

VOLUME XI • ISSUE 9 • APRIL 2022
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT WANDA BRANDT



FEATURED:

Department President
Girls State

APRIL



This Month's Featured



3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Wanda Brandt



8 GIRLS STATE Irma Wehrli

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Mission Statement

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

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

Upcoming Events April 2022

2	District 5 Juniors and Young SAL Members
	Military Child Table Setting Presentation
2	Free Breakfast Unit 164
2	Military Childs Table Presentation Unit 316
7	Military Child Table Setup Unit 5
9	Children & Youth Golf Tournament and Picnic
9	District 14 Girls State Orientation
9	District 16 Girls State Orientation
9	District 17 Girls State Orientation
9	District 17 Meeting
9	District 6 Girls State Orientation
9	District 8 Girls State Orientation
9	Northern Area Ball
10	District 9 Girls State Orientation
16	Dept Commander's & President's Homecoming
23	District 1 Girls State Orientation
23	District 12 Girls State Orientation
23	District 13 Girls State Orientation
23	District 4 Girls State Orientation
23	District 6 Girls State Orientation
30	District 2 Constitutional Conference
30	District 3 Girls State Orientation
30	District 9 Constitutional Conference
30	Eastern Area Ball

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 photos to *Conch Charter*? alafli.org/submit
secretary@alafli.org

President's Message

WANDA BRANDT



APRIL Showers Bring May Flowers

This year is almost over, not sure where the year went, I will have visit ever unit accept one within the State of Florida. It has been a blast and had lots of laughs and it has also been a whirlwind year.

I want to say THANK YOU!!! to the ALA member for taking the time to complete the survey, this will help national determine the needs and wishes of our members as we serve our mission. Florida was number #1 in the nation. Way to go!

In my travels I have had several members comment about the fact that those within their District positions are the same people keep who keep serving over and over – and no one else is ever asked or encouraged to run. My response to that comment and the point I want to get across to everyone now is this:

If you're interested in a position – at any level – step forward and say you're interested. Let the incoming President (Unit, District, Department) know what position you're interested in. I don't know any mind readers in the Department ... so speak up! I know we have a lot of members out there who have the knowledge and ability to serve in different positions. Please step up to the plate. Thanks for everything you do for our great organization

A note from National: *Keep Our Troops Safe* **Use caution on social media**

As an organization created to care for our military and veterans, we feel it's our duty to ask that you don't violate OPSEC (operations security) in your social media posts while the unrest in Europe continues to unfold. Social posts that refer to troop movement — like details on a military unit's location, personnel names, ranks, or other IDs, and especially dates, times of flight arrivals, and departures — have the potential to critically and negatively affect our deploying

military. We're right there with you in supporting servicemembers heading overseas, but please make sure you're not posting content that could harm them.

Unfortunately, we can't control what external media sources post ... but we can make the right decision to not share.

April 17-23 is National Volunteer Week **Five Creative Volunteer Recognition Ideas**

Every April, we celebrate National Volunteer Week — a time to recognize the power of volunteers and their profound impact on advancing important social issues, improving our communities and changing our world. But a successful volunteer management plan requires more than one week of gratitude. Nonprofit leaders and organizations must make volunteers feel valued 365 days a year. Use these volunteer recognition ideas to jump-start your creativity in showing volunteer appreciation — during National Volunteer Week and year-round.

Five Volunteer Recognition Ideas

1. **SEND A DIFFERENT KIND OF THANK-YOU MESSAGE:** While hand-written notes are nice, nothing beats true gratitude from the individuals and families your volunteers help you serve. Capture a 30 or 60-second video message (smart phone works great) from one of your constituents thanking the volunteer by name and sharing how their support has personally impacted them. Send it in an email with a note on behalf of your organization.
2. **TELL THEIR EMPLOYER:** If your volunteer is using their skills and talents to help advance your mission, consider sending an email or letter to their employer sharing how their expertise is improving your community.
3. **MAKE THEIR VALUE VIRAL:** Recognize your volunteers with a short story on your social media channels that their friends and family can share to brag on their loved one. Being recognized by peers means a lot and is an easy and inexpensive way to

President continued on page 4 >>

make your volunteers feel special.

4. **REPLACE THE PLAQUE WITH A PERSONAL KEEPSAKE:** No one needs or wants another plaque or paper certificate to stuff in a drawer, attic box or (gasp) the trash. Instead, consider giving your volunteers something special to display in their home or office, like a piece of art created by one of the individuals you serve (e.g., framed drawing or painting). This is especially meaningful when it comes from a child, person with disabilities, etc. A personal message on the back adds even more meaning.
5. **DO SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE:** Although it's wonderful to have an occasion like National Volunteer Week, it's most special when you receive a thank-you out of the blue. Surprise your volunteer during a time when they aren't expecting it with a \$10 gift card with a note, flowers or another modest gesture of gratitude.

Please, keep up the good work you do within the Community, for our Veterans and our Children.

Awards, Awards, Awards

By now you should have your reports sent to District

This is the time you need to speak out and brag on your Unit and what you all have done for our organization. It is the time to speak out and received the Awards you deserve.

Apply for them, Your Unit, has EARN them, put in the paperwork so you can receive them, you should have received an example package with this information available and you all deserve them.

