

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED



3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ann King-Smith

## **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.

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<u>alafl.org/submit</u> <u>secretary@alafl.org</u>

# PRESIDENT'S INESSAGE ANN KING-SMITH

As I sit down to write the final President's Message for Mail Call, I can barely believe that two years have passed since the beginning of this wonderful journey. During the past two years, so many of us have experienced days that seemed would never end, as we worried about our families, friends and Auxiliary members facing the horrors of Covid-19, now commonly known as "the pandemic." I am so proud of each of you, for not only the many accomplishments along this journey but also for the strength you have displayed.

When choosing my theme for the 2019-2020 year, many catchy phrases came to mind but at the end of the day, none seemed really fitting. From somewhere in my mind, or heart, "Florida ALA Strong" came to be. Perhaps it was a voice from a higher power, guiding and preparing me for what was ahead. Regardless of the reason, it came to be the perfect theme for the past two years.

There are so many people that have given so much of themselves during my term in office. It has truly been an honor of a lifetime serving with you and working together, as a TEAM, to find ways to continue serving our veterans, active-duty military, children and communities. I have been blessed to have such wonderful Department Officers, District Presidents and Department Chairmen to work alongside. I have also had the opportunity to appoint some wonderful members to some special positions and they have all served our Department well. I have been blessed with so many Past Department Presidents that have offered much needed and well taken advice along this path. Last, but not least, I would like to thank our staff at Department Headquarters for adapting to so much chaotic change and making the difficult transition look so smooth. I will never be able to thank them enough for all their hard work and dedication.

In so many ways, we have proven that we are

"Florida ALA Strong." For 2019-2020, we reached our 100% membership goal, thanks to Membership Chairman, Terry Gallagher, whose enthusiasm and drive never slowed down as her "Revved 'Em Up for Membership." Now, after one of the most dark and depressing years in the history of our nation, we are once again nearing our goal as we strive to bring Florida to 1st place in the National membership standings. Every Unit in our Department, large or small, can take credit for this success.

From the very bottom of my heart, I would like to thank each of you that have volunteered for our Florida Honor Flight hubs. There are so many ways to help this organization, as they continue to fly our veterans to Washington, D.C. Some of you have donated your time by waving flags at airports, participating in drive-by birthday celebrations for Honor Flight veterans, donating snacks and sending Mail Call letters and get-well cards. So many of you have donated well needed dollars that will help Honor Flight continue their mission. I am eternally grateful for your support of this great organization and I look forward to once again becoming a volunteer in any way I can serve.

I send best wishes to 1st Vice President, Wanda Brandt, as she prepares for the journey of a lifetime. I know we are all there to support her in any way possible during the upcoming year. I wish Wanda much success and I hope her year is filled with only good things, as she leads the Department of Florida.

In the following days, I will continue to visit members, to learn of all the great things that are being accomplished as we forever strive to fulfill the ALA Mission. I recently had the pleasure of

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visiting with District 7 President, Faye Kirkland and her wonderful members. Our first stop was Unit #3 in Bartow, where we enjoyed visiting with President Diane Tucker and hearing of some great projects this "small but mighty" group has been working on. Their participation in community events and happenings makes them a particularly important part of their town. Later, we visited Unit 8 in Winter Haven and enjoyed their great Friday night fish fry while President Audra Anderson gave us a tour and introduced to many dedicated members. The view from the rear of Post 8 is breathtaking and something I will long remember.

After serving as Department President for two years, I thought I had heard of almost every community service-based project that could possibly happen, but the members of Unit 71 in Lake Wales asked me to join them in one of the most heartwarming projects I have seen. In Florida, foster children are no longer funded when they reach 18 years of age. In some cases, foster parents will allow them to remain in their homes without receiving payments from the State of Florida. Unfortunately, many of these young adults are forced to live in cars, on street corners or other places. Unit President Linda Haves and her members met to stuff backpacks filled with snacks and essential items for the 18-year-olds that were graduating from high school. Such a wonderful way to remember our youth that deserve so much more from life.

President Faye knows how much I love Honor Flight, and no one supports all our veterans and Honor Flight like Mission BBQ. If you've never been at one of their restaurants at noon, you're missing a treat. Everyone becomes silent and rises to their feet as our National Anthem is played. This happens every day, at every location. In the week preceding our visit, they had served free meals to our veterans, honoring a different branch each day. This day was special, as they were recognizing Armed Forces Day. The National Anthem was played outdoors, and a 90-year-old female veteran was given special recognition.

Later in the day, we traveled to Unit 15 in Dade City where I had the great honor of presenting them

their charter. Afterwards, we had the opportunity to enjoy a question-and-answer session with them. I know that we will be hearting more from this enthusiastic group of members in the upcoming year.

Saturday ended sharing with a wonderful dinner hosted by members of Mulberry, Unit 72. I don't think I've ever enjoyed a more wonderful dinner with such amazing ladies. I can tell you that I have never tasted such authentically terrific Italian food. When we pulled in the parking lot, the aroma of fresh garlic was a hint that this was going to be a great meal.

