fran Carlton I felt so honored to be in her presence, she joined us for the day, we had catching up to do. Then on to Stuart Unit 062 where we had a light breakfast and then to a farm for "Horses for Hero's" this is a program that will train the veterans and first responders to connect to a community through the benefits of equine-assisted learning. What a wonderful meet and greet at Tequesta Unit 271. Units came together to honor me by all contributing to the party. I was so awed by the beautiful cake, the decoration, the food, the friendship, and the generous donation to My Warrior place. The guest speaker Deb Doherty with the "Dedicated Devoted Solation" (DDS4VETS). Which she shared some wonderful insight to what our veterans face coming home. Then Unit 271 President Sandra joined District President Dawn, me, and PDP Fran Carlton on a trip to Renewal Coalition where we met up with Mary Hinton (Mary was a Girl Stater in 1963). Sitting in this beautiful, serene spot which holds retreats for our servicemen and women returning from war. It is a retreat where they can come as a family and total enjoy the tranquility of the water and calmness. This retreat is totally funded by donation and gets no money from the Federal Government. Thank You ladies for a tour and will let more Auxiliary members know about your dedication to our Veterans. It was finally off to bed.

Tuesday morning PDP Fran Carlton joined Tammy, Dawn and myself at our first stop Forgotten Soldier Office. What a great group of volunteers and the wonderful project they have undertaken. I thank the founder of this great project Lanelle and our personal guide Janelle for taking her time to show us around and talk with us. Care boxes are sent over to our troops serving our country. Inside of each box there is smaller box for any soldier that does not get a package from home. The box is "Pass it Forward: No one will ever be forgotten or should be! Then it was off to Delray Beach Unit 65 for lunch (home of PDP Fran Carlton), President Dee had the home decorated with my colors and a great sign "Dare to Commit". The decoration was great, meet up with some old friends, who traveled with us the next day. Thank Unit 65 for your donation to My Warriors Place.

Wednesday President Dawn, Patty and Tammy traveled with us "Standdown House in Boynton Beach" there were 14 Veterans Housed there at that time but they can house up to 24 veterans that is homeless. After our visit leaving we noticed them missing a flag, President called an ROTC Commander to speak about replacing the flag. Thank you, Dawn for a lovely visit to District 11.

Thursday January 27th brought me to District 9, where I met up with President Gail Dupuis at the hotel where we proceeded to go to Margate Unit 157 where we did a meet and greet with the members and did a round table discussion a lot of questions about girl state last year? Discussed what they were doing as a unit and answered questions for them. Our next visit was to Plantation Unit 180 where we had dinner and talked with 2 members about what they worked on and they stated their members worked the program and project. Way to go ladies!

Friday our first stop was Hollywood Unit 92 for a visit Denice Grinis joined Gail and I in our travels today, over lunch we talked about what they were doing and how the Family came through the Covid. The members work the programs they are Committed. Next stop was to Dania Unit 304 we had a meet sand greet with the Family members as we discussed my Special Projects and why I chose them. Then we dropped Denice off back by the hotel and then went on to Deerfield Unit 162, where several units 80 & 287 joined us for dinner with 3rd Vice Charlotte Bass and husband Darryl along with PDP Pearl McIntyre & husband Bill and PDP Maureen Costello great conversation and dinner was great. President Laurie presented me with a bouquet of roses and a beautiful card. Thank Unit 162 for all you do every day.

Attended Southern Area Ball Saturday night. It was great to visit with friends I haven't seen in a while and it was a huge success. Thank you, Southern Area Commander Johnny Castro for a wonderful time and a job well done.

Sunday, I attended 9th District 4 Chaplains service held at the Station in Dania Beach. This was a wonderful service with the Sea Cadets in attendance.

