VOLUME XI - ISSUE 7 - FEBRUARY 2022 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WANDA BRANDT



FEATURED:

Department President Children & Youth Poppy

This Month's Featured



3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Wanda Brandt



7 CHILDREN & YOUTH Charlotte Bass



7 POPPIES
Robin Watrous

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.



Also Including...

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Upcoming Events February 2022

- 2 Department President's Visit to District 1
- 3 Four Chaplains Day
- 4 USO Birthday
- 5 Female Veterans Luncheon
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 18 Department President's Visit to District 4
- 19 Fisher House Fundraiser
- 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 21 President's Day
- 21 Department HQ Closed
- 21 Department President's Visit to District 15
- 26 District 12 Meeting
- 26 Bingo for Jane Hardacre 2022-2023 Department President

Want to submit an article and/or photos to *Conch Charter*?

alafl.org/submit secretary@alafl.org

President's Message

WANDA BRANDT



Greetings all Starfishes;

This year is half-over, Continue to **D.A.R.E.**

Let's Renew our Vows -

D - Dedicated yourself to our Mission - Service not Self

A - Advocate for our Veterans

R - Renew Your Passion - for our programs

E – *Encourage one another* – *Be a Mentor*

As we move into a new year, I am always reminded of beginnings. I know that sounds strange, but it is a new year, and a new beginning. This year is no different. It's has been difficult to be hopeful in these "challenging times", but we must.

We must look forward to a great 2022. It is vitally important that this organization continue to move forward, bringing new members on board, reconnecting with those members who have been apart for whatever reason and growing our American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida. I don't want our generation to be the reason this wonderful organization falters.

Please continue to work our programs, you can do that and still remain safe. While the VAMC's may not all be open to tour and go into, we can and are still providing those items needed to comfort and care for Veterans in them and their homes, remember our Nursing homes. It is time to make a difference and take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities that we have to make someone's life better, one day at a time.

As we move into 2022, we must work on membership. I know it is a struggle trying to get renewals and rejoins but in order for us to work our programs we need our members. Please make phone calls and drop

personal notes to members. They may need our help and are shy to ask. Get a phone group together over a cup of coffee and make a few phone calls. Members who do not come to meetings are always glad to hear a friendly voice. Make them feel a part of the AL Family.

With winter approaching, I know you will continue to be vigilant and continue to find ways of reaching out and helping our Veterans, their families and our communities.

R- Renew your Passion

The ALA Academy is a free online training program available to all members of the Auxiliary. Courses from this member benefit are designed to provide you with tools you need to better serve our mission. These courses are valuable to all levels of membership.

Current ALA Academy courses available:

- How to Deal with Conflict
- The ALA Fundraising Course
- ALA Juniors E-Learning Course
- ALA Branding and Why it Matters to Me
- Establishing an ALA Culture of Goodwill
- ALA Leadership: Living our Motto of Service Not Self
- ALA Communication Methods
- ALA 101

Sign in on https://www.legion-aux.org Login / Meeting& Training/ Online Training - to launch the ALA Academy courses.

Encourage other members of your unit to take courses too!

E - **Encourage**

Whether we are meeting in person or on ZOOM, it is

President continued on page 4 >>



<< President continued from page 3

important to educate our members on the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary, and the correct procedures and policies where warranted.

I hope that past Unit leaders are mentoring the new members and guiding the present officers of the Unit. Remember, that being a bully gets you nowhere. Just because it has ALWAYS BEEN DONE THAT WAY doesn't mean that it necessarily is the right way or that we can't try new ideas. Even if it has been tried in the past and failed, doesn't mean that it will fail this time.

After all, times change and so does the times and attitude of members and our communities. The quickest way to lose new members is to not give them a chance to propose their ideas or accept their help. We won't be around another 100 years if we don't encourage, and make our new and Junior members feel worthy and accepted.

Bad attitudes, as well as personal and grudges or agendas for personal gain should be left at the door before the meeting.

The important thing to remember, we are here for the betterment of our Veterans, Children and our Communities. That is what we need to concentrate on... so ... "Dare to Commit" "

Thank You, for all you do for the American Legion Auxiliary.

Dare to Commit

President Wanda

Mission Development Training 201 – Live February 12th Orlando

Volunteers for Gainesville: Malcom Randall VA hospital are needed.

We need someone to volunteer, we have been asking for some time now since Rita our long time VA representative retired in 2019.

We need a monthly person to commit to (24-72 hours), or volunteer once a week, someone that shows up when they are supposed to. Someone to help our Veterans. More than one volunteer to come in is best, rotation of help.

PLEASE GET INVOLVED.

Please call us anytime. Wanda Brandt (904) 612-7687 or Dee Bell (727) 804-2385.

Rights & Responsibilities

Auxiliary membership has its privileges. With all if its rewards come rights and responsibilities --

As a member of the Auxiliary:

- You have the right to questions what do, how we do it and why, as well as the authority for doing what we do.
- You have the right to disagree in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and the National Bylaws.
- > You have the right to be heard during discussion, at meetings, in committees.
- You have the right to decide on issues, on projects, on expenditures, on candidates.
- You have the right to vote on motions, during elections, at meetings.
- You have the right to lead through a committee chairmanship, as an elected Officer, or an appointed Chairman.
- You have the right to represent you Auxiliary at District, Department, or National meetings or Conventions.
- You have the right to share the privilege of membership in the ALA with others that qualify.
- You have the right to fellowship with other Auxiliary members regardless of race, creed, religion or sexual orientation.

With every right there is a responsibility:

- You have the responsibility to be informed; you should acquaint yourself with our programs, goals, and accomplishments.
- You have the responsibility to be familiar with the National Bylaws, the object of the ALA and our Rituals.
- You have the responsibility to attend meetings; opportunities include local, District, Department and National meetings and their events.
- You have the responsibility to support fundraising efforts (by donating time, money or in-kind gifts as your Auxiliary and if possible, District and Department. This is how our Auxiliaries get the resources they need to help veterans and work all our Programs.
- You have the responsibility to lead; as an Officer or Program Chairman you must know and fulfill your duties.
- You have the responsibility to voice your opinion because your opinion is valued and may provide a new line of thinking and reasoning on an issue or event.
- You have the responsibility to pay dues on time.