On Sunday, District 7 held their Constitutional Conference at Unit 72 in Mulberry. It was so nice to see all the wonderful faces I had met during my visit in attendance. In addition, I was able to meet Unit 4 President, Pam Snyder at the meeting. The attendance and representation at their District Conference exhibited the unity and dedication of District 7. I had a special honor of presenting our Southern Division Junior Honorary President, Jasmine Harris, a medal and scholarship on the amount of \$2,000 from our National Organization. This scholarship was presented for use when she enters college as a tribute to her service to the Southern Division. As you know, Jasmine is also the Department of Florida Junior Honorary President. I would like to thank Faye Kirkland for stepping up and doing a wonderful job as District President after the resignation of Mary McElrath. It was great to see Mary during my visit. I am so happy that changing careers and going back to school hasn't stopped her from being "Florida ALA Strong."

This article is not a "goodbye" ......just a "see you later."



# PRESIDENT'S PHOTOS ANN KING-SMITH



## NEC MICHELE DEGENNARO

This past year has proven to have its challenges for everyone. From zoom meetings, to drive by parades, curbside dinners, and virtual fundraisers. During these uncertain times, you have demonstrated how we as Auxiliary members, through our collective determination, can adapt and overcome, as we continued to carry out our mission of, Service Not Self.

As we finish celebrating our 100th Birthday, for a second year and as we move our organization into the next Century of service, more changes are ahead.

Some of you may recall, at the 2019 National Convention, the convention body passed several amendments to national committee structure changes, which was intended to streamline those committees and make them more efficient. This included eliminating Past Presidents Parley and Cavalcade of Memories committees altogether.

What does that mean for Unit Member of the Year and Servicemember of the Year? Unit Member of the Year will now fall under the Leadership Program and Servicemember of the Year will be part of the National Security Program. These changes will take effect immediately after the 2021 National Convention. You will see two resolutions at the Department Convention. Department of Florida members you will still need to vote to remove or keep these two programs.

Some great news regarding reporting... No Midyear Reports for the 2021-2022 Auxiliary year. That is correct No Midyear Reports!! Instead, National would like to hear from you the member. Tell how your Unit overcame some challenges or take pictures of your District working together as a Legion Family. Send in those "aha pictures" and stories and you may just see your Unit highlighted in the next Auxiliary Magazine. The American Legion Auxiliary National Unit Guidebook, (previously known as the "Poppy Book") has undergone several updates to provide important information for unit members. Although many small changes were made to help improve the guide,

primary changes included: updated membership eligibility, Legion Act, and inclusion of male spouses. Gender-neutral language



to be inclusive of our male spouse members. Icons highlight important information for the unit. The online version includes clickable links to referenced webpages or Facebook group pages.

The revised Unit Guidebook can be downloaded for free at www.ALAforVeterans.org in the MyAuxiliary member portal and is available for purchase from American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales.

Visit the ALA Academy at <a href="https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training">https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training</a> for the latest updated training material. Live recorded sessions, Power Point Presentations, Department Leadership Conference and much more, the ALA Academy is a wealth of knowledge with 19 different topics of learning sessions.

National Convention is moving forward currently scheduled for Aug. 27-Sept.2, 2021 in Phoenix, AZ. The American Legion Family is focusing on creating a safe national convention experience for all who desire to attend. As part of that effort, there are many safety measures and protocols in place.

Attendees will be asked to adhere to COVID protocols including temperature checks, social distancing, and wearing of masks. Convention events are being planned as usual, at this time the only events being cancelled are the Parade and Band Contest. General Session is being planned to accommodate Delegates, Alternates, and guests registered with their department prior to arriving in Phoenix. The Commander's Banquet and States' dinner will have a limited number of tickets.

Speaking of the 2021 National Convention, the following proposed changes to the ALA Constitution & Bylaws will be voted on by delegates at the 2021 National Convention.

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- 1. The first change is to establish the Executive Committee to the NEC in the bylaws.
- 2. The second change to vote on at National Convention is renaming the NEC to the National Board of Directors.
- 3. The third item of change to the bylaws is creating the position of Executive Director at National Headquarters, its duty, authority, and to whom the position is responsible.

The proposed changes can be found in detail, in the May issue of the American Legion Auxiliary Magazine, page 43. <a href="https://www.legion-aux.org/magazine">https://www.legion-aux.org/magazine</a>

Changes to Units Constitution & Bylaws has never

been more prevalent than this past year. Covid -19 has forced us to re-examine the way we do business, canceling conventions, election of officers, and the day-to-day operations. The Units governing documents must hold the answer to all these questions.

For more information on reviewing and changing your C&B please read the full article "It's Important to constantly review your C&B" on page 22 in the August 2020 issue of the Auxiliary Magazine.

On behalf of National President Nicole and myself, we thank you for your unwavering support and all you do for our veterans, military families, community, and children & youth. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Executive Committeewoman and I wish you continued success in the coming year.



The city of Orlando in Florida has long been noted as the place of memorable and magical moments. This July, the Orlando Marriott will continue the tradition in a very special way by hosting the members of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders during their annual convention. This convention is going to be one to remember!