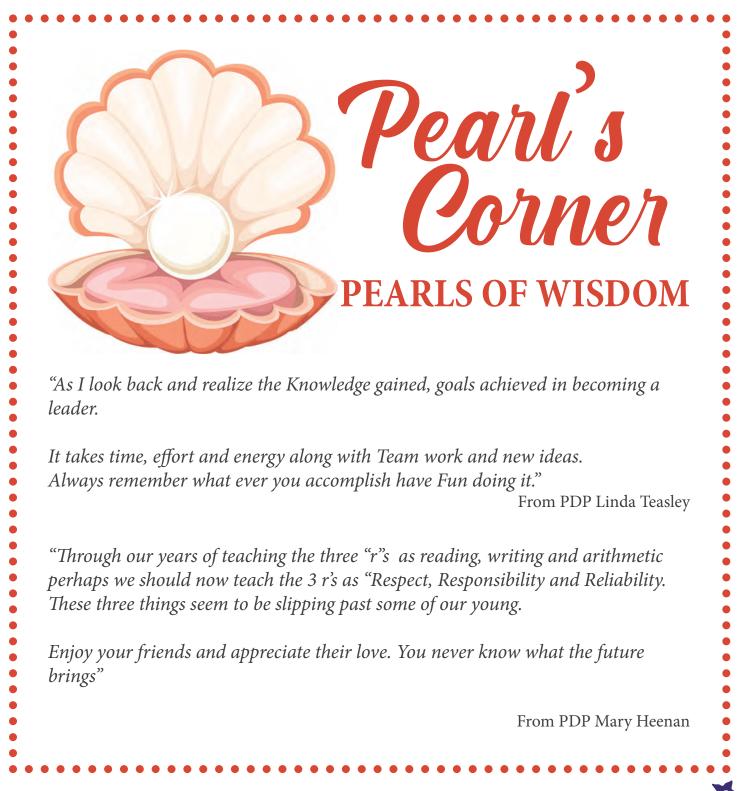
#### << *President continued from page 6*

I hope you all have a chance to attend one of the Four Chaplain Services. It is awesome to be a part of the service. Thank You 9th District for allowing me to be part of your service. Your 9th District American Legion Family really made us proud to be a member of the AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY!

#### More to come next month.

I would like to leave you with this quote from Zig Zigler:

"3 C's of Life- CHOICES, CHANCES, CHANGE- You must make a choice to take a chance or your life will never change".



### **Junio'is** dara oliver



Do you have an exceptional Junior Auxiliary Member or did your Unit have an outstanding Junior Activities Program? Now is the time to submit for

Awards ...

Please send a copy of your submission to this Department Chairman: by May 15, 2022:

Dara Oliver 17776 SE 158th Court Weirsdale, FL 32195 juniors@alafl.org

#### Member Award: Junior Member of the Year

- Deadline: June 1
- Nominees must have been a Junior at the start of the 2021-2022 administrative year.
- Unit chairman must send to National Headquarters to the Junior Activities Program Coordinator/ Committee Liaison via email

Just follow these simple steps to submit your award entry:

- 1. Fill out the National Junior Activities Report and Award Cover Sheet (attached) as completely as possible
- Send your form to the Junior Activities Program Coordinator/Committee Liaison at JuniorActivities@ALAforVeterans.org by June 1.

**Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program (per division)

- Deadline June 1
- All department entries must be sent by the department chairman to their national division chairman postmarked by 5 p.m. EST on the

deadline listed above. Members should follow instructions from their department.

## *Please note – when applicable, unit and department deadlines differ.*

Just follow these simple steps to submit your award entry:

- 1. Fill out the National Junior Activities Report and Award Cover Sheet (attached) as completely as possible
- 1. Send your form to the appropriate division chairman for the Junior Activities program found at the Red Book link on this committee page by June 1. Please email a copy to National Chairman Debra Albers, dalbers727@gmail.com, and include any photos that aid in your storytelling.

National Award: Best Media Coverage of Activity or Project

- Deadline: June 1
- Send to national chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

Just follow these simple steps to submit your award entry:

- 1. Fill out the National Junior Activities Report and Award Cover Sheet (attached) as completely as possible
- 1. Send your form to National Chairman Debra Albers, dalbers727@gmail.com, and include any photos that aid in your storytelling.

Don't forget if any Junior participated in the Patch Program please send all requests to Dara Oliver, as soon as possible to have your Junior recognized at Department Convention.



# American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida

Department Membership Chairman Candace Mabry hosting a RAFFLING GIFT BASKET FUNDRAISER CONVENTION 2022 June 16 from 10am-3pm June 17 from 9am-3pm June 18 from 9am-12pm

Asking for donations of gift baskets, or raffle items. Also in need of volunteers for the raffle table. To donate and /or help, please contact Candace Mabry @ membershipchairman@alafl.org

### ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT PRESIDENT WANDA BRANDT'S SPECIAL PROJECTS...MY WARRIOR'S PLACE AND PROJECT:VET RELIEF



## Veterans Affairs

#### **DEE BELL**



I never knew. DID YOU?? If you have ever been to a military funeral in which taps was played; this brings a new meaning to the song. Here is something Every American should know. We in the United States have heard the haunting song, Taps' It's the song

that gives us the lump in our throats and usually brings tears to our eyes.