In May & June I will talk on my travels within the District and you will hear rest of the story at convention.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Month of the Military Child
- April 5th Gold Star Spouses Day
- April 9th National Former POW Recognition Day
- April 15th Purple up Day
- April 17th Easter
- April 23rd Army Reserve Birthday
- April 30th National Military Brats Day

I hope to see all of you in my travels.



Catch the Wave

I was surfing the internet and found some interesting information on music.

Scientists found 15 amazing benefits of listening to music.

1. Music makes you happier
2. Music enhances running performances
3. Music lowers stress and improves health
4. Music helps you sleep better
5. Music recues depression
6. Music helps you eat less
7. Music elevates your mood while driving
8. Music strengthens learning and memory
9. Music relaxes patients before/after surgery
10. Music reduces pain
11. Music helps Alzheimer's patients remember
12. Music improves recovery in stroke patients
13. Music increases verbal intelligence
14. Music raises IQ and academic performances
15. Music keeps your brain healthy in Old age

"Music is powerful. As people listen to it, they can be affected. They respond"

-Ray Charles

Surfing Music

O	F	E	N	I	L	E	P	I	P	K	G	Z	A	G	I	L	U	D	F
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Y	O	U	P	N	G	R	X	X	G	D	W	L	C	T	I	I	G	F	O
A	M	R	S	T	I	S	U	R	F	I	N	S	A	F	A	R	I	W	Y

BAJA

CATCHAWAVE

LETSGO

SURFERGIRL

MRMOTO

SURFINSAFARI

STOKED

LETSGOTRIPPIN

SURFJAM

RIDETHEWILDSURF

WIPEOUT

SURFINUSA

MISIRLOU

PIPELINE

GHOSTWAVE

SURFERJOE

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

COMMANDER JERRY & PRESIDENT WANDA

Please join us as we celebrate the Homecoming

SAT. APRIL 16, 2022

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

Attire: Elegant Dress

COCKTAILS • 5PM

DINNER • 6PM

**Hotel: Legion Homecoming
cutoff date April 1.**

•Holiday Inn & Suites, Lake City \$129
1-800-465-4329

•TRU by Hilton \$ 155
1-386-259-6640

**PROCEEDS: MY WARRIOR PLACE &
PROJECT:VET RELIEF**

Chef Terry Menu

Roasted Prime Rib with au jus
Tenderized & Hand Rolled Chicken Cordon
Bleu

Entertainment by A1A

Name:

Number of Guest:_____

Prime Rib ____ **Chicken** ____

**Tickets: \$40.00 or 2/for
\$75.00, cutoff date April 6.**

Mail: Mary Ellen Bolin

10 Marsh Dr

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-2637

**American Legion Department of Florida
Commander and President Homecoming
Program Ads**

Advertising

Full Page	\$75.00
½ Page	\$40.00

Business Name: _____

Point of Contact: _____

Phone#: _____

E-mail: _____

Amt. Paid: _____ Cash: _____ Check# _____

Business Signature: _____

All Advertisement must be submitted by April 1st, 2022

Forward Advertisements to Jeff Durden,

Email: jagucane@aol.com

Make All Checks Payable to:

American Legion Post 129

1151 4th Street South

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

ATTN: Jim Wineman

Mobile: (904) 707-0733

Email: jimwineland@att.net

Girls State

IRMA WEHRLI



Girls State June 7 – 15, 2022

This coming Girls State session hopefully will be back to how we did Girls State before the pandemic. We need to stay in contact with our delegates and alternates. We need to make sure they know where and when their

Orientation is being held. If there is a conflict with the Orientation date being held in your District, please find another location for them to attend. A parent or guardian must attend with each Girls State delegate or alternant to be eligible for this session of Girls State. If you keep in contact hopefully, we will avoid any unforeseen reason that would keep them from attending. If the delegates in your district ride a bus, make sure they know the time and location for their pick-up. This year we will arrive on a Tuesday and depart on the following Wednesday. Girls State is a program that you do a lot of hands-on work. Please remember to give your delegates some money for

they can purchase items from the Girls State Store like hoodies, shirts, etc. They also may purchase pictures of their session. If you would like to get more involved in the program, please download your counselor staff application from our Department website and get it into Department. A background check must be conducted. Department will send you the information on how to accomplish this. You may have a talent that could be used at Girls State. So, please share your talents with our program. Make sure you mail in your report to your District Girls State Chairman. This will allow your District to compile the information and send it into the Girls State Department Chairman. Sending in your information is very important to our program. If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at 386 755-3814 home and cell at 386 397-6966. Email is girlstate@alafl.org or iwehrli@bellsouth.net. I thank all of you for your continued support and hard work for this wonderful program. Girls State is great! **Service Not Self**

Americanism

LIZ CLOSE



Many of our auxiliary members have stepped up and contributed mightily to the Americanism Program this year. Thank you for expressing your interest in the “Star-Spangled Kids” Americanism

Tool Box Contest, posting on the ALAFL Americanism Facebook page (and the many other informative Facebook pages), participation in school activities bringing attention to our Mission statement along with knowledge of our flag and who, what, where, why, and when we matter.