Imagine going into the large banquet room and being surrounded by many spectacular flags and banners denoting 100 years of the American Legion Auxiliary. Units from all over the state are going to be bringing their individual flag and banners to display in the hall and there will be a ceremony to show honor to these flags, banners and Units from the last 100 years. The banners all represent the activities each Unit has participated in and is a valuable history lesson being preserved for posterity. The pictures from this event will win a place in the Auxiliary's Cavalcade of memories!

Over the many years, the American Legion Auxiliary has been true to its mission

of service to all veterans and their families. During convention, new ideas and committees are discussed, and those who have been participating in the Unit in the past, go out of their way to assist and inspire new members.

American Legion Auxiliary members are all part of a large family, and like any other family, want to keep the traditions and lore alive by yearly reunions. This year will be more impressive than any from the past due to the Centennial celebration. We are looking forward to seeing all members of our family that can possibly attend. We strive to honor our motto For God and Country and want to continue to do so for the next 100 years!



## HSTORIAN ELEANOR AMATO

Let me make this short and sweet. Thank you thank you thank you. You have joined the History Face book page and also watch the You Tube Fall Conference Video. It does show that you are submitted better narratives than previous years. We will work on this more if I am elected to the position.

Please except my sincerest gratitude for your support and continue to send in your unit's history. Thank you.



## MEMBERSHIP TERRY GALLAGHER

#### "REV UM UP" WITH MEMBERSHIP

Here it is another year of riding through our towns, counties, and state for membership. You never seem to stop for a break. With all that is going on in the world today you still make membership a priority. Many Units have come up with great ways of renewing, rejoining, and recruiting new members. So many Units are so close to reaching 100%, I know you can do it. Close of books is June 17, 2021. So, keep revving those engines and shifting those gears.

We want to say welcome to all new members you only make's us stronger. This year has flown by quickly and as it

comes to a close I would like to give my appreciation to all the support and love all of you have given me. It's been tough but you have pulled through and made these two years great. Second in the Nation last year and right now we are in 2nd place again. But not by much. Who knows with a little twist in that throttle you can ride us right into 1st.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

Thank You for your membership and your continued support of the Children and Youth program. In these challenging times you have "Opened your Heart" wide thinking outside of the box to assist and support kids in Florida. It was truly inspiring to see your Facebook posts and read your year-end reports. Because of the pandemic, you reached out to your community, partnered with organizations and found new avenues to make a difference.

The lives of our military and veterans children, the homeless and those in need, hospitalized and medically challenged, and children in your communities have been forever changed. Good deed and Hero awards were presented to many children and teens recognizing their extraordinary efforts. It has been an honor to serve the Department of Florida as your Children and Youth Chairman. Thank You for Opening your Heart!!!

## CHAPLAIN LOIS STACHELRODT

As we approach a new world, may the Lord continue to protect the Angels that he has called home. We know that their legacies will continue and they are never out of our hearts. May we all continue to learn and to change and be kind to others. We are still helping our Veterans and their families and please do not forget our Fallen Soldiers,

POW's and MIA's. We need to keep them forever in our minds and our hearts as we continue with our daily lives. Let us not forget the

men and women in the Armed Forces who are still protecting our country.



### **Recently Departed Members**

#### **DISTRICT 2**

Daisey Schoulheis, Unit 100 Pleasant Mae Fisher, Unit 217 Saveria W. Franklin, Unit 217 Katherine Jackson, Unit 217

#### **DISTRICT 3**

Lynda L. Numikoski, Unit 107

#### **DISTRICT 4**

Shirley L. Benke, Unit 155 Beverly A. Magnani, Unit 237

#### **DISTRICT 5**

Bonnie Newberry Esler, Unit 129 Grace Wawzynski, Unit 129 Anna E. Beaudoin, Unit 233 Martha Clark, Unit 283 Marilyn Hucks, Unit 283 Martha Nelson, Unit 283 Betty Stelmach, Unit 283

#### **DISTRICT 6**

Mary Ann Taylor, Unit 53
Dottie Nikkola, Unit 242
Lorraine Bruson, Unit 286
Terri L. Kolkowski, Unit 286
Dorothy McCabe, Unit 330
June McCombs, Unit 330
Alma Sanford, Unit 331
Jane Bella, Unit 347
Phyllis Mass, Unit 347
Audrey Messman, Unit 347
Carla Stevens, Unit 248

#### **DISTRICT 8**

Ruth A. Hanewall, Unit 24 Nancy Firstone, Unit 69 Sandra Music, Unit 113

#### **DISTRICT 11**

Emma Cosner, Unit 64 Neile Foreman, Unit 64 Carol Hayes, Unit 64 Lavedha Kessinger, Unit 64 Pearl MacGregor, Unit 64 Anna L. McBee, Unit 64 Bette Modenhauer, Unit 64 Miriam Patridge, Unit 64 Holly Peyton, Unit 64 Linda Rockford, Unit 64 Erika Sams, Unit 64 Beverly Wagner, Unit 64 Marie Mahoney, PDP, Unit 65 Sharry Bergman, Unit 164 Mary Civitano, Unit 164 Diane Clare, Unit 164 Jan Croft, PDP, Unit 164 Barbara Jones, Unit 164 Maureen Kolpak, Unit 164 Clara Storelake, Unit 164 Robyn Krum, Unit 271 Marianne Sulton, Unit 271