But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its' humble beginnings. Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of a narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a solider who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical treatment. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward the encampment... When the Captain reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier, it was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the youth's uniform. The wish was granted, The haunting melody we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born.

The words are:

Day is done.
Gone the sun.
From the lakes.
From the hills.
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.

Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky. Gleaming bright. From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night.

Fading light.

Thanks and praise. For our days. Neath the sun. Neath the stars. Neath the sky. As we go. This we know. God is nigh.

I too have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song. I am passing it along so that everyone knows. I hope you as I have a deeper respect for the song.

Always Remember our POW/MIA's Always Remember our Veterans Always Remember our Military Families









*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13...* 

Our recently departed sisters:

#### District 1

Jean Lewis Judy Whitsett Merle Palmer Mary Brauer Mildred McQuinn Magret Braddy Jewel Rogers Rose Pugsley Cheryl Anaya

**District 2** Elizabeth R Weins Sally Colburn

#### **District 3**

Linda Shelton Lillian Schnapp Delores Robertson Pamela Funck Joyce DeMarco Clarice Otto

District 4 Joyce Bergeren District 5 Lee DeCrosta District 6 Nancy J Rife Sonya Jacobs Linda Hamilton Debbie Dorton Janice Gulick Anna Eckard Jean Marie Kleven Dorothy Blood

District 8 Sharlene O'Donnell Catherine L Cram Barbara Inglese Donna MacKellar Jeanette Jepson

**District 11** Constance R Kilgore Lucille Herman Kimberly Sparks

**District 12** Beulah (Alice) Ketterson Joan Labbe Deborah Frick Betty Maynard

#### District 13

Dolores Kletzing Kathleen Tourjee Kim Foster Barbara Grove Phyllis Felix Barbara Grove Kim Foster Marilyn Renner Dorothy A Monroe

> **District 15** Doris L Young Joan Keilman

#### **District 16**

Elizabeth Burton Shirley Payne Melani KlasekPenelope MacKay Elaine Anderson Julie E Rauch Sharon Jones Margaret St. George Winifred Moscick Catherine Farrell Laura Bliss Ann D Crumm

> **District 17** Venetto Norducci



THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

## American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of FL – District 4

### FLAG QUILT RAFFLE



## **45**" **x 60**" Tickets \$5 or 5/\$20

Includes 50 handmade stars and Pledge of Allegiance written on white flag bars

Sponsored by Unit 237 Beverly Hills Drawing June 18, 2022 at

American Legion Dept. of FL Convention

All proceeds support

Dept of FL Auxiliary President Wanda Brandt's

#### **Special Projects**

For tickets, see a District 4 ALA Unit Officer or contact Natalie Scott - <u>nnkokafl@gmail.com</u> or call/text 352-277-1719 Pay by cash or checks made out to ALA Unit 237 You do not need to be present to win









#### JULIA FLINT GRIFFITH



Ladies,

The reports came rolling in and most are outstanding. Thank you for all of your hard work. I wish to especially thank the District Presidents for contacting their Units, urging them to complete their reports. I hope you enjoy reading the article.

### Introduction of a Member FRAN CARLTON



When I joined the American Legion Auxiliary in January, 1973 I was blessed to have my mother, Louise Whipple, as my first mentor. She had taught me about the auxiliary and to believe in service to **"God and Country"** from my childhood.

My mother was President of Palm Beach Unit 12 at the time I married Jim Carlton and got my eligibility. A little known fact is that I signed my auxiliary application at my wedding reception. It was the first place I could sign my married name and I proudly signed Mrs. James D. Carlton. As a member, I could now put into practice the things I had been taught. The Unit also had two Past Department Presidents, Alice Sprague and Winnie Wellman who helped guide me.

The following year, in 1974 I was asked to be the District Eleven Americanism Chairman. That's when I met Jean Mahoney, Jan Croft, Rita George, Alberdia Floyd and other members who were willing to help me learn and grow. I will be forever grateful to them all. My mother gave me the best advice I could have had when I first became a member. She said, "go to every school, conference and convention that you can because you will learn something new every time." She was right.

In my almost 50 years of membership, I have been blessed to serve in most Chairmanships and offices on either the Unit, District or Department level. In my early days Jean Mahoney taught me that a yellow highlighter can be one of your best friends. She said to highlight the important information in the Unit guide about the office or chairmanship held that year. Not only does it help find the information, it helps one learn when details are reread.