This year’s 2022 “Americanism” Essay Contest titled, “How can we support families who provide care to their veterans?” has had a great outpouring of support. I received many submissions in every class. The hard work that has been done by Florida units this year has made all our Auxiliary programs shine. Thank you for taking the time to make sure that both our youth,

which is our future, and our citizens know just how patriotic our organization is and how we engage with our military both at home and abroad at a time like this. We indeed stand with the American flag and our veterans.

Important Fly Your Flag days include:

- Mother’s Day – Second Sunday in May.
- Armed Forces Day – Third Saturday in May.
- Memorial Day (half-staff until noon) Last Monday in May.
- Flag Day – June 14. Father’s Day – Third Sunday in June. Independence Day – July 4th.

Participate in parades, Easter activities, Legion baseball and wear your branding whenever possible.

If I can be of any assistance, please let me know by contacting me at - americanism@alafl.org.

Juniors

DARA OLIVER



What A Great Turn-Out!
11 ALA Florida Juniors attended
The National Juniors Meeting
held in the Southern Division in
Orlando on February 12, 2022
at Wyndham Orlando Resort in
Kissimmee. The meeting coincided

with Senior members attending Mission Training
so President: Wanda Brandt and FL Jr. Activities
Chairman: Dara Oliver got in a photo with the Juniors.
It was an amazing opportunity and experience for the
girls.



A Junior from Louisiana & 1 from Georgia along with
the Florida Juniors enjoyed the meeting as well as
learned cheers, songs, games and a lot about the ALA.
The girls participated in some great activities such as:
folding the American Flag, completed a service project
of making "survival" bags for caregivers of Veterans
and performed the Military Childs table.



The Girls had the opportunity to work on the Junior



earned the leadership patch and the
poppy patch.



The entire meeting was
run by our very own
Jasmine Harris, who
is currently Florida's
Honorary Department
Jr. Vice President and is
serving her 2nd term as
the Honorary National
Junior Southern
Division Vice President.
Jasmine's predecessor,
Delaney Enya Oliver,
was asked by the
National staff to call in

on zoom and address the girls about membership and
Florida ALA Girls State.

It was a great Junior meeting and the girls had a
blast learning as well as getting to know some Senior
Dignitaries by asking for their autographs.



30 Ways to Improve Your Mindset for a Better You

Learning to pivot in times like these is critical to the survival of our personal health, wealth, and happiness. I want to discuss ways to strengthen these three pillars today. Let me preface my suggestions, by first explaining that it starts and stops with you. This means that what you feed your mind, body, and soul on a daily basis count, especially now.

Keep in mind that your family will respond the way you respond during this unprecedented time. Seeing you take charge of your mindset and moving forward with positive, purposeful action, is what your family and friends need most from you. You can be this example, even if you are amongst the unemployed, the scared, and the worried—but you must first flip your personal narrative.

Remember when I mentioned pivot?

There are 2 options. You can choose to utilize this time to grow your skillset and lay the foundation for the future that you never thought you would have to prepare for, or you can sit back and let the hungry attack, while you wallow. You are more. You are needed by someone, and that someone needs you to show up as the best version of yourself. If you can't scrounge up the courage to do it for you, do it for them.

Ways to improve your mental and physical health, wealth, and happiness:

1. List out 5 things you are grateful for each morning when you wake up.
2. Make your bed. Start the day with this small win.
3. Say no to something that isn't a priority for you.
4. Get outside and feel the sun on your skin.
5. Take a shower, put on a nice outfit, and if you're a lady reader — do your hair and makeup. Trust me, it makes all the difference!
6. Make time for self-reflection. Meet yourself where you are within this moment.
7. Meditate via a YouTube video or app.
8. Literally flip the narrative on a negative thought process. (ex. I can't do that – Instead: I can't do that yet; however, if I do a, b, and c, I can certainly master that)
9. Listen to an uplifting/motivational song, podcast, our YouTube video to get you pumped for the day. Millions of people have endured duress and poverty equal to that caused by this crisis and gone on to become some of the most successful people in the world. Internalize their story, their thought process, and then work on molding your own.
10. Find an online exercise program or app that fits your physique goals. I recommend joining a group that offers a community platform, such as a FB group or LIVE workout classes if possible.
11. Fix yourself a cup of coffee or tea and read a book or magazine just because. Let your mind run wild.
12. Put your phone out of reach completely during meals with your family.
13. Change your screensaver to one that motivates you to kick it into high gear every time you see it.
14. If you have a moment of weakness and feel depressive, low-frequency vibes, imagine what you would tell a friend who is in the same situation. Listen to yourself, like you would listen to a friend!
15. Imagine your dream life and build your road map to get there. Put pen to paper and think about how you would approach your dream, if fear was not in the equation.