Honor our military families: Frederick William Eggerking

Written by: Virginia Maxcy (great grandfather's story)

Frederick William Eggerking was born in Hanover Germany in October of 1829. He immigrated to New York on December 2, 1848 at the age of 19. The following year he married Maria Dirks in Wurtsboro New York.

Sometime after, they moved to South Carolin, where in 1962 William enlisted in the Confederate Army and was assigned to the First Batallion Infantry, which ultimately became the 27th Regiment. He fought in numerous battles including Drewry's Bluff which stopped the Unions offensive against Richmond, Cold Harbor which was a part of the Overland Campaig which ultimately forced Robert E Lee to abandon much of Northern Virginia. First and Second Battle of Deep Bottom both Confederate victories to defend Richmond.

the last battle he fought in was the Petersburg Trencher. Both sides fought over 9 months in a series of trenches that was over 30 miles long. this lasted from March 1964 to April of 1865 when General Lee was forced to retreat and surrender on April 9, 1865. At the Appomattox Court House ending the Civil War.

During this battle was when my 2nd Great Grand Father was captured and taken to Point Lookout Prisoner of War Camp in Maryland. He was captured on February 20, 1865 and was released on June 2, 1865.

Point lookout was the largest and worst POW Camp. Established on August 1, 1863, it was located at the extreme tip of St. Marys County on the long low and barren peninsula where the Potomac River joins the Chesapeke Bay. Before the war, it had been a resort area with hotels, boarding houses, cottages and commercial establishments. In June 1862 it was leased to the Federal Government.

All prisoners lived in over crowded tents and shacks with no protection from the heat and coastal storms. Drinking water was scarce and polluted, eventually a boat was arranged to bring in fresh water. Food and firewood were both strictly rationed. Rats were a major source of protein for most inmates. Catching them became a favorite sport. Flooding of the camp was frequent, soaking the prisoners and their clothing and tents. There were also cases of the prison commandant and his subordinates reducing the quality or quantity of the prisoner's daily rations for their personal use.

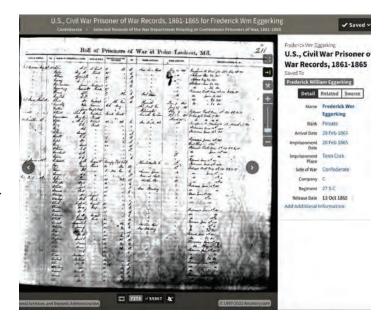
There was much animosity between the prisoners and the guards, who were mostly black troops. One Confederate soldier who managed to purchae his freedom from the prison reported that guards were offered by the officer of the day \$10 and \$15 a piece for every prisoner they could shoot in the discharge of their duty.

They were subject to extreme heat in the Summer and cold in the Winter. Due to inadequate food, clothing, fuel, housing and medical care, 3,000 prisoners died in a 22 month period. Besides chronic diarrhea, dysentary and typhoid fever became epidemic while smallpox, scurvy and the itch became quite common.

There were still 22,000 prisoners being held by the end of the war in April 1865, they were all eventually released or transferred by June 30, 1865.

It is estimated that a total of 52,264 prisoners both military and civilian were held there, even though the place was designed to hold only 10,000 people. 50 successful escapes happened during this time.

Frederick went back to his home in Charleston, South Carolina. He and his wife had one daughter on July 25, 1871. He bacame a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. Shortly after they moved back up to New York where the went on to have three more children. He passed away on May 27, 1915.



Children & Youth **CHARLOTTE BASS**



The time is fast approaching for reports to be turned in. April 1st is the deadline for you Children & Youth reports to be turned in to the District Chairman and April 15th is the deadline for District Reports to be turned in to me. When sending your reports please include

pictures but not imbedded in the report but separately in jpeg format. Please note that the Star-Spangled Kids has been moved to Americanism so send any reports for Star Spangled Kids should be sent to Liz Close, Department Americanism Chairman.

Please be looking for children and youth to be recognized for the Youth Hero and Good Deeds Awards. This is a way that children and youth in your community who demonstrate good citizenship through a brave physical act or good deed. The criteria can be found in the Children & Youth Program Action Plans. The nomination form can be found and downloaded from the National Website, alaforveterans, org under Children & Youth. The form is to be mailed to the Department Secretary, Patty Halliday or emailed to secretary@alafl.org The nominations came be mailed/emailed up through August.

April is Children & Youth Month. Plan a celebration of children in honor of Children and Youth. April 15th is Purple Up! For Military Kids Day. Wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple Up! For Military Kids Day. The Children & Youth Picnic and Golf Tournament is on April 9th at Titusville Post 1. The Golf Tournament starts at 8:00am at the Indian River Preserve Golf Club and the picnic starts at noon at Titusville Post 1. We are need of baskets or items to raffle. Contact me to arrange for pick up of the baskets if you aren't able to bring to the picnic. Please check the flyer for further details about the picnic.

Thank you for all that you do.

Poppies **ROBIN WATROUS**



I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday season and a very Poppy New Year. While Veteran's Day has passed and we still have time before our next 2 Poppy events, National Poppy Day and Memorial Day. Let's review some ways that you can keep those Poppies front

and center.

- Work with your Education chair and develop a school program that can include the Poppy.
- Have your Youth members create wreaths using their hand prints in some red paint
- Have your Youth members paint Poppies on small rockets to hide throughout the community.
- Carry small packets of poppy seeds to pass out with applications for membership.
- Consider working with a local artist that hosts "Paint and Sip" events to create a Poppy design that members and guests can paint and display in your home post or home.