One of the great honors in my life was to serve as Department President in 1985-1986. Over the past many years I find myself being called on by newer members to help guide them in officers' responsibilities or in understanding details of our programs. I'm always glad to help. My belief is that "Teaching and sharing what knowledge and information a person has does not make that person any less knowledgeable. Sharing just makes other people more knowledgeable". The more we all know the stronger our organization will be. If I had my preference at this point in my Auxiliary life my goal would be to only serve as a mentor and leave being an officer and/or chairman to the newer members.

Mentor of the Month continued on page 11>>

<< Mentor of the Month continued from page 10

Becoming knowledgeable about the Legion and Auxiliary has been a family affair. My grandmother and two aunts became charter members of the Auxiliary in 1919 in Cleveland, Ohio. My mother learned from them and joined through her brothers' eligibility. My husband, Jim was an Army Veteran who served as Commander of Palm Beach Post 12 and the Eleventh District . Our daughter, Debbie was Honorary Department Junior President and her daughter, Angelina is currently serving as Honorary Department Junior Historian. We continue sharing the love of "God and Country" and the programs of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary through the generations.





### **Town and Country Memorial Unit 152**

## Welcomes our 2021 - 2022

### National Tresident

Kathy Daudistel

#TogetherWeServe

## Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Cocktails at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm

### Menu

**Appetizer** - Stuffed Mushrooms

### Salad

Chicken Ficcata with lemon garlic herbed rice

### **Assorted Desserts**

**Tickets \$15.00** 

RSVP by May 5, 2022

Name		Unit
Number of tickets	@ \$15.00	
Make check payable to	o: Eileen Wilson	
Mail to:	4369 Mariner Blvd	

Spring Hill, FL 34609

The Department of Florida is Honored to Welcome

# American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel

### Saturday May 14, 2022

Cocktail Hour 5:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 79 5329 Legion Place, New Port Richey, 34652

### All "Legion Family" Welcome!

Reservations for the dinner can be made by returning this portion of the flyer.

Name	Phone:
<pre># of Tickets</pre>	<b>x \$20.00 = Total Due \$</b>
Chicken Marsala	Drime Bih

RSVP by May 7, 2022—Mail Reservations and Check to: Michele DeGennaro / (727-457-8172) 9401 Sunshine Blvd, New Port Richey, FL. 34654 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALA Unit 79



**CONVENTION ADVERTISING** 

**LEGION FAMILY** 

#### 103<sup>RD</sup> Annual Department Convention, June 16-19, 2022

Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista - Disney Springs Area, 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd; Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of Member, Post, Unit or Squadron

Contact Person

Title

Phone

Email

#### PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT FOR LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS, POSTS, UNITS, AND SQUADRONS ONLY

HALF PAGE QUARTER QUARTER ADVERTISEMENT PAGE PAGE \$100 \$50 \$50 FULL PAGE 7.5" X 5" 3.75" X 5" ADVERTISEMENT 3.75" X 5" \$175 7.5" X 10" HALF PAGE QUARTER QUARTER ADVERTISEMENT PAGE PAGE \$100 \$50 \$50 7.5" X 5" 3.75" X 5" 3.75" X 5"

□ Full Page Ad (7.5"x10") - **\$175** 

Quarter Page Ad (3.75"x5") - **\$50** 

□ Half Page Ad (7.5"x5") - **\$100** 

Custom Design Fee - **\$25** 

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District 5 - The Mighty Fifth District Juniors and Young SAL Members, proudly presented The Military Child Table Setting Presentation for the Fifth District Legion Family along with Madam Department President Wanda Brandt and other Department Leaders for Military Child Month, at Atlantic Beach Unit 316.



Unit 13 - Unit 13 gathered to make Easter baskets for the foster children of NW Florida Health Network. Our original goal was 100 baskets. However, we were able to deliver 176 beautiful crafted baskets while having "Fun". Thank you for everyone 's donations and support

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA









Unit 13 - On March 23, Unit 13 celebrated "Women's History Month" with lunch and a pinning ceremony for members with 20 plus Continuous Service Years. Our members are outstanding women of "HISTORY" the Amerian Legion Auxiliary history; without these ladies' dedication to God and Country, we would not exist. So, thank you for all the wisdom and guidance you have shown Unit 13.



Unit 79 - Auxiliary Unit 79 presenting a check to AL Riders Chapter 79 to benefit Moon Lake mission on their Dice Run.