16. Call and catch up with your family members and friends. There's nothing sweeter than hearing someone you love, tell you they understand what you are growing through – and that they support you! You are never alone. Don't act like it.
17. Do something you used to love doing as a kid (ex. Take a nature walk, but implement social distancing while doing so)
18. Find a FB group of like-minded people who all do something that you love (ex. If you love gardening, find a gardening group and start making friends and learning new ways to practice your craft.
19. Attend a live concert hosted by your favorite musician/band. Hey, you don't even have to get out of your jammies this time!
20. Complete meal prep as a family or utilize a meal prep service that has COVID-19 practices in place. Think of the time it will save to have your meals ready to go during a crazy day of homeschooling the kids or learning how to take your job completely remote. Your health is worth the prior planning.
21. As Keith Klein always says...Make better bad choices when you want to treat yourself to a yummy snack. It's easy to gain the quarantine 15, but you needn't be in that group. (ex. Have a cheat meal or dessert instead of a cheat day without planning any of your meals)
22. Connect with someone online who does the work that you wish you were doing. Ask them about how they developed their skillset and snagged the job!
23. Take a FREE course/certification online to grow your skillset and your resume. Just Google it! Numerous colleges are offering FREE courses and certifications with people stuck at home social distancing. Who knows, you may discover an even more profitable talent that you have!
24. Start an online business/offer your talents to others in order to make extra money (ex. I am in the process of building a health/life insurance and financial services agency entirely online, as I know that I can continue to serve clients and their families for years to come. I am using this time to hire and train my team, since I am not traveling for my other job. Once trained, my producers will be able to run the business from their homes, whether I am working with them that day or not. I found an opportunity with a low barrier to entry (take exam, pay minimal fees, attend plethora of trainings) and amazing growth potential. The rest comes down to how hard I work at it, and I am willing to bet on myself.)
25. Write down one thing to celebrate and let yourself FEEL that happiness.
26. Reconnect with an old friend. Who knows, they may have a network of friends and coworkers who have just the right next opportunity for you if you are job hunting! We are all in this together!
27. Write a love letter to yourself. What would a loved one say about you? Feel yourself speaking that narrative into your mind as you write.
28. 28. Take a guilt-free power nap, then pop back up and get started again.
29. Get up to watch the sunrise or watch the sunset. Appreciate the beauty that still exists, even during these crazy times.
30. Pack a picnic lunch and go outside and eat. Even if it just in your backyard.

Wrapping it Up

Y-O-U have the power to be anyone you want to be, if you can first locate the courage to jump in—no matter how terrifying. It truly is about finding your tribe and lifting one another up. Social media has created a very effective platform for us to do this, while under restrictions. Wishing you nothing but health, wealth, and happiness for years to come!

The who what when where and why of American Legion Auxiliary Foundation grants



By now, you've probably heard that the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation has grants, but you might be wondering – who are they for, what can they be used for, when should I apply, and why do they exist?

Who: ALA Foundation grants are for ALA entities – so your unit, district/county, or department can apply! One note: You must be in good standing with the IRS to receive funding.

What: ALA Foundation grants are not what you might think of when you hear the word “grant.” They aren't long, 30-page documents that will take you months to complete. In most cases, they're just a few pages of information, and if you ever need help along the way, you can reach out to ALAFoundation@ALAforVeterans.org with questions. Additional qualifications and answers to frequently asked

questions can be found at www.ALAFoundation.org/grants.

The ALA Foundation offers four different types of grants to support a variety of mission-related projects:

Veteran Projects Fund grants:

If your Auxiliary unit, district/county, or department identifies a new, one-time need for your local veterans or active military, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veteran Projects Fund may be able to lend a helping hand.

Last year, Veteran Projects Fund grants provided patio furniture for a veterans home in Alaska, replaced broken kitchen appliances at a female veterans

homeless shelter in Kentucky, and helped purchase Echo Show technology for blind center residents at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Illinois. All of these projects, and many more, allowed for the continued service of our nation's heroes, despite the challenges brought on by a global pandemic.

Veterans Creative Arts Festival grants:

The purpose of the Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF) Grants is to aid in the well-being of veterans by introducing them to art therapy. If your ALA unit or department hosts a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival or offers art therapy courses that feed into the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, grant funds may be awarded for needs that contribute to these efforts.

Three VCAF grants were awarded last year, benefiting the marketing efforts of a festival at White River Junction VA medical center in Vermont, improving the quality of awards and recognition given to veteran participants in Syracuse, N.Y., and providing art supplies and certificates to veterans at the Grand Island VA Medical Center in Nebraska.

Mission in Action grants:

The ALA Foundation wants to help members brand their programs to ensure the ALA is recognizable in the community for all of their good works. Whether it's storage totes to transport items to a local food pantry, a branded vehicle or trailer to deliver meals to homeless veterans, or signage and banners for your department's ALA Girls State program, the Mission in Action grant will help you work the mission while promoting the organization behind it all.

To grow their presence and impact, 10 units and departments received Mission in Action grants last year. These grants helped brand a cargo trailer to haul materials to Auxiliary events in Missouri, branded tents, banners, and table covers for local festivals and parades in Nevada, showed the impact the ALA has through branded banners and storage containers at ALA Michigan Girls State, and more.

Subgrants:

American Legion Auxiliary units, districts/counties, or departments that have identified a source for grant funding from a foundation or corporation that requires the recipient to be a 501(c)(3) can have the ALA Foundation serve as the recipient. The ALA Foundation then, in turn, will sub-grant the full amount to the unit, district/county, or department according to the terms and conditions of the grantor.

ALA units and departments worked hard last year to bring in money from all different revenue sources. Subgrants helped play a major role for 12 ALA entities. Supporting everything from Quilts of Valor projects, to local military children scholarships, or veteran camps, subgrants can truly make an impact on any mission-related project your unit might be undertaking.