- Create centerpieces or wreaths that can be used for your Legion family dinners. One example is to take a mason jar and fill it with Poppies and fairy lights. Tape the on/off switch to the lid of the mason jar for accessibility. Cut a piece of fabric to cover the mason jar lid and use a piece of ribbon to attach it the lid.
- Wear your Poppy pin often and carry small pocket cards with "In Flander's Field" on them. Remember to put your Units contact info on the back. Hand them a membership application at the same time.
- At membership rallies have the story of the Poppy present and speak of its history
- Share your events, ideas and pictures on the Department Poppy Facebook page at ALAFL Poppy
- Remember to have your Unit reports to your District Chairman by April 1st and District Chairman please have your reports to me no later April 15th.

Please know that you can request permission of the Department President if you wish to distribute Poppies on days other than those already defined. I look forward to seeing you all at Convention in June and reading your reports of your accomplishments.









PICNIC

Sat. April 9, 2022

Golf - Shotgun Start at 8:00am, Indian River Preserve Golf Club

3950 Clubhouse Drive, Mims, Fl

Picnic at Noon, Post 1

1281 N Washington Ave. Titusville, Fl

FOOD

FUN

ENTERTAINMENT

FUN

AUCTION

FIIN

LEGION RIDERS RIDE-IN

FUN

GOLF AWARDS

FUN





Golfers, dinner is available on Friday the 8th, at Post 1. Call ahead at least one week to let them know you are going to dinner, so they can have enough food for the night. (321) 269-9959

Hotel reservations for the 8th and/or 9th, Best Western Space Shuttle Inn, \$59 per night - (321) 269-9100

The American Legion Department of Florida Children & Youth Golf Tournament

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

Team Registration Form

GOLFERS		
1)	. 2)	
3)	4)	
SPONSORSHIPS & FEES		
GOLD SPONSOR (4 GOLFERS & HOLE	SPONSOR SIGN	\$325
SILVER SPONSOR (HOLE SPONSORS	SHIP ONLY)	\$100
GOLFERS ONLY (\$70 PER GOLFER) SPONSORSHIP CUT-	OFF DATE: MARCH 2	\$280 25, 2022
	TOTAL SUB	MITTED -
CONTACT INFORMATION		
CONTACT PERSON FOR THE TEAM		
PHONE NUMBER	100	

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: S.A.L. Squadron 325. Put "C&Y Golf" in memo and mail to Squadron 325, 3412 HWY 301N - Unit 103, Ellenton, FI 34222

Chaplain RUTH BURGESS



Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Our recently departed Sisters, May God Bless them and keep them.

District 1 Donna Rona Stacey Lambert Deborah Smith

District 4

Beverly Senter-Goclon Faye Baumgarten Beverly Debusschere Nona Presnell

District 5

Patricia Kohten Thereasa Woodburn Shirley B. Yarbough Stella Ford

District 6

Joanne Johnson
Essie Wood
Lynda Mollenhauer
Lou Patrick
Karen Harlow
Michele (Mickey) Herrick
Charlotte Shawcross
Diane Hill

District 8

Janice Roth
Dody Hillman
Joanne Hundzinger
Anita Kilpatrick
Mary N. Watson
Karen Bente
Virghinia Morgan

District 9Grace Collins

District 11Joanna Davis

District 12

Debra Kwait Marion T. O'Brien Lillian Shaffer

District 13

Carol Stutler
Melba McCleave
Virginia Alderman
Jean Gaines
Madelyn Sul
Patricia Smith
Helen Raymond
Maxine Spamr
Lynne Beehe
Muriel Cook
Doris Beesing
Marylou Eichert
Florence Bett
Norma Allen
Phyllis Smith

District 14

B. June Allen

District 15

Mary Atone
Tracy Dent
June Marie Clark
Penny Strickland
Mary Swink
Kristie L. Matthews
Maralyn Rummler

District 16

Maryann Lequalt
Virginia M. Townsend
Leah Greene
Lynn Cromwell
Sharon Whitten Devore
Donna Owens
Patricia Shell
Daryleen D. Regan
Joanne Urspruch

District 17

Joann Lois Frames Sheryl Johnson Doris Davis Vanetta Narducci Rosemary Cooper Linda Henszey



SATURDAY APRIL 16, 2022

American Legion Post 57 2602 SW Main Blvd Lake City, FL 32025

More details to follow...

GecretaryPATTY HALLIDAY



Happy New Year from the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida Staff!!!

This article is going to cover numerous items. Please share the information with the Unit members and Unit Chairmen.

Girls State

Delegate and Alternate Registration forms will be going out the first week of February. Please make sure that only one delegate/alternate receives one form. Please do not make copies and give them to numerous delegates/alternates. The forms are numbered for when they register. Each unit will receive one delegate form and one alternate form for each slot purchased. The Unit Girls State Chairman will need to check their email regularly as that is how Department will provide updates on registration. It is the unit's responsibility to make sure the delegates and alternates complete their registrations. Each delegate and alternate will need to attend an orientation. The orientation dates will be posted on our website under programs/girls state and on our calendar when Department receives them. The Girls State Registration deadline is April 4th. There will not be any extensions.

Membership

We have been receiving applications in Department where eligibility items have been written in when the unit or member can not check one of the appropriate boxes. Note that you cannot add anything. If you have a male who is wanting to join the Auxiliary, he can join if he is the spouse of a veteran. The brother, father, grandfather, or uncle of a Veteran can not join The American Legion Auxiliary. Also, stepchildren and great grandchildren are not allowed. If the Unit membership chairman or the bartenders have old applications, please provide new ones. The new application is located on our website at https:// alafl.org/wp-content/uploads/ALA Membership Application_v09_24_2019_lp.pdf Unit membership chairman should be working with the Riders membership chairman to make sure that

Rider members have paid their auxiliary dues first.

Annual Corporation Status

Each Unit should be filing for the corporate status starting in January. Filing dates are January 1 to May 1. Once the Unit has filed their annual report please send a copy to The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida. When District Presidents do their visits to the units this is one of the items they will be requesting to review.