Unit 99 - A mini ABC class was held on Sunday April 3 2022 @ Andrew Jackson ALA Unit 99 in Brooksville. Current Dept. Leadership Chair Mary Kelly Perkins along with District 15 President Eileen Wilson & other Chairs gave a "crash course" FULL of wonderful information. This was a great learning experience for all who were in attendance. Lots of information was shared and many questions were asked and answered.





Unit 270 - Pictured Glenn Unit President Shirley Fraser Joseph and Treasurer Sue Pearce. ALA Unit 270 delivered gifts to Baracks of Hope. Gifts consisted of pillows, sheets and pillowcases and boxes of canned goods. What a happy bunch!



Unit 291 - During the month of March 2022 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 of Steinhatchee held a diaper drive to help "Healthy Families Seven Rivers". On March 31st a delivery of 1,686 diapers and 1,960 diaper wipes was delivered to this worthy organization. From left to right is Brandi Turner with Healthy Families Seven Rivers and Karen Tidwell President Unit 291 Steinhatchee.

Unit 291 - On April 16 American Legions Auxiliary Unit 291 Adult Easter Basket was raffled off. The winner was Ty Barker a visitor from a Post on the East Coast. The Auxiliary raised 480.00 to help with on going projects.





Unit 270 - President Shirley Fraser Unit 270 Pt Orange (left) and Eleanor Amato Historian (3rd left) delivered supplies for a delicious Easter Dinner including Ham, au grated potatoes, Honey carrots, Italian green beans, roll & butter, a variety of desserts and fresh made coffee for our veterans at Baracks of Hope. Also pictured resident manager

Brandi and resident Walter. God bless our veterans



Unit 291 - Jane Feber Unit 291 of Steinhatchee spoke to our Legion Family about a young man who was making a difference in his life. After hearing the story below the Auxiliary along with the Legionaries and the Son's of the Legion and other various other members donated \$1750.00 for gas cards to get him back and forth to school from Camp Blanding and a small amount to help him with graduation expenses.

Dalton Makatura turned 18 last summer and joined the Army. He's been stationed at Camp Blanding so he was able to return to Dixie County High School twice a week after school for tutoring to complete his courses to graduate. After graduation Dalton will be on is way to Fort Benning to start his Army career.

### Membership CANDACE MABRY



# When you wish upon a STARfish...

Your membership dreams will come true

May is a month full of graduations from pre-school and kindergarten,

High School, and College. It is a time to reflect on past accomplishments and look towards new experience and goals. But before we can graduate, we must all ace all our finals. That means at the date this newsletter was written our great Department of Florida is at 97.13%. We have 3 Districts over 100%, one District only needs 10 more to reach 100% and 68 Units at or above 100%. April was a month for all to do their Unit, District and Department reports. That leaves this month for membership! Pick up that phone and make some calls. If you need phone numbers, I will be happy to email you all you would like of unpaid members.

I wrote this in our April newsletters, but only received one response so I am including again. All Lifeguards, Pelicans, and Sandpipers your help is needed! This year President Kathy Daudistel has a Department award in 2022 for Together We Serve Award. It will be presented by Division to the Department worked as the American Legion Family to enhance membership. Please email me with any of the following that your District or Unit participated.

\*Did your Unit do any revitalizations where the entire American Legion Family was invited to participate? Who was invited? How many members were contacted? Was it successful?

\*Did your Unit do a membership drive in your state as a Legion Family visiting local members? \*Did you work together as a Legion Family on Buddy Checks to reach out to our members? Did you do a phone bank? Did you do door-to-door visits to check on members or host Facebook Live or Zoom events?

\*What other things did you do as a Legion Family to enhance membership? \*Please be sure to include any stories you would like to share about your Legion Family working together. This is your chance to brag about your American Legion Family.

\*Please include photos of your events along with your narrative.



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# Membership Reports

APRIL 29, 2022

	C	DISTRI	CT 1			
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	215	3	205	208	96.74%
0078	Milton	13	0	4	4	30.77%
0193	Pensacola	75	14	62	76	101.33%
0221	Niceville	105	0	124	124	118.10%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	145	1	128	129	88.97%
0240	Pensacola	249	6	242	248	99.60%
0296	Destin	60	1	70	71	118.33%
0340	Pensacola	355	8	315	323	90.99%
0356	Lynn Haven	139	0	133	133	95.68%
0375	Southport	49	4	47	51	104.08%
0378	Gulf Breeze	49	0	39	39	79.59%
0382	Navarre	149	3	158	161	108.05%
0392	Panama City	184	2	158	160	86.96%
0402	Panama City Beach	38	0	39	39	102.63%
	TOTALS	1825	42	1724	1766	96.77%