#### **DISTRICT 12**

Alberta H. Petty, Unit 40
Virginia Givens, Unit 81
Kay Baker, Unit 318
Annie Bocchino, Unit 318
Terri Carpenter, Unit 318
Rena Ianicelli, Unit 318
Carol Tarallo, Unit 318
Barbara (Bobbie) Simpson, Unit

#### **DISTRICT 13**

Ann Gorr, Unit 274 Cindy Bearey, Unit 351 Elaine Piasecki Morrison, Unit 336 Judith Wooten, Unit 336

#### **DISTRICT 15**

Deborah Dausch, Unit 186

#### **DISTRICT 17**

Gloria Scantariato

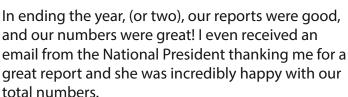
## COMMUNITY SERVICE JILL LUX

Here we are at the end of another great year serving for the American Legion Auxiliary. Thanks to COVID-19 infection numbers being down, restrictions are easing up and many units were extremely active in our community service program. I do not want to reveal the total numbers here in the newsletter though, as it will be posted in my yearend report,

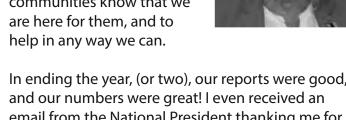
The Department of Florida officers and chairmen have made history by all serving in their positions for a 2-year term. It was totally unexpected, but everyone was up for the challenge. Some units held elections, some did not and stayed in their prospective positions also.

I would like to thank all of you for supporting

community service. You have gotten out and let your communities know that we



So, keep up the great work and I hope you will do even better next year for your new community service chairman. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do!



## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

CATHIE MCMULLIN

While this has been a challenging year for sure but most of us managed to adapt to the many changes in our lives brought about by the pandemic. And changes never stop coming.

We were recently informed that approval of the Units' Constitution & Bylaws by the Dept. of FL Chairman was in violation of the National C&B. Therefore, Units no longer have to submit their updated governing documents for approval to the Dept. Chairman. After your Unit members have approved them and the signatures are in place, mail one complete set to: ALA Dept. of FL, P O Box 547917 Orlando, FL 32854-7917

As we accept the many changes happening, let's remember to stay focused on the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary so we can continue to get that "feel good feeling" by helping.

"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."

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# GRISSTATE CHARLOTTE BASS

After having to cancel last year's Girl State, we are extremely excited that our Girls State Session is taking place this year. Our Session is June 9-17th.

We are sending 221 girls to Girls State this year. This less than in previous years but with all the setbacks and cancelling Girls State last year, we are pleased with the number of girls we are sending. Thank you to the Districts and Units that worked diligently to get our Delegates/Alternates. Also thank you to our District Girls State Chairman and Instructors for all that you have done to help the orientations run smoothly.

Girls State will definitely look a little different this year, but we are grateful that at least we can have it. We will still be able to hold it at Florida State University, with FSU COVID Guidelines in place. The first changes were that we are only allowed to have one girl per room instead of two as in times past. With this stipulation, we have had to change dormitories and the girls will be housed in two

dormitories, at Degraff Hall.

The girls will also have to
wear masks, sanitize, and
maintain social distancing.
Instead of going to lunch and
dinner at Food Services all together, we will have to
spit them into two groups with two different dining
times. Breakfasts will be served in the dormitory.

One of the biggest changes this year is that we will not be able to hold sessions in the Capitol, as of right now. The girls will still be able to hold their offices, present their bills, and hold Supreme Court, but it will all be done in FSU auditoriums/classrooms. There may be more changes and updates once we get up to FSU, but all of our Girls State Staff are prepared to adapt and overcome. Things may be different this year, but I am looking forward to attending the 2020-2021 Girls State Session.

"Looking Forward, Backward Never, Within Ourselves Our Future Lies. (Girls State Motto.)

## HONOR FLIGHT RAFFLE LET'S GET OUR VETERANS TO WASHINGTON D.C.! ONLY YOU CAN HELP!!!



- ALA Department of Florida RAFFLE (silent auction at convention) we need items from District, unit or self. Can be basket, item, and gift card, be creative.
- 2. We will need some volunteers to help man the table. The more the easier. Two hour increments. If you can help, please let Eleanor know.
- 3. There will also be a parade of checks. Get your picture taken with the big check.
- 4. If you need more information, please feel free to contact Historian/PR Chairman Eleanor Amato at 386-427-1168 or email:amatoellie@aol.com

## NATIONAL SECURITY

RHONDA BRAILEY-MAURER

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of our fiscal year, better know as the year of the Pandemic. Those units that turned in year-end report, thank you. We all know what a rough ride it has been, but still many of you were unstoppable. The impact you have made in the lives of our active-duty Military and their families never seem to have waived. Although the numbers were down, which was expected, the love and support was apparent.