Unit Elections

Unit elections shall be no more than ninety (90) days nor less than fifteen (15) days prior to the Department Convention. Unit officers list shall be sent to the Department Headquarters not less than ten (10) days prior to the Department Convention. Units must use the form furnished by Department Headquarters. Any member in good standing may run for any office.

District President and District Constitutional Conference

District Constitutional Conference shall be held annually but not necessarily in conjunction with the Constitutional Conference of The American Legion; not more than sixty (60) days prior nor less than ten (10) days prior to Department Convention.

No Unit shall endorse a candidate for District President who has not served as it's Unit President for at least six (6) months. A candidate who is not eligible for endorsement for District President may not campaign in advance of, or during, the District Constitutional Conference.

Units and Title 36

There was much discussion on Facebook in reference to Title 36 and The American Legion Auxiliary. It is recommended that if a Unit is trying to be exempted under Title 36 that the Unit does their research. The American Legion Auxiliary, National Headquarters

<< Secretary continued from page 12

response on Title 36 is:

While The American Legion is chartered by Congress, The Auxiliary was organized by the Legion as an auxiliary veteran's service organization 501 (c) 19. The Auxiliary is not chartered by Congress.

It is the Units responsibility to confirm they are filing the correct paperwork with the correct government agencies.

Department Headquarters Address

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida no longer has their PO Box. If mail is sent to

the PO Box, there is a major delay in the forwarding of the mail to the street address.

Please send all mail to the following address:

1912 A Lee Road Orlando, Fl. 32810

In closing the Department Staff hopes that your 2022 year is full of happiness, dreams, and kindness.

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. Be Kind. – by Maya Angelou

Americanism

LIZ CLOSE



Our members have left the starting gate and are working hard this year focusing on spreading the great mission of our patriotic organization. The National Americanism Contest "Star Spangled Kids Contest," drew to a

close on January 15. Now the Americanism Committee is moving forward focusing on the 2022 Americanism Essay Contest.

This year the contest entitled, "How Can We Support Families Who Provide Care To Their Veterans?" is rounding the bend headed for the finish line. Important information can be found regarding this contest on the Department website (alafl.org). Units need to pick up their essays from the participating

schools they have been working with by February 25. Be sure when submitting the winning essays to me at Department that the student and unit contact information is legibly written on the cover sheet and that the guidelines on the cover sheet have been followed. Units judge the essays, sending me the winning essay no later than March 15.

As part of the Department Americanism Committee our team will judge the winners and forward to the Southern Division for submission to the National Americanism Chairman.

If you have questions, contact me through the Department website <u>alafl.org</u> Americanism or call (727) 396-9086.



Juniors

DARA OLIVER



Think of the things that you do to prepare yourself for the future ...

Maybe you have an Emergency Kit, just in case of a storm –

Maybe you went through College to prepare yourself for a better

paying job -

Perhaps you pay for Insurance ... in case something should happen -

How about submersing yourself into a work related field, to better your chance at a leadership opportunity.

Now think about this for the Future of our Organization.

Have we put into a position someone to take our place when we are gone? Have we given them the tools and knowledge to take us into the future? Have you trained your Juniors to be leaders and stay in the organization so they can continue for the next 100 years?

We all have an obligation to prepare for our future, whether we are going to be around or not. Our Juniors are truly the future of the ALA.

The American Legion Auxiliary will host a National Juniors meeting in Orlando on February 12th during the same time "Senior members" (referring to members 18 years of age and older) can attend Mission

Training. There is a fee, but well worth every penny. If Juniors need financial assistance contact Chairman: Dara Oliver, we want every Junior (8 - 17 years old) to attend if they want to.

Have you also encouraged Juniors to log onto www. alaforveterans.org and take the Junior Leadership Course? Log into the Member portal (set up a log-in if you haven't yet) then click: ALA Academy and go to ALA Juniors E-Learning Course, it's very educational and informative, once they complete it, they will receive a certificate.

- ** Here's an idea for Membership If your Unit hasn't made its' membership goal yet, consider having your Unit pay for all Juniors on your roster. Paying for Junior membership is much less expensive than a Sr. membership fee but counts toward membership goals.
- * Activities for Juniors that live out of state. Log onto www.alafl.org and check out the Patch Program, Junior members and Young SAL members (Kindergarten 12th grade) can participate and earn patches free of charge.

Let's prepared for the next 100 years.

Thank you for your commitment to the ALA Junior Activities Committee.





SAT, FEB 12 AT 8 AM

Orlando ALA Mission Training & national Junior meeting









EASTERN AREA BALL



APRIL 30 @1 PM

PULLED PORK & CHICKEN & ALL THE
FIXIN'S \$30 PER PERSON

RSVP BY APRIL 15

LIVE MUSIC! RAFFLES! LAKESIDE @ AMERICAN Legion old Glory Post 183 - 2706 Wells Avenue Fern Park, FL 32730

THE FINE PRINT DETAILS:

RSVP TO DARYL BASS: 407-738-3357 - MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DARYI BASS EASTERN AREA COMMANDER - 3014 DIAMOND LN ST CLOUD FL 37721 PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS AND NUMBER OF GUESTS ATTENDING

HOTEL ROOM BLOCK: HILTON ALTMOANTE SPRINGS -\$119 PER NIGHT AVAILABLE
APRIL 29-MAY 1 MENTION ALA22 OR ONLINE AT:
HTTPS://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event-ala22-04292022-0502202
CUT OFF DATE MARCH 30 2022









EASTERN AREA BALL April 30th, 2022 At American Legion Post 183 Fern Park 2706 Wells Ave Fern Park, FL 32730

PROGRAM ADS

 FULL PAGE
 \$50.00

 ½ PAGE
 \$35.00

 BUSINESS CARD
 \$25.00

COMMENTS

Send pictures and comments by e-mail to: cmariebass27@outlook.com

CUT OFF DATE FOR AD IS: March 30, 2022

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS TO:

Daryl Bass Eastern Area Commander 3014 Diamond Lane St. Cloud, FL 34772

(407) 738-3357

Florida Happenings









District 15 - On Saturday January 8th many were in attendance at the Field of Honor which was at Veterans Memorial Park on 301 Tampa Florida. Every quarter month there is a flag placing of the fallen. A total of 140 + flags were placed in special circle ground holders as names were read out loud in memory of the POW / MIA that were recently accounted for from World War II. There was also one special flag placed for all Fallen Police officers total of 61 fallen officers. Several members of American Legion U.S.S. Tampa Fl. Unit 5 from the 15th District were there along with the Tampa Bay Blue Star and God Star Mothers of both Tampa Bay And Pinellas County and also several other American Legion Post Families were in attendance such as 148, 138 plus many other veteran organizations took their time to show and give respect for the fallen.