	DISTRICT 3							
	UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT	
(	0049	Monticello	27	0	26	26	96.30%	
(	0057	Lake City	238	3	214	217	91.18%	
(	0107	Live Oak	46	1	51	52	113.04%	
(	0215	Jasper	34	3	30	33	97.06%	
(	0224	Madison	41	0	46	46	112.20%	
(	0291	Steinhatchee	195	3	186	189	96.92%	
(	0383	Old Town	131	4	64	68	51.91%	
		TOTALS	712	14	617	631	88.62%	

DISTRICT 2									
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0013	Tallahassee	81	4	69	73	90.12%			
0082	Lanark	77	1	64	65	84.42%			
0084	Havana	29	15	13	28	96.55%			
0100	Marianna	36	3	27	30	83.33%			
0217	Quincy	52	4	44	48	92.31%			
0241	Sneads	70	21	49	70	100.00%			
TOTALS		345	48	266	314	91.01%			

	DISTRICT 4								
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0016	Gainesville	38	0	24	24	63.16%			
0027	Ocala	20	1	15	16	80.00%			
0058	Dunnellon	41	0	27	27	65.85%			
0077	Inverness	49	0	61	61	124.49%			
0149	Newberry	24	3	25	28	116.67%			
0155	Crystal River	334	5	318	323	96.71%			
0166	Homosassa Springs	137	2	138	140	102.19%			
0210	Ocala	12	0	10	10	83.33%			
0230	Hawthorne	28	4	26	30	107.14%			
0236	Bronson	52	0	41	41	78.85%			
0237	Beverly Hills	179	0	197	197	110.06%			
0284	Belleview	84	2	70	72	85.71%			
	TOTALS	998	17	952	969	97.09%			

	DISTRICT 5							
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0009	Jacksonville	51	5	61	66	129.41%		
0054	Fernandina Beach	177	3	160	163	92.09%		
0088	Jacksonville	81	1	72	73	90.12%		
0129	Jacksonville Beach	386	10	338	348	90.16%		
0137	Jacksonville	464	18	391	409	88.15%		
0194	St Augustine	78	6	54	60	76.92%		
0197	Jacksonville	40	1	41	42	105.00%		
0202	Keystone Heights	55	0	70	70	127.27%		
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	163	31	140	171	104.91%		
0244	Jacksonville	27	4	23	27	100.00%		
0250	Middleburg	307	29	267	296	96.42%		
0283	Jacksonville	473	11	428	439	92.81%		
0316	Atlantic Beach	356	45	322	367	103.09%		
0372	Mandarin	28	1	26	27	96.43%		
0373	Orange Park	30	5	25	30	100.00%		
0401	Hilliard	49	1	43	44	89.80%		
	TOTALS	2765	171	2461	2632	95.19%		

DISTRICT 7								
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0003	Bartow	90	0	72	72	80.00%		
0004	Lakeland	71	4	57	61	85.92%		
0008	Winter Haven	581	10	577	587	101.03%		
0015	Dade City	26	0	20	20	76.92%		
0034	Haines City	84	0	64	64	76.19%		
0071	Lake Wales	45	0	45	45	100.00%		
0072	Mulberry	163	8	149	157	96.32%		
0201	Florence Villa	33	1	22	23	69.70%		
	TOTALS	1093	23	1006	1029	<b>94.1</b> 4%		

DISTRICT 6								
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0010	Kissimmee	204	2	201	203	99.51%		
0018	Wildwood	13	0	18	18	138.46%		
0019	Orlando	106	5	97	102	96.23%		
0035	Mount Dora	156	1	134	135	86.54%		
0041	Eustis	12	0	12	12	100.00%		
0053	Sanford	70	1	35	36	51.43%		
0055	Clermont	191	4	204	208	108.90%		
0063	Winter Garden	37	1	31	32	86.49%		
0080	Saint Cloud	253	19	234	253	100.00%		
0101	Bushnell	136	0	103	103	75.74%		
0109	Ocoee	16	2	9	11	68.75%		
0112	Winter Park	24	2	22	24	100.00%		
0183	Fern Park	108	9	103	112	103.70%		
0219	Fruitland Park	208	2	197	199	95.67%		
0242	Orlando	117	7	94	101	86.32%		
0286	Orlando	178	6	159	165	92.70%		
0330	Leesburg	60	1	65	66	110.00%		
0331	Orlando	18	0	12	12	66.67%		
0347	Lady Lake	2601	10	2477	2487	95.62%		
0412	Orlando	14	2	10	12	85.71%		
	TOTALS	4522	74	4217	4291	94.89%		