When: You can apply anytime – applications are accepted on a rolling basis. However, ALA Foundation board members meet quarterly (January, April, July, and October) to consider applications, so be sure to time your application with your project or event date in mind. Due dates for the next review cycle are always posted on the ALA Foundation's website.

Where: Applications can now be submitted online via Formstack! We recommend composing your answers in a Microsoft Word document, and then saving them there in case you need to fill out your online application over a few days' time.

Why: The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation exists to ensure the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary thrives for years to come. These grants are a large part of the effort to assist ALA entities in projects that support their local veterans, military, and their families.

Read more about ALA Foundation grants, or get started on your application today at www.ALAFoundation.org/grants.





Town and Country Memorial Unit 152

Welcomes our 2021 – 2022

National President

Kathy Daudistel

#TogetherWeServe

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Cocktails at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Menu

Appetizer - Stuffed Mushrooms

Salad

Chicken Piccata 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: 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: _____

of Tickets _____ x \$20.00 = Total Due \$ _____

Chicken Marsala: _____ Prime Rib: _____

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

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 - nnkokafl@gmail.com 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





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**



PROJECT: VETRELIEF

They Fought for Us. We Fight for Them.

Florida Happenings



District 2 - ABC School was held on March 5th at Lanark Village hosted by Unit 82 with 26 Auxiliary members in attendance. Everyone enjoyed this wonderful day filled with fun participation and great presentation by instructor Linda Knoblach-Harkness from District 1.



District 6 - 6th Dist C&Y Chair Patsy Sewell, 6th Dist Sec Penny Kanbara, 6th District President Paula Fox, President Wanda, Dept Parliamentarian PDP TK Wildrick, 17th District President Toni Ellsworth and model Matt 'Sparkles' Blanton.



District 6 - President Wanda with models of the Old Glory Unit 183 Purse Auction



District 6 - Penny Kanbara presenting President Wanda with female Homeless Hero kit.



Unit 125 - St. Petersburg Grand Prix pit crew and volunteers visited American Legion Post 125 Gulfport. Pictured are members of the pit crew, auxiliary members, Unit 125 President, Donna Anderson and District 15 President. Eileen Wilson.



Unit 5- On Tuesday February 22, 2022 American Legion Post 5 Family came together to give their final goodbye to their Post Commander Gerard Abbett.

Funeral services were at Bushnell Veterans National Cemetery and the Celebration of life was held at Veterans Memorial Park in Tampa Florida. Many of the American Legion Post 5 family attended both ceremonies to this wonderful man, who was a Vietnam Veteran, he had received two Purple Heart medals due to injuries. Gerard was a devoted American who was always helping our Veterans and Military, and the community. He will be missed by many. At the Celebration of life several of the Unit 5 Auxiliary members came together to help with the set up of tables. One unit member made Purple Heart cookies and another brought a purple rose cake that was enjoyed by the many guests who attended. Chicken and Pulled pork sliders were provided by the Post.

Beloved wife Lori, daughter Nicole and their entire family were grateful for all the support they received.



District 15- February 21, 2022 was the first day of Department President Wanda's visit to the 15th District. It started off with a visit with some mermaids at Weeki Watchee Springs, located in Hernando County with members from different Auxiliary units of the district. (With Wanda's theme of mermaids and riding the wave it was a wonderful choice which was made. That same day there was a visit to unit 99 Brooksville, and also Unit 139 Tampa Florida, and it was ended with being in attendance at Unit 152 Town and Country schedule Monday Auxiliary meeting for the installations of new officers. The officers were installed by Department Wanda.



District 15- My Warriors Place located in Ruskin Florida was a must see visit for the Dept. President Wanda's visit to the 15 District especially being one of her projects for the 2021-2022 year. On Tuesday February 22 Auxiliary members from various units within the district joined in for a tour of Warriors Place with owner Kelly Kowall. The same day there were visits to Unit 148 Riverview and also 186 Brooksville



Unit 130 - PDP Linda Teasley shows PDP Shirley Fraser the new flag disposal container made by high school students for The American Legion Post 130 LaBelle. PDP Shirley was visiting the post and instructing an ABC class



Unit 270 - Junior member Piper Amato of Unit 270 presented a check to Unit President Shirley Fraser on the left and Unit Treasurer Sue Pearce in the amount of \$50. She Fraser funds for her project which is for the animal shelter in Edgewater.



District 15- Last day of President Wanda's visit to the 15th District was on February 23, 2022. One of the photos is a visit to Hillsborough Veterans Memorial Park, Tampa Florida several units join in along with the Central area Commander Bruce Carl and received a guided tour of all Memorial Monuments and were given information on the dedicated date and story behind each monument by the office manager and the parks public relations person Marti Ryan. Next stop was to Hugh Gilbert Strickland American Legion Post 138, Tampa Florida where she was greeted by some pirates and had a wonderful meal and visit with Unit 138 members plus others from another unit where also in attendance.