The huge Christmas tree that is in the photo was on display in the Resource Center was decorated by the Gold Star Mothers back in December 2021 located at Veterans Park and has a total of over 7,000 + stars for all our fallen military (the names on the stars on the Christmas tree are all post 9/11./ All the Gulf wars.) This tree was donated to the park several years back and was decorated before Christmas, this Saturday after the Field of Honor ceremony some of the Gold Star mothers and dads, took the time after the ceremony/event and took the tree down.



District 16 - L to R: Bonnie Carter President Unit 14, Wanda, Sue Craft 16th Dist Pres, Cheryl Yoder Pres Unit 273 at Cuban Fiesta Unit 14



District 16 - Wanda giving Candy Canes w Santa Unit 79 Children's Christmas Party



District 16 - Wanda with Suzie Wilkins President of Unit 79



District 16 -Unity 79 New Port Richey Luminary service 359 luminary bags for Fallen Herors from State of Florida



District 16 - Picture of Dist 16 President Wanda luncheon





District 16 - On January 6, 2022 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 5 Tampa Florida (15th District) had there monthly Auxiliary meeting. Our District President Eileen Wilson joined us. We joined in with the entire American Legion Family and had a nice social get together along with a great dinner.

At the meeting each chair spoke of what they had done for their programs for the month and discuss about future events. The photo has a beautiful hand made crocket blanket which was made by one of our members friends and will be donated to Fisher House. We may be a small unit but we get things done as a team for the community serving veterans, military and their families.





Unit **9** - Provided gifts for 3 Military families in need.



Unit 9 - 5th District Unit 9 and Post 9 feeding the 125th Fighter Wing ANG Christmas Dinner







Unit 9 - Unit 9 with the Post 9 Family adopted 3 families from 2 local schools. 7 children received a new pair of shoes, at least 1 set of clothes, a new bicycle, at least one item on their wish list and other toys. They parents received breakfast items, Walmart, Dominos Pizza, Dairy Queen, and Golden Corral gift cards.











Unit 13
- Unit 13
stuffed 52
Christmas
stockings
for Veterans
including
gift cards
enclosed
in their
Christmas
cards.



Unit 13 - Unit 13 members, Nance Nadeau and Donna Winsloe delivering Christmas stocking to Veterans for Christmas.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



Unit 54 - Unit 54 donating sleeping bags to the Coalition for the Homeless.







Unit 58 - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 58 of Dunnellon, FL bought and wrapped 30 boxes of Christmas presents which were delivered by American Legion Post 58 members to veterans in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the Ocala area. The gifts included socks, underwear, toiletries, t-shirts and candy, which are some of the most desired items of nursing home residents. The gifts brought joy to the veterans who have been insolated for so long because of the COVID virus.



Unit 79 - Past President Ieanann Lewis and Juniors from Unit 79, tabs for St. Jude



Unit 166 - Presentation of \$600 check by Crystal River Eagles to Unit 166 for Girls State. Picture includes 4 from Eagles Auxiliary Leadership; Vicky Eley, Unit 166 Girls State Chairman; and Judy Saloon, Unit 166 President







Unit 166 - Unit 166 was one of 2 winners of Veteran's Day Challenge for most new members. Unit meeting attendees enjoyed key lime cheesecake made by District 4 Historian and Unit 237 member, Alison Simon.









Unit 194 - Unit 194 Christmas party 2021







Unit 194 - Unit 194 Christmas party 2021















Unit 194 - Unit 194 volunteered to assist Hugs St. John's Deliver 1200 Food Take Home Bags To elementary schools in the St. Johns Area



Unit 194
- Unit 194
Volunteering at Toys for Tots in West Augustine.







Unit 194 - Dec 19, 2021, Unit 194 delivered Christmas gifts to the 79 veterans at Clyde E. Lassen State VA Nursing Home. This is an annual event for Unit 194.









Unit 200 - Department President Wanda Brandt visited the 12th District and a Mad Hatters tea party was held in her honor on Saturday January 8 at Unit 200 Satellite Beach. The upstairs meeting hall was transformed with lights and homemade decorations. Visitors included many Department Chairman, District Chairman and Presidents past and current, a Gold Star Mother from Vero Beach, as well as a great showing by unit membership. The Legion Commander and S.A.L. Commander also made an appearance. Entertainment was provided by Tara Zimmerman from Tampa Florida. Tara has performed many times at the VA Tampa hospital for our Veterans. The Constitution and ByLaws Chairman Cyndi Lynch arranged a 50/50 with proceeds going to Project Vet Relief, \$135 was raised, and the winner donated back her winnings raising the donation to \$270. Officers and members dressed in Mad Hatters themed costumes to bring the tea party to life.

Bottom Photo is some of the Unit 200 officers and members: (Standing L to R) Gwen Hufford Secretary, Wendy Diamond, Jennifer Green, Amy McGuinness Treasurer, Melony Kelly 1st VP/Membership Chairman, Roxanne Staring Chaplin, Suzie Manzer. (Kneeling L to R) Cheryl Rector President and Christine Goldsworth 2nd VP/Historian.