DISTRICT 8										
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT				
0011	Arcadia	31	10	24	34	109.68%				
0024	Bradenton	330	12	312	324	98.18%				
0025	Lake Placid	357	0	369	369	103.36%				
0030	Sarasota	78	9	65	74	94.87%				
0069	Avon Park	661	14	649	663	100.30%				
0074	Sebring	111	0	130	130	117.12%				
0113	Rotonda West	315	4	296	300	95.24%				
0159	Venice	663	3	678	681	102.71%				
0254	North Port	122	2	110	112	91.80%				
0266	Fruitville	144	3	144	147	102.08%				
0309	Palmetto	173	2	172	174	100.58%				
0312	Oneco	255	0	193	193	75.69%				
0325	Ellenton	194	1	194	195	100.52%				
	TOTALS	3434	60	3336	3396	98.89%				

DISTRICT 9											
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT					
0036	Ft Lauderdale	31	1	35	36	116.13%					
0092	Hollywood	93	2	94	96	103.23%					
0142	Pompano Beach	179	8	172	180	100.56%					
0157	Margate	186	9	159	168	90.32%					
0162	Deerfield Beach	173	16	151	167	96.53%					
0180	Fort Lauderdale	106	3	107	110	103.77%					
0209	Dania Beach	17	0	15	15	88.24%					
0220	Ft Lauderdale	31	8	18	26	83.87%					
0222	Fort Lauderdale	35	0	30	30	85.71%					
0287	Deerfield Beach	15	0	9	9	60.00%					
0304	Dania	64	0	50	50	78.13%					
0310	Hallandale	36	0	23	23	63.89%					
0321	Cooper City	215	36	189	225	104.65%					
0365 Sunrise		12	0	12	12	100.00%					
	TOTALS	1193	83	1064	1147	96.14%					

**DISTRICT 11** 

UNIT

	DISTRICT 12												
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT							
0001	Titusville	301	15	257	272	90.37%							
0022	Сосоа	90	1	99	100	111.11%							
0039	Vero Beach	179	6	198	204	113.97%							
0040	Fort Pierce	183	2	174	176	96.17%							
0081	Melbourne	174	2	168	170	97.70%							
0117	Palm Bay	521	14	487	501	96.16%							
0126	Jensen Beach	210	1	182	183	87.14%							
0163	Eau Gallie	239	8	210	218	91.21%							
0171	Fort Pierce	14	0	14	14	100.00%							
0189	Sebastian	149	0	151	151	101.34%							
0191	Melbourne	84	13	62	75	89.29%							
0200	Satellite Beach	180	8	155	163	90.56%							
0318	Port St Lucie	911	4	1107	1111	121.95%							
0344	Merritt Island	45	10	35	45	100.00%							
0348	Cape Canaveral	184	0	202	202	109.78%							
0358	White City	64	0	65	65	101.56%							
0359	Port St John	332	11	337	348	104.82%							
0366	Barefoot Bay	69	24	43	67	97.10%							
0394	Palm Bay	174	4	188	192	110.34%							
0410	Viera	13	0	10	10	76.92%							
	TOTALS	4116	123	4144	4267	103.67%							

	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
	Belle Glade	46	2	36	38	82.61%	1.17	W.F.	
	Lake Worth	81	2	68	70	86.42%			
	Stuart	524	5	540	545	104.01%	•	UNIT	СІТ
	Okeechobee	130	1	113	114	87.69%	19.1	0038	Fo
	Delray Beach	53	4	51	55	103.77%	1.5-		
	West Palm Beach	79	5	64	69	87.34%	Sist	0090	Ca
	Boynton Beach	147	13	134	147	100.00%	2.0	0103	Pu
	W Palm Beach	42	0	20	20	47.62%	17.34	0110	Po
	Riviera Beach	87	15	64	79	90.80%	211	0123	Sai
	Tequesta	156	9	147	156	100.00%		0130	Lal
	Boca Raton	105	0	108	108	102.86%	174	0135	Na
_		27	10	10	20	74.07%	1814	0136	Sai
	Boynton Beach	27	10	10	20	74.07%	124	0192	Fo
	Royal Palm Beach	36	4	21	25	69.44%	- 22	0274	Fo
	TOTALS	1513	70	1376	1446	95.57%		0303	Во
	CONTRACTOR AND IN	96 AREA	12.5	1 -	170-21	10.9900.8	124	0323	Lel