How to Get Members to Renew

Too often the only contact a member receives is her “dues renewal notice” sent by the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters office. Personal connection is necessary to help members become engaged in the organization. Below are samples for how units can reach out and make a personal connection with their members and ask them to renew their membership:

- **Personal phone call:** Remind members why they joined the American Legion Auxiliary. Share the ways your unit has made a difference in the lives of veterans in your community, state, and country. Encourage them to become a part of activities. Transportation may be an issue, so if your unit members can offer to provide a ride, this may be the key to increasing involvement. Offer to pick up their dues at a scheduled time.
- **Personal letter:** Send letters out to all of your members at the beginning of the Auxiliary year. Outline the events on a calendar for all of the exciting things your unit is planning throughout the year and let members know that their membership is important to the mission of the organization. To view a sample letter, visit www.ALForVeterans.org/ and click on “how to get members to renew on the lefthand side.”
- **Renewal Open House:** Host an event at the beginning of the year where members can come renew their dues and mingle with other members. Encourage them to bring other family members along. These family members may be eligible for membership, but if not, remind them they are welcome to attend activities and that you do welcome their help in advancing the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Combine this event with your Legion Family. It is a win-win for everyone.
- **Plan a Member Day of Recognition:** Everyone needs a pat on the back or a “way to go.” At your meetings, you can share information about a member’s family history with the Auxiliary, what she is doing to advance the mission of the Auxiliary, her community service work, etc. Then share this information with your division membership chairman so we can begin to share her accomplishments with the entire American Legion Auxiliary membership.
- **Share your own personal experience as a member:** Let your members know there will be ups and downs, but to always keep their eye on the big picture – the mission of the Auxiliary – not just personal rewards.

For more tools and tips on American Legion Auxiliary membership, visit www.ALForVeterans.org/.



Membership

CANDACE MABRY



When you wish upon a STARfish...

Your membership dreams will come true

April Showers bring May flowers but won't deter the Department of Florida reaching 100%. We had a great push in March and as of this article being written, we have 39 Units at or above 100%, 54 Units at or above 90% and 55 Units at or above 80% - so radical.

Let's don't forget our District Challenges! To date District 12 is leading District 6, District 11 is squeaking by District 9, District 4 is beating District 2, District 17 is commanding District 5, District 7 is squirting by District 15, District 1 is stinging District 3, District 13 is leaping over District 8, and District 16 is jumping over District 14. There is still time so keep up the good work!



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.

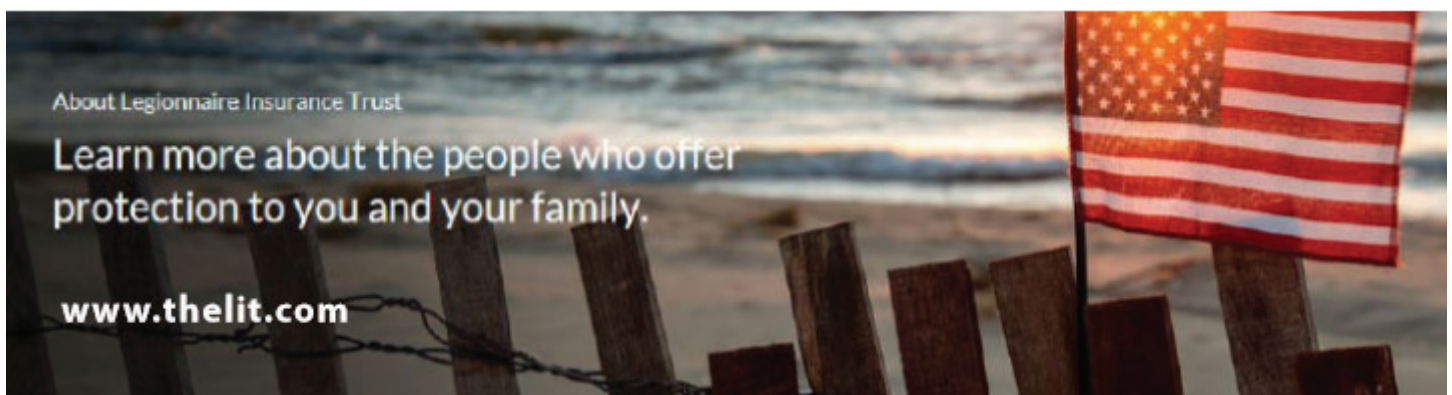
- Did your Unit do any revitalizations where the entire American Legion Family was invited to participate?

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.