Unit 241 - On
Dec. 8th Unit 241
delivered bagged
Christmas candy to
Marianna Veteran
Outpatient Clinic.
Pictured left to right
are Unit member
Kathleen Sullivan
(& veteran) and
Dresa Craven, Senior
Social Worker. It is
the Unit's pleasure
and honor to serve
veterans in our area.



Unit 241 - Local veterans were honored at a Veteran's Day Program and Luncheon on Nov. 11th. Event was sponsored by Sneads High School, Sneads Elementary School and Grand Ridge Middle School. Pictured on far right is veteran Kathleen Sullivan, Unit 241 member, along with some Post 241 members.



Unit 241 - On Jan. 13th Unit 241 donated 26 lap covers and Afghans to Marianna Veteran Outpatient Clinic for distribution to needed veterans. Pictured left to right are Dresa Craven, Senior Social Worker and Kaye Brown, Unit 241 President.



Unit 241 - Mr. Frank Nelson of Sneads gave \$50 for purchase of copy paper at Sneads Elementary. Mr. Frank also volunteers to assist the Unit with annually veteran fruit baskets.





Unit 241 - On Jan. 19th Unit 241 made their annual copy paper donation to four local schools: Sneads Elementary, Grand Ridge Middle, Sneads High and Victory Christian Academy. Pictured are Unit President Kaye Brown with SHS Principal Kristy Halley and GR Asst. Principal Becky Hart.









Unit 241 - Unit 241 members continue to perform community services in the little town of Sneads. In recognition of Arbor Day, Faye Walden and Kaye Brown assisted with planting of trees at Sneads Elementary School, sponsored by Sneads Carlisle Rose Garden Club. In addition, group tidy up at the town's welcome signs.





Unit 291 - Unit 291 had their annual Chili Cook Off Saturday 1/22/2022. The winners from left to right are Meloney Atkins 1st place, Steve Shimp 2nd place and Butch Cantrell 3rd place. Our volunteers from left to right are Meloney Adkins, Judy Shimp, Karen Tidwell, Jane Feber, Joanne Griffin, Marci Cantrell, and Nina Johnson. Not in the picture was volunteer Tammy Weaver and also Carla Bray who took the photos. The Auxiliary raised 253.00 for future projects.



Historian - Department Historian Eleanor Amato delivered stuff toys to Fire station 22 on the beachside in New Smyrna Beach so they can comfort in time of need.

Membership

CANDACE MABRY



When you wish upon a STARfish...

Your membership dreams will

February, in modern history at least, is known for Valentine's Day.

I did some research and there was some dark history on how this holiday began, so I will not repeat, only to say that handing out cards to your loved one began in the mid 1800's. For those of us that blame Hallmark for this holiday, they did not come into existence until 1910. So, as you are handing out your Valentine's Day cards, make sure you send one to yourself, to thank you for all the love and kindness you have shared with our Veterans, Active Duty, Community and Children.

I want to thank every STARfish, Lifeguard, Pelican, and Sandpiper for all their hard work on Membership. Our most recent report from National shows our great Department of Florida up 598 members from this time last year. Gnarly news. Thank you to all.

My schedule finally allowed me to visit with President Wanda to the 12th District and during this visit, I witnessed two wonderful AHA moments. The first was at breakfast with Unit 344, Merritt Island, at a local diner called Umpa's Diner. As you can see with

the wonderful service pictures on their walls at the restaurant, the Owner was excited she would be able to join the Auxiliary. Can't wat to hear the update!

Another AHA moment was at Unit 200, Satellite Beach, Mad Hatters Tea Party. They hosted this Tea Party for President Wanda and had a comedian entertain us. In the beginning of her program, she mentioned that her dad had served and how much she enjoyed helping out with veterans. After she was finished, I introduced myself and asked if I could get her home address and hopefully have a Unit in the Tampa area give her a call. She was so excited, but worried that her husband could not join. I asked if he had any relatives that served and she said of course, his dad is a marine. Perfect, he can join the SAL. One never knows where or when you may meet someone that can join our awesome organization.

Keep those AHA moments coming, and I will continue to spread the news...Please join the Facebook movement ALAFL Membership group.

Ride the Wave....

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. ~ Jane Goodall

National Commander Paul Dillard to visit Florida

February 2-8, 2022

For schedule: https://www. floridalegion.org/news-events/ national-commanders-visit/



Membership Reports

JANUARY 28, 2022

	DISTRICT 1									
UNIT	СІТУ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT				
0075	Crestview	215	3	184	187	86.98%				
0078	Milton	13	0	4	4	30.77%				
0193	Pensacola	75	14	51	65	86.67%				
0221	Niceville	105	0	92	92	87.62%				
0235	Ft Walton Beach	145	1	38	39	26.90%				
0240	Pensacola	249	6	196	202	81.12%				
0296	Destin	60	1	59	60	100.00%				
0340	Pensacola	355	8	256	264	74.37%				
0356	Lynn Haven	139	0	113	113	81.29%				
0375	Southport	49	1	32	33	67.35%				
0378	Gulf Breeze	49	0	33	33	67.35%				
0382	Navarre	149	3	122	125	83.89%				
0392	Panama City	184	2	134	136	73.91%				
0402	Panama City Beach	38	0	34	34	89.47%				
	TOTALS	1825	39	1348	1387	76.00%				

	DISTRICT 3									
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT				
0049	Monticello	27	0	24	24	88.89%				
0057	Lake City	238	2	192	194	81.51%				
0107	Live Oak	46	1	47	48	104.35%				
0215	Jasper	34	2	26	28	82.35%				
0224	Madison	41	0	36	36	87.80%				
0291	Steinhatchee	195	3	160	163	83.59%				
0383	Old Town	131	4	54	58	44.27%				
	TOTALS 712 12 539 551 77.39%									

					70				
	DISTRICT 2								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0013	Tallahassee	81	3	63	66	81.48%			
0082	Lanark	77	1	60	61	79.22%			
0084	Havana	29	15	12	27	93.10%			
0100	Marianna	36	3	24	27	75.00%			
0217	Quincy	52	4	33	37	71.15%			
0241	Sneads	70	20	48	68	97.14%			
	TOTALS	345	46	240	286	82.90%			