DISTRICT 13											
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT					
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	34	34	91.89%					
0090	Cape Coral	272	6	276	282	103.68%					
0103	Punta Gorda	506	3	635	638	126.09%					
0110	Port Charlotte	601	10	602	612	101.83%					
0123	Sanibel	53	1	38	39	73.58%					
0130	Labelle	149	0	150	150	100.67%					
0135	Naples	352	1	355	356	101.14%					
0136	Saint James City	466	10	496	506	108.58%					
0192	Fort Myers	22	2	17	19	86.36%					
0274	Fort Myers Beach	574	1	522	523	91.11%					
0303	Bonita Springs	392	8	392	400	102.04%					
0323	Lehigh Acres	438	34	369	403	92.01%					
0336	N Ft Myers	373	3	420	423	113.40%					
0351	Fort Myers	92	3	97	100	108.70%					
	TOTALS	4327	82	4403	4485	103.65%					

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	All					2	2				DISTR	ICT 1	6		
			DIST	<b>FRICT</b>	14			1	UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
	UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		0007	Clearwater	273	1	230	231	84.62%
	0028	Key West	61	0	54	54	88.52%	1	0014	St Petersburg	115	3	110	113	98.26%
	0031	South Miami	186	5	160	165	88.71%	1	0079	New Port Richey	470	53	398	451	95.96%
	0043	Homestead	69	3	52	55	79.71%		0104	Pinellas Park	244	8	243	251	102.87%
	0067	North Miami	49	2	38	40	81.63%		0119	Largo	355	18	336	354	99.72%
	0098	Coral Gables	22	0	14	14	63.64%	- 14	0125	St Petersburg	291	13	274	287	98.63%
14-	0133	Miami	71	5	54	59	83.10%		0158	Treasure Island	272	0	251	251	92.28%
1	0154	Marathon	171	1	141	142	83.04%		0173	Holiday	261	6	247	253	96.93%
	0168	Key West	13	0	14	14	107.69%		0238	Safety Harbor	278	12	283	295	106.12%
	0333	Key Largo	79	0	76	76	96.20%		0252	Seminole	1027	10	1013	1023	99.61%
-	0346	Miami	19	0	16	16	84.21%	, f	0273	Madeira Beach	3181	8	3409	3417	107.42%
-	0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	39	39	92.86%		0275	Dunedin	874	5	944	949	108.58%
2									0305	St Pete Beach	125	1	145	146	116.80%
		TOTALS	782	16	658	674	86.19%		0335	Hudson	69	7	82	89	128.99%
12/2				10.7			A	e san		TOTALS	7835	145	7965	8110	103.51%

DISTRICT 15											
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT					
0005	Tampa	42	1	33	34	80.95%					
0099		0	1	17	18	#DIV/0!					
0111	0111 Tampa		0	52	52	85.25%					
0138	0138 Tampa		6	474	480	105.96%					
0139	0139 Tampa		0	56	56	56.57%					
0147	Odessa	41	1	41	42	102.44%					
0148	Riverview	216	5	199	204	94.44%					
0152	Tampa	256	10	236	246	96.09%					
0167	Tampa	24	3	11	14	58.33%					
0186	Brooksville	400	1	363	364	91.00%					
0248	West Tampa	22	1	12	13	59.09%					
0248	West Tampa	25	1	20	21	84.00%					
	TOTALS	1614	29	1494	1523	94.36%					

DISTRICT 17											
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT					
0006	Deland	89	1	97	98	110.11%					
0017	New Smyrna Beach	165	2	208	210	127.27%					
0045	Palatka	41	1	28	29	70.73%					
0115	Palm Coast	41	0	38	38	92.68%					
0120	Holly Hill	218	4	203	207	94.95%					
0127	Lake Helen	26	4	18	22	84.62%					
0204	Daytona Beach	21	0	0	0	0.00%					
0255	Deltona	30	6	17	23	76.67%					
0259	Debary	23	4	22	26	113.04%					
0267	Ormond Beach	194	5	213	218	112.37%					
0270	Port Orange	179	0	173	173	96.65%					
0285	Edgewater	105	2	113	115	109.52%					
0361 S Daytona		212	8	199	207	97.64%					
	TOTALS	1344	37	1329	1366	101.64%					



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida

1912 Lee Rd, Bldg A Orlando, FL 32810

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