Membership Reports

MARCH 25, 2022

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	215	3	202	205	95.35%
0078	Milton	13	0	4	4	30.77%
0193	Pensacola	75	14	53	67	89.33%
0221	Niceville	105	0	110	110	104.76%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	145	1	122	123	84.83%
0240	Pensacola	249	6	221	227	91.16%
0296	Destin	60	1	69	70	116.67%
0340	Pensacola	355	8	298	306	86.20%
0356	Lynn Haven	139	0	132	132	94.96%
0375	Southport	49	1	35	36	73.47%
0378	Gulf Breeze	49	0	38	38	77.55%
0382	Navarre	149	3	156	159	106.71%
0392	Panama City	184	2	147	149	80.98%
0402	Panama City Beach	38	0	39	39	102.63%
TOTALS		1825	39	1626	1665	91.23%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	27	0	26	26	96.30%
0057	Lake City	238	3	206	209	87.82%
0107	Live Oak	46	1	50	51	110.87%
0215	Jasper	34	3	30	33	97.06%
0224	Madison	41	0	43	43	104.88%
0291	Steinhatchee	195	3	179	182	93.33%
0383	Old Town	131	4	56	60	45.80%
TOTALS		712	14	590	604	84.83%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	81	4	68	72	88.89%
0082	Lanark	77	1	63	64	83.12%
0084	Havana	29	15	12	27	93.10%
0100	Marianna	36	3	26	29	80.56%
0217	Quincy	52	4	36	40	76.92%
0241	Sneads	70	21	49	70	100.00%
TOTALS		345	48	254	302	87.54%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	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	25	25	60.98%
0077	Inverness	49	0	57	57	116.33%
0149	Newberry	24	3	23	26	108.33%
0155	Crystal River	334	5	309	314	94.01%
0166	Homosassa Springs	137	1	134	135	98.54%
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	190	190	106.15%
0284	Bellevue	84	2	69	71	84.52%
TOTALS		998	16	923	939	94.09%

DISTRICT 5

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	51	5	55	60	117.65%
0054	Fernandina Beach	177	3	147	150	84.75%
0088	Jacksonville	81	1	72	73	90.12%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	386	10	304	314	81.35%
0137	Jacksonville	464	17	377	394	84.91%
0194	St Augustine	78	2	51	53	67.95%
0197	Jacksonville	40	1	41	42	105.00%
0202	Keystone Heights	55	0	67	67	121.82%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	163	31	126	157	96.32%
0244	Jacksonville	27	4	23	27	100.00%
0250	Middleburg	307	28	245	273	88.93%
0283	Jacksonville	473	10	406	416	87.95%
0316	Atlantic Beach	356	44	298	342	96.07%
0372	Mandarin	28	1	25	26	92.86%
0373	Orange Park	30	1	16	17	56.67%
0401	Hilliard	49	1	40	41	83.67%
TOTALS		2765	159	2293	2452	88.68%

DISTRICT 7

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	90	0	72	72	80.00%
0004	Lakeland	71	3	53	56	78.87%
0008	Winter Haven	581	10	547	557	95.87%
0015	Dade City	26	0	20	20	76.92%
0034	Haines City	84	0	64	64	76.19%
0071	Lake Wales	45	0	41	41	91.11%
0072	Mulberry	163	7	144	151	92.64%
0201	Florence Villa	33	1	22	23	69.70%
TOTALS		1093	21	963	984	90.03%

DISTRICT 6

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	204	2	184	186	91.18%
0018	Wildwood	13	0	15	15	115.38%
0019	Orlando	106	5	96	101	95.28%
0035	Mount Dora	156	1	122	123	78.85%
0041	Eustis	12	0	12	12	100.00%
0053	Sanford	70	1	34	35	50.00%
0055	Clermont	191	4	193	197	103.14%
0063	Winter Garden	37	1	25	26	70.27%
0080	Saint Cloud	253	17	220	237	93.68%
0101	Bushnell	136	0	94	94	69.12%
0109	Ocoee	16	2	9	11	68.75%
0112	Winter Park	24	2	21	23	95.83%
0183	Fern Park	108	5	92	97	89.81%
0219	Fruitland Park	208	2	186	188	90.38%
0242	Orlando	117	7	91	98	83.76%
0286	Orlando	178	6	148	154	86.52%
0330	Leesburg	60	1	63	64	106.67%
0331	Orlando	18	0	12	12	66.67%
0347	Lady Lake	2601	10	2414	2424	93.19%
0412	Orlando	14	2	10	12	85.71%
TOTALS		4522	68	4041	4109	90.87%

DISTRICT 8

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	31	9	24	33	106.45%
0024	Bradenton	330	12	299	311	94.24%
0025	Lake Placid	357	0	353	353	98.88%
0030	Sarasota	78	9	54	63	80.77%
0069	Avon Park	661	14	559	573	86.69%
0074	Sebring	111	0	123	123	110.81%
0113	Rotonda West	315	4	287	291	92.38%
0159	Venice	663	3	636	639	96.38%
0254	North Port	122	2	110	112	91.80%
0266	Fruitville	144	3	113	116	80.56%
0309	Palmetto	173	2	171	173	100.00%
0312	Oneco	255	0	184	184	72.16%
0325	Ellenton	194	1	189	190	97.94%
TOTALS		3434	59	3102	3161	92.05%

DISTRICT 9						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	31	1	35	36	116.13%
0092	Hollywood	93	2	90	92	98.92%
0142	Pompano Beach	179	8	171	179	100.00%
0157	Margate	186	9	155	164	88.17%
0162	Deerfield Beach	173	16	146	162	93.64%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	106	3	104	107	100.94%
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	3	3	20.00%
0304	Dania	64	0	40	40	62.50%
0310	Hallandale	36	0	23	23	63.89%
0321	Cooper City	215	35	177	212	98.60%
0365	Sunrise	12	0	12	12	100.00%
TOTALS		1193	82	1019	1101	92.29%