	DISTRICT 4									
UNIT	СІТУ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT				
0016	Gainesville	38	0	23	23	60.53%				
0027	Ocala	20	1	14	15	75.00%				
0058	Dunnellon	41	0	21	21	51.22%				
0077	Inverness	49	0	51	51	104.08%				
0149	Newberry	24	3	23	26	108.33%				
0155	Crystal River	334	4	279	283	84.73%				
0166	Homosassa Springs	137	1	117	118	86.13%				
0210	Ocala	12	0	8	8	66.67%				
0230	Hawthorne	28	4	22	26	92.86%				
0236	Bronson	52	0	41	41	78.85%				
0237	Beverly Hills	179	0	165	165	92.18%				
0284	Belleview	84	2	67	69	82.14%				
	TOTALS	998	15	831	846	84.77%				

	DISTRICT 5							
UNIT	СІТУ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0009	Jacksonville	51	3	40	43	84.31%		
0054	Fernandina Beach	177	3	127	130	73.45%		
0088	Jacksonville	81	1	68	69	85.19%		
0129	Jacksonville Beach	386	9	259	268	69.43%		
0137	Jacksonville	464	14	322	336	72.41%		
0194	St Augustine	78	2	49	51	65.38%		
0197	Jacksonville	40	0	14	14	35.00%		
0202	Keystone Heights	55	0	52	52	94.55%		
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	163	31	108	139	85.28%		
0244	Jacksonville	27	0	11	11	40.74%		
0250	Middleburg	307	28	221	249	81.11%		
0283	Jacksonville	473	8	359	367	77.59%		
0316	Atlantic Beach	356	44	261	305	85.67%		
0372	Mandarin	28	1	25	26	92.86%		
0373	Orange Park	30	1	16	17	56.67%		
0401	Hilliard	49	1	38	39	79.59%		
	TOTALS	2765	146	1970	2116	76.53%		

	DISTRICT 6								
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0010	Kissimmee	204	2	181	183	89.71%			
0018	Wildwood	13	0	11	11	84.62%			
0019	Orlando	106	5	77	82	77.36%			
0035	Mount Dora	156	1	109	110	70.51%			
0041	Eustis	12	0	12	12	100.00%			
0053	Sanford	70	0	29	29	41.43%			
0055	Clermont	191	4	172	176	92.15%			
0063	Winter Garden	37	0	12	12	32.43%			
0080	Saint Cloud	253	17	194	211	83.40%			
0101	Bushnell	136	0	89	89	65.44%			
0109	Ocoee	16	2	9	11	68.75%			
0112	Winter Park	24	2	20	22	91.67%			
0183	Fern Park	108	5	80	85	78.70%			
0219	Fruitland Park	208	2	175	177	85.10%			
0242	Orlando	117	7	83	90	76.92%			
0286	Orlando	178	5	134	139	78.09%			
0330	Leesburg	60	1	53	54	90.00%			
0331	Orlando	18	0	12	12	66.67%			
0347	Lady Lake	2601	10	2198	2208	84.89%			
0412	Orlando	14	2	10	12	85.71%			
	TOTALS	4522	65	3660	3725	82.38%			

DISTRICT 7									
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0003	Bartow	90	0	61	61	67.78%			
0004	Lakeland	71	3	45	48	67.61%			
8000	Winter Haven	581	10	492	502	86.40%			
0015	Dade City	26	0	15	15	57.69%			
0034	Haines City	84	0	64	64	76.19%			
0071	Lake Wales	45	0	30	30	66.67%			
0072	Mulberry	163	7	129	136	83.44%			
0201	Florence Villa	33	1	17	18	54.55%			
	TOTALS 1093 21 853 874 79.96%								

	DISTRICT 8								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0011	Arcadia	31	9	22	31	100.00%			
0024	Bradenton	330	12	283	295	89.39%			
0025	Lake Placid	357	0	295	295	82.63%			
0030	Sarasota	78	9	54	63	80.77%			
0069	Avon Park	661	14	484	498	75.34%			
0074	Sebring	111	0	107	107	96.40%			
0113	Rotonda West	315	3	256	259	82.22%			
0159	Venice	663	3	546	549	82.81%			
0254	North Port	122	0	95	95	77.87%			
0266	Fruitville	144	3	91	94	65.28%			
0309	Palmetto	173	2	144	146	84.39%			
0312	Oneco	255	0	137	137	53.73%			
0325	Ellenton	194	1	162	163	84.02%			
	TOTALS	3434	56	2676	2732	79.56%			

	DISTRICT 9									
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT				
0036	Ft Lauderdale	31	1	28	29	93.55%				
0092	Hollywood	93	2	81	83	89.25%				
0142	Pompano Beach	179	8	147	155	86.59%				
0157	Margate	186	7	124	131	70.43%				
0162	Deerfield Beach	173	14	118	132	76.30%				
0180	Fort Lauderdale	106	3	95	98	92.45%				
0209	Dania Beach	17	0	14	14	82.35%				
0220	Ft Lauderdale	31	8	18	26	83.87%				
0222	Fort Lauderdale	35	0	21	21	60.00%				
0287	Deerfield Beach	15	0	3	3	20.00%				
0304	Dania	64	0	40	40	62.50%				
0310	Hallandale	36	0	23	23	63.89%				
0321	Cooper City	215	33	144	177	82.33%				
0365	Sunrise	12	0	12	12	100.00%				
	TOTALS 1193 76 868 944 79.13%									