If anything, remember how important your volunteer hours are. That's the biggest impact we make to Congress when we advocate for our veterans, military and their families. It's not just while you are working on a program or project. It also includes all the time before and after, when you leave your home until you return. That may not seem like much to you, but it is to us and it adds up!

**REMEMBER**, that we now have six (6) branches of the service. They are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force and Coast Guard. When we say active-duty Military, it's because they are currently serving and can be deployed at any moment.

**REMEMBER**, that the Coast Guard in part of Homeland Security, mainly because they protect and defend our maritime borders and saves those in distress on the water. The only time the Coast Guard operates under the Nave is during times of war.

**REMEMBER**, that each branch of the service has its own military reserve. This is part of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, as they transition in and out of service.

REMEMBER, that the
National Guard reports under
the Governor for each state.
During national emergencies,
the President reserves the
right to mobilize them. They are also

right to mobilize them. They are also part of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

**REMEMBER**, all our military families, Blue Star mothers, spouses, and families. We also have our Gold Star mothers, spouses and families. **REMEMBER**, our First Responders, not just the Coast Guard but also our Law Enforcement, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), also keep our homeland safe and protected.

**REMEMBER**, we support many junior programs under the American Legion, such as JROTC, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program, and Junior Shooting Sports. Our children are our future and our hope. Even though some may end up with a future in the Military or Police Academy, we hope they all end up as part of our great American Legion Family.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your National Security Chairman for the past 3 years now, and I have been honored to do so. I've been blessed by having my two committee team members, Lois Glosch and Corlene Ziegler by my side. They should get an award for just putting up with me (lol).

I hope that you stay encouraged, inspired and supportive of our Military Active-Duty service members and their families, along with our First Responders. You DO make a difference and you CAN change lives. I SALUTE YOU ALL!



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

floridalegion.org

# VA&R

This year you proved how resilient, adaptable, and strong you really are. You are all dedicated members who care about our veterans and their families. It truly showed in your year-end reports. Please see The Book of Reports for the Department of Florida Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation full report.

Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication over the past two years. You are amazing members, friends, and family. I am proud to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida!

Stay focused on our Mission of Service, Not Self. Lean on each other for support and friendship. Keep accepting all volunteers! Utilize them for their individual skills. That is what makes us so strong. Keep mentoring others so they may become strong, engaged, and educated members. Share information with all who are interested. Celebrate our differences.
We are all unique individuals who have something to offer.
Keep thinking outside of the box. You did that for the past

two years. This pandemic proved we could change and adapt to the times.

Our veterans need us! We will always be there to comfort, support, and thank them for the sacrifices they made for us. America is the "Land of the Free Because of the Braye!"

Veterans' families are OUR family! We can understand what they have gone through, and are going through, because we have been there! Keep the caregivers in your support circle. We know how much they need us as well.

# DISTRICT 4 ELIZABETH CHAVOUS

District 4 is preparing for our District Constitutional Conference on Sunday, May 16th. Every Unit is working hard on membership and we expect to be at 100% by the next Friday Report.

Many Units are having yard sales and quarter auctions to raise funds and bake sales are going strong. Poppy Day and Memorial Day ceremonies are coming quickly and we are all getting ready for the Memorial Day weekend.

On April 22 we had the honor of escorting the Gold Star Mother Ronna Jackson in the procession from Inverness to Crystal River Harley Davidson to deliver the Vietnam Memorial Wall to be assembled for display the following weekend.

There is a great video on my facebook page of the ride (page on fb is Bet Chavous).

I want to thank everyone at Department of Fla. for their help during my 3 years as District 4 President, special thanks Madam President Ann King Smith.



# DISTRICT 6 MARY LANGCE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful Units in District 6. You all have done such an incredible job during the pandemic. In spite of all the setbacks, you all did your best to serve veterans, community and the children in your area. Congratulations to all the Unit newly elected officers, I'm sure you will do a great job.

Our District Constitutional Conference was a success, a special thank you to Charlotte Bass and T.K. Wildrick for their assistance. You elected Paula Fox as your next District 6 President. Paula has served the Auxiliary for many years and I know she will be a great president. Give her your help

and cooperation to make her term outstanding.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your President for the past 3 years. You are the best of the best. May God Bless all of the American Legion family.



# DISTRICT 7 FAYE KIRKLAND

Covid has hindered many activities that the Auxiliary usually does. It has not kept the Units of District 7 from working and serving. We have added a new Unit – Unit 15 in Dade City. These ladies are already active and planning for next year. Units have been having dinners to support their many projects. Supporting and encouraging our Firefighters, Law Enforcement and Educators, Units have had dinners to raise funds, taken goodies, cards and other gifts all to show their appreciation. Gold and Blue Star Mothers have been honored and helped with various projects. Coupons have been clipped by the

thousands. Needy families have been fed, clothed and Christmas provided. Two of our Units have been working with local food banks helping

feed almost 18,000 people. School supplies, clothing and other needs of area school children have been met. All Units in District 7 work closely with their Legion Family. District 7 is an awesome district that works hard to serve our Veterans, our Community and our Legion family. For God and Country. Faye Kirkland



Hello Department of Florida! I would like to congratulate everyone on a year well served. Although COVID put a damper on things, we all really revved up our engines to help Veterans, Military and their families. Down here in District 14 we packed troop boxes, walked in parades, held drive thru events and much more. Can't wait to see everyone at Department Convention! Thank you,

Stacy Cusano, District 14 President.