DISTRICT 12						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	301	14	250	264	87.71%
0022	Cocoa	90	0	85	85	94.44%
0039	Vero Beach	179	5	181	186	103.91%
0040	Fort Pierce	183	1	170	171	93.44%
0081	Melbourne	174	2	158	160	91.95%
0117	Palm Bay	521	14	476	490	94.05%
0126	Jensen Beach	210	1	173	174	82.86%
0163	Eau Gallie	239	4	200	204	85.36%
0171	Fort Pierce	14	0	14	14	100.00%
0189	Sebastian	149	0	147	147	98.66%
0191	Melbourne	84	13	62	75	89.29%
0200	Satellite Beach	180	8	152	160	88.89%
0318	Port St Lucie	911	4	1034	1038	113.94%
0344	Merritt Island	45	9	35	44	97.78%
0348	Cape Canaveral	184	0	195	195	105.98%
0358	White City	64	0	65	65	101.56%
0359	Port St John	332	11	323	334	100.60%
0366	Barefoot Bay	69	24	41	65	94.20%
0394	Palm Bay	174	4	178	182	104.60%
0410	Viera	13	0	10	10	76.92%
TOTALS		4116	114	3949	4063	98.71%

DISTRICT 11						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	46	2	35	37	80.43%
0047	Lake Worth	81	2	56	58	71.60%
0062	Stuart	524	5	526	531	101.34%
0064	Okeechobee	130	1	109	110	84.62%
0065	Delray Beach	53	4	45	49	92.45%
0141	West Palm Beach	79	5	64	69	87.34%
0164	Boynton Beach	147	12	126	138	93.88%
0199	W Palm Beach	42	0	20	20	47.62%
0268	Riviera Beach	87	15	64	79	90.80%
0271	Tequesta	156	9	145	154	98.72%
0277	Boca Raton	105	0	102	102	97.14%
0288	Boynton Beach	27	10	10	20	74.07%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	36	4	21	25	69.44%
TOTALS		1513	69	1323	1392	92.00%

DISTRICT 13						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	32	32	86.49%
0090	Cape Coral	272	6	269	275	101.10%
0103	Punta Gorda	506	3	596	599	118.38%
0110	Port Charlotte	601	9	577	586	97.50%
0123	Sanibel	53	1	37	38	71.70%
0130	Labelle	149	0	123	123	82.55%
0135	Naples	352	1	333	334	94.89%
0136	Saint James City	466	10	481	491	105.36%
0192	Fort Myers	22	2	17	19	86.36%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	574	1	516	517	90.07%
0303	Bonita Springs	392	8	375	383	97.70%
0323	Lehigh Acres	438	32	355	387	88.36%
0336	N Ft Myers	373	3	401	404	108.31%
0351	Fort Myers	92	3	88	91	98.91%
TOTALS		4327	79	4200	4279	98.89%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	61	0	54	54	88.52%
0031	South Miami	186	5	158	163	87.63%
0043	Homestead	69	3	39	42	60.87%
0067	North Miami	49	2	37	39	79.59%
0098	Coral Gables	22	0	14	14	63.64%
0133	Miami	71	5	52	57	80.28%
0154	Marathon	171	1	128	129	75.44%
0168	Key West	13	0	14	14	107.69%
0333	Key Largo	79	0	76	76	96.20%
0346	Miami	19	0	14	14	73.68%
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	35	35	83.33%
TOTALS		782	16	621	637	81.46%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	273	0	198	198	72.53%
0014	St Petersburg	115	3	107	110	95.65%
0079	New Port Richey	470	53	383	436	92.77%
0104	Pinellas Park	244	8	237	245	100.41%
0119	Largo	355	18	322	340	95.77%
0125	St Petersburg	291	5	258	263	90.38%
0158	Treasure Island	272	0	235	235	86.40%
0173	Holiday	261	5	236	241	92.34%
0238	Safety Harbor	278	12	262	274	98.56%
0252	Seminole	1027	10	978	988	96.20%
0273	Madeira Beach	3181	8	3211	3219	101.19%
0275	Dunedin	874	5	898	903	103.32%
0305	St Pete Beach	125	1	139	140	112.00%
0335	Hudson	69	5	70	75	108.70%
TOTALS		7835	133	7534	7667	97.86%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	42	1	33	34	80.95%
0099		0	1	17	18	#DIV/0!
0111	Tampa	61	0	52	52	85.25%
0138	Tampa	453	6	428	434	95.81%
0139	Tampa	99	0	53	53	53.54%
0147	Odessa	41	1	39	40	97.56%
0148	Riverview	216	5	190	195	90.28%
0152	Tampa	256	10	225	235	91.80%
0167	Tampa	24	3	11	14	58.33%
0186	Brooksville	400	1	339	340	85.00%
0248	West Tampa	22	1	12	13	59.09%
0248	West Tampa	25	1	20	21	84.00%
TOTALS		1614	29	1399	1428	88.48%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	89	1	93	94	105.62%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	165	1	197	198	120.00%
0045	Palatka	41	1	28	29	70.73%
0115	Palm Coast	41	0	35	35	85.37%
0120	HollyHill	218	4	198	202	92.66%
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	20	24	104.35%
0267	Ormond Beach	194	5	207	212	109.28%
0270	Port Orange	179	0	163	163	91.06%
0285	Edgewater	105	2	113	115	109.52%
0361	S Daytona	212	8	181	189	89.15%
TOTALS		1344	36	1270	1306	97.17%



**The American Legion Auxiliary
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