	DISTRICT 11									
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT				
0020	Belle Glade	46	2	28	30	65.22%				
0047	Lake Worth	81	2	55	57	70.37%				
0062	Stuart	524	3	478	481	91.79%				
0064	Okeechobee	130	1	98	99	76.15%				
0065	Delray Beach	53	4	41	45	84.91%				
0141	West Palm Beach	79	5	61	66	83.54%				
0164	Boynton Beach	147	5	115	120	81.63%				
0199	W Palm Beach	42	0	19	19	45.24%				
0268	Riviera Beach	87	15	55	70	80.46%				
0271	Tequesta	156	7	133	140	89.74%				
0277	Boca Raton	105	0	80	80	76.19%				
0288	Boynton Beach	27	10	10	20	74.07%				
0367	Royal Palm Beach	36	3	18	21	58.33%				
	TOTALS	1513	57	1191	1248	82.49%				

DISTRICT 12							
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT	
0001	Titusville	301	14	233	247	82.06%	
0022	Cocoa	90	0	72	72	80.00%	
0039	Vero Beach	179	4	130	134	74.86%	
0040	Fort Pierce	183	1	147	148	80.87%	
0081	Melbourne	174	2	155	157	90.23%	
0117	Palm Bay	521	14	421	435	83.49%	
0126	Jensen Beach	210	1	142	143	68.10%	
0163	Eau Gallie	239	4	185	189	79.08%	
0171	Fort Pierce	14	0	14	14	100.00%	
0189	Sebastian	149	0	136	136	91.28%	
0191	Melbourne	84	13	55	68	80.95%	
0200	Satellite Beach	180	8	135	143	79.44%	
0318	Port St Lucie	911	4	920	924	101.43%	
0344	Merritt Island	45	9	28	37	82.22%	
0348	Cape Canaveral	184	0	178	178	96.74%	
0358	White City	64	0	52	52	81.25%	
0359	Port St John	332	6	274	280	84.34%	
0366	Barefoot Bay	69	23	40	63	91.30%	
0394	Palm Bay	174	4	154	158	90.80%	
0410	Viera	13	0	8	8	61.54%	
	TOTALS	4116	107	3479	3586	87.12%	

DISTRICT 13								
UNIT CITY GOAL JR SR TOTAL PERCENT								
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	29	29	78.38%		
0090	Cape Coral	272	5	228	233	85.66%		
0103	Punta Gorda	506	2	502	504	99.60%		
0110	Port Charlotte	601	9	482	491	81.70%		
0123	Sanibel	53	0	27	27	50.94%		
0130	Labelle	149	0	118	118	79.19%		
0135	Naples	352	1	296	297	84.38%		
0136	Saint James City	466	9	399	408	87.55%		
0192	Fort Myers	22	2	16	18	81.82%		
0274	Fort Myers Beach	574	1	437	438	76.31%		
0303	Bonita Springs	392	7	337	344	87.76%		
0323	Lehigh Acres	438	31	308	339	77.40%		
0336	N Ft Myers	373	1	341	342	91.69%		
0351	Fort Myers	92	3	77	80	86.96%		
TOTALS 4327 71 3597 3668 84.77%								

DISTRICT 14								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0028	Key West	61	0	47	47	77.05%		
0031	South Miami	186	5	138	143	76.88%		
0043	Homestead	69	3	39	42	60.87%		
0067	North Miami	49	2	24	26	53.06%		
0098	Coral Gables	22	0	14	14	63.64%		
0133	Miami	71	5	45	50	70.42%		
0154	Marathon	171	1	101	102	59.65%		
0168	Key West	13	0	14	14	107.69%		
0333	Key Largo	79	0	53	53	67.09%		
0346	Miami	19	0	13	13	68.42%		
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	35	35	83.33%		
	TOTALS 782 16 523 539 68.93%							

	DISTRICT 16							
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0007	Clearwater	273	0	191	191	69.96%		
0014	St Petersburg	115	3	92	95	82.61%		
0079	New Port Richey	470	21	339	360	76.60%		
0104	Pinellas Park	244	8	206	214	87.70%		
0119	Largo	355	18	294	312	87.89%		
0125	St Petersburg	291	5	234	239	82.13%		
0158	Treasure Island	272	0	187	187	68.75%		
0173	Holiday	261	2	207	209	80.08%		
0238	Safety Harbor	278	8	216	224	80.58%		
0252	Seminole	1027	10	896	906	88.22%		
0273	Madeira Beach	3181	6	2907	2913	91.57%		
0275	Dunedin	874	5	810	815	93.25%		
0305	St Pete Beach	125	1	131	132	105.60%		
0335	Hudson	69	4	59	63	91.30%		
	TOTALS 7835 91 6769 6860 87.56%							

DISTRICT 15								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0005	Tampa	42	1	33	34	80.95%		
0099		0	1	11	12	#DIV/0!		
0111	Tampa	61	0	44	44	72.13%		
0138	Tampa	453	6	383	389	85.87%		
0139	Tampa	99	0	48	48	48.48%		
0147	Odessa	41	1	38	39	95.12%		
0148	Riverview	216	5	169	174	80.56%		
0152	Tampa	256	10	202	212	82.81%		
0167	Tampa	24	1	7	8	33.33%		
0186	Brooksville	400	1	308	309	77.25%		
0248	West Tampa	22	1	12	13	59.09%		
0248	West Tampa	25	1	20	21	84.00%		
TOTALS 1614 27 1255 1282 79.43%								

DISTRICT 17							
UNIT	СІТУ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT	
0006	Deland	89	0	81	81	91.01%	
0017	New Smyrna Beach	165	0	156	156	94.55%	
0045	Palatka	41	0	27	27	65.85%	
0115	Palm Coast	41	0	30	30	73.17%	
0120	HollyHill	218	4	193	197	90.37%	
0127	Lake Helen	26	4	14	18	69.23%	
0204	Daytona Beach	21	0	0	0	0.00%	
0255	Deltona	30	6	17	23	76.67%	
0259	Debary	23	0	17	17	73.91%	
0267	Ormond Beach	194	5	197	202	104.12%	
0270	Port Orange	179	0	145	145	81.01%	
0285	Edgewater	105	2	87	89	84.76%	
0361	S Daytona	212	8	152	160	75.47%	
TOTALS 1344 29 1116 1145 85.19%							



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida

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