On another note, unfortunately we did NOT have a quorum at today's DCC. We will need to caucus at the Convention.



## DISTRICT 11

**FRAN CARLTON** 

The Elegant Eleventh District has had an unusual 2020-2021 year. In June our District President Deidre "Dee" Butler who had served two outstanding terms announced that she was unable to continue for the extended term and had to resign due to some personal family matters. Since there had not been anyone appointed to serve as District President, Dee was left on the Department's email distribution list. She forwarded all of those emails to the Units keeping them informed. Our District Membership Chairman, Dawn Loff continued communicating with the Units as she had the two years prior. Past Department President/District Girls State Chairman, Fran Carlton was in contact with Units periodically. The three of us were available to answer questions and assist the Units if and when we were needed.

Units in the District participated jointly with the Legion in a Yellow Ribbon event for our Army National Guard Reserve #1218 when they deployed in October. Some Units began functioning in a relatively normal fashion while others continued meeting by phone or other distancing formats. A few of the Units were able to accomplish some of

their programs as usual using a little creativity. Other Units had more difficulty working the programs, but all Units did what they could.



In February, I was appointed District President to serve out the balance of the term and to conduct the Constitutional Conference. Through it all, with and without a District President the Units continued working on membership. I am proud to say the Eleventh District was the first to reach 100%. My thanks to every member who did her part to help us accomplish this goal. A special thanks to Stuart Unit 62 who was first to reach 100% with 131.55%, and Boca Raton Unit 277 with 102.02% and Boynton Beach Unit 164 with 101.43% as of this report.

Since I was appointed, Units have been receiving emails regarding end of year reporting, elections, Constitutional Conference and membership. We look forward to a good turnout for the Conference which will be held on May 16.



I would like to thank all the members of the 15th District that stuck it out through probably one of the hardest years that the Auxiliary has seen in many, many years. You thought outside the box to continue working our programs and you did it while keeping other members safe.

I saw patience and generosity in a way that I have never witnessed before. Kudos to the District Chairmen! You were able to mentor through phone calls, emails and Zoom meetings, I asked you to give it your all and you went above and beyond. I wish you all the best and hope that you will continue to





The information is out there, the mentors are out there, take advantage of it all.

Good luck with the upcoming year and God Bless.





It is with a bittersweet feeling that I am writing this article today, as it is the last time I will be submitting an article to our Department Newsletter as District President.

When I decided to run for District President and began my term, I never dreamed that I would remain in office for more than 1 year, much less 3 years!

In reality, I only planned to serve for 1 year until I had completed installing a Unit at a Legion Family installation and Past Department Commander, "Big Al" Diaz stopped me in my tracks and TOLD me that I was going to remain in office for 2 years. He told me that the (at the time) current District Commander (who happens to be a good friend of mine) and I are a team and we need to stick together. As many of you know, "Big Al" passed away before my first term ended, so there was no question in my mind that I

would continue for a second term.

Although there have been problems (as all Districts have), the pleasure and comraderie that the Units have given to me far outweighs those problems. I cannot express my gratitude enough to each and every Unit in the Mighty 12!

I have made so many new friends along the way over these past 3 years, not only in District 12, but throughout the state.

I would like to congratulate all of the incoming District Presidents. I'm sure they will make us all proud.

In the spirit of service, not self.

## **Ann presenting a National Scholarship to Jasmine Harris**





# FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS









**DISTRICT 7:** Unit presidents I. District 7 reporting





**UNIT 4:** Lakeland Mission Barbecue salutes our flag at noon everyday Ann joins in



**DISTRICT 16** 











# FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS





**UNIT 5:** On Saturday May 15, 2021 at American Legion U.S.S Tampa Post 5 we had the Special Memorial Bench dedication for Bill and Rosemary Hamblin. Many were in attendance from American Legion Family, friends, family members and the community. Both Bill and Rosemary were two very individuals whose lives centered around service to their flag, their country and every military individual, their family, their children. Their lives centered around the Post 5 Legion, Auxiliary and SAL...May they both rest in peace knowing that they have set the foundation for their beliefs among their Post 5 families....God Bless.







**UNIT 15:** Ann presents Dade City their charter







**UNIT 71** 

















**UNIT 233:** For the Month of April, we decided to focus on Children and Youth!

We came up with a idea of a great big Baby Shower for our Active Military at "Naval Station Mayport, FL." Our Unit 233 coordinated with AL Post 233, ALR 233, and the entire ALA 5TH District Units.

A total of \$1,500.00 raised to support "our new military babies".

I would like to reach out about ALA Unit 233's First Annual Active Military Baby Shower! We asked and you'll delivered! A Big thank you to Aux Unit 88 for your generous donation and attending the Shower. I don't want to miss our Post 233 Family the Legionnaires and the Riders, both gave generous donations and support. I can't thank the Aux members enough for all their hard work and dedication to this baby shower.



**UNIT 241:** Sneads's Garden Club traveled to Panama City for a visit to the Grace Lavender Farm. You never know who you will meet on your life journeys. Owner of this farm is an 11-yr. veteran of US Army, Jason Leabo & wife Kari. They are Christians and have a mission planned: to serve God and bring good to mankind. Pictured with Jason, left to right, Kaye Brown, President and Faye Walden, Treasurer of Unit 241.

# FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



UNIT 241: Unit 241 made more PVC cross flag holders and placed at veteran graves at Sinai and St. Peter's Missionary Cemeteries. Flags were placed again at Pope and Dykes Cemeteries.





















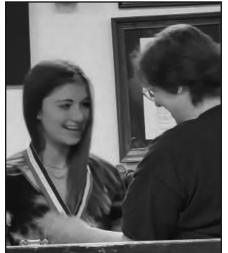
**UNIT 277:** On Saturday, May 1st, Post 277 Boca Raton held its' own Kentucky Derby Party. The ladies were decked out wearing their best hats in honor of the horses, hoping theirs would be the finalist. Congratulations, Kirsten and Maryanne the fashionistas, and winnersof the Chapeau Contest!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Kentucky Derby Pool. Because of so many participants, Judy needed to create two winning pots. We wish everyone could've been a winner but the top prizes went to Jim and Denis. Congratulations to both of them and good luck to everyone for next year! Post 277's own Stick Pony Race presented the winning jockeys with a small prize and free drink tickets. Hope you enjoyed feeling like a child again!

To everyone who donated appetizers and snacks, they were wonderful. They set a beautiful and delicious table. Thanks, again, we couldn't have pulled this off without you!

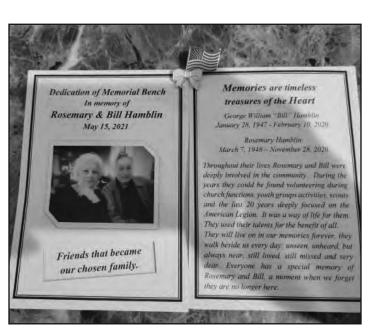






### **UNIT 340:**

American
Legion Auxiliary
Escambia Unit
340 nominated
Destany McKim
for the National
Youth Hero Award
for acts of bravery
when she saved
her family when
their was on fire.











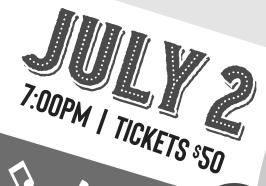


**UNIT 348:** April was a busy month for Auxiliary Unit 348 Cape Canaveral. The Unit held a Purple Up campaign to raise funds to purchase meals for deployed families of Patrick Air Force Base and to help a local military child complete his Eagle Scout project. Easter meals were distributed to 20 needy families in the community complete with baskets of treats.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PRESENTS

# HOEDGWA

World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL



ENTERTAINMENT

BLUE DIAMOND BAND

17



Order your tickets online at floridalegion.org or mail check or money order to: The American Legion, Dept of FL, PO Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PRESENTS

# HOEDOWN BILL

# DINNER MENU



6:00 COCKTAIL HOUR

**Cornbread & Sweet Butter** 

**Salad -** Mixed Greens, Tomato, Charred Corn, Red Onions, Cucumber & Ranch Dressing







Join us, July 2, 2021, Department Convention at the World Marriott Center.

### Yes, I would like to attend the Commander's & President's Banquet!

Name:			Phone:	
# of Tickets	X \$50 each =	= Total Due \$	Ca US	
Payment Type:	☐ Check ☐ Money Order	☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard	☐ Discover ☐ American Express	
☐Yes, I authorize r	ny card to be charged for the total amou	nt above.		
Credit Card #:				
Expiration:	CVV:	Signature:		

All tickets must be purchased in advance, quantities are limited. Tickets will be available for pickup during Convention located in the Headquarters Office.

Please mail to: The American Legion, Department of Florida, Attention: Event Coordinator, P.O. Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854

## MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

**JANUARY 29, 2021** 

	DISTRICT 1								
UNIT	СІТУ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0075	Crestview	185	5	199	204	110.27%			
0078	Milton	15	0	12	12	80.00%			
0193	Pensacola	82	15	57	72	87.80%			
0221	Niceville	72	1	101	102	141.67%			
0235	Ft Walton Beach	166	1	133	134	80.72%			
0240	Pensacola	220	7	241	248	112.73%			
0296	Destin	50	1	58	59	118.00%			
0340	Pensacola	322	6	344	350	108.70%			
0356	Lynn Haven	145	1	134	135	93.10%			
0375	Southport	56	1	43	44	78.57%			
0378	Gulf Breeze	47	0	45	45	95.74%			
0382	Navarre	164	1	142	143	87.20%			
0392	Panama City	144	3	176	179	124.31%			
0402	Panama City Beach	34	0	37	37	108.82%			
	TOTALS	1702	42	1722	1764	103.64%			

	DISTRICT 3								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0049	Monticello	22	0	26	26	118.18%			
0057	Lake City	232	2	228	230	99.14%			
0107	Live Oak	44	1	41	42	95.45%			
0131	Greenville	11	0	1	1	9.09%			
0215	Jasper	36	3	30	33	91.67%			
0224	Madison	36	0	39	39	108.33%			
0291	Steinhatchee	184	3	184	187	101.63%			
0383	Old Town	129	1	128	129	100.00%			
	TOTALS 694 10 677 687 98.99%								

	DISTRICT 2							
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0013	Tallahassee	88	5	75	80	90.91%		
0082	Lanark	81	1	72	73	90.12%		
0084	Havana	31	15	13	28	90.32%		
0100	Marianna	36	4	29	33	91.67%		
0217	Quincy	52	6	43	49	94.23%		
0241	Sneads	69	23	46	69	100.00%		
TOTALS 357 54 278 332 93.00%								

	DISTRICT 4									
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT				
0016	Gainesville	43	1	34	35	81.40%				
0027	Ocala	15	1	18	19	126.67%				
0058	Dunnellon	44	0	38	38	86.36%				
0077	Inverness	48	0	46	46	95.83%				
0149	Newberry	24	2	20	22	91.67%				
0155	Crystal River	328	7	320	327	99.70%				
0166	Homosassa Springs	109	3	130	133	122.02%				
0230	Hawthorne	38	2	25	27	71.05%				
0236	Bronson	36	0	47	47	130.56%				
0237	Beverly Hills	169	0	172	172	101.78%				
0284	Belleview	84	3	80	83	98.81%				
	TOTALS	938	19	930	949	101.17%				

	DISTRICT 5								
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0009	Jacksonville	37	4	42	46	124.32%			
0037	Saint Augustine	30	2	24	26	86.67%			
0054	Fernandina Beach	164	3	164	167	101.83%			
0088	Jacksonville	90	3	75	78	86.67%			
0129	Jacksonville Beach	361	12	368	380	105.26%			
0137	Jacksonville	469	20	423	443	94.46%			
0194	St Augustine	74	9	54	63	85.14%			
0197	Jacksonville	50	3	30	33	66.00%			
0202	Keystone Heights	56	0	54	54	96.43%			
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	172	32	129	161	93.60%			
0244	Jacksonville	25	4	22	26	104.00%			
0250	Middleburg	326	29	273	302	92.64%			
0283	Jacksonville	459	19	408	427	93.03%			
0316	Atlantic Beach	345	45	310	355	102.90%			
0372	Mandarin	33	1	24	25	75.76%			
0373	Orange Park	41	7	22	29	70.73%			
0401	Hilliard	41	1	41	42	102.44%			
	TOTALS	2773	194	2463	2657	95.82%			

DISTRICT 6								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0010	Kissimmee	191	2	200	202	105.76%		
0018	Wildwood	15	0	12	12	80.00%		
0019	Orlando	126	5	99	104	82.54%		
0035	Mount Dora	129	3	143	146	113.18%		
0041	Eustis	13	0	11	11	84.62%		
0052	Lake Panasoffkee	4	0	4	4	100.00%		
0053	Sanford	54	3	66	69	127.78%		
0055	Clermont	146	2	184	186	127.40%		
0063	Winter Garden	35	2	33	35	100.00%		
0080	Saint Cloud	248	19	230	249	100.40%		
0101	Bushnell	116	1	132	133	114.66%		
0109	Ocoee	16	4	11	15	93.75%		
0112	Winter Park	23	2	21	23	100.00%		
0183	Fern Park	132	3	103	106	80.30%		
0219	Fruitland Park	205	2	196	198	96.59%		
0242	Orlando	123	10	106	116	94.31%		
0286	Orlando	167	7	167	174	104.19%		
0330	Leesburg	63	1	58	59	93.65%		
0331	Orlando	13	0	17	17	130.77%		
0347	Lady Lake	2647	10	2538	2548	96.26%		
0412	Orlando	17	2	11	13	76.47%		
	TOTALS	4483	78	4342	4420	98.59%		

	DISTRICT 7								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0003	Bartow	74	1	87	88	118.92%			
0004	Lakeland	63	4	65	69	109.52%			
0008	Winter Haven	586	7	552	559	95.39%			
0034	Haines City	73	0	82	82	112.33%			
0071	Lake Wales	43	0	44	44	102.33%			
0072	Mulberry	152	6	155	161	105.92%			
0201	Florence Villa	37	1	31	32	86.49%			
	TOTALS	1028	19	1016	1035	100.68%			

DISTRICT 8									
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0011	Arcadia	34	10	20	30	88.24%			
0024	Bradenton	289	13	315	328	113.49%			
0025	Lake Placid	355	0	324	324	91.27%			
0030	Sarasota	78	11	66	77	98.72%			
0069	Avon Park	636	10	646	656	103.14%			
0074	Sebring	94	0	109	109	115.96%			
0113	Rotonda West	327	5	306	311	95.11%			
0159	Venice	730	1	645	646	88.49%			
0254	North Port	120	2	116	118	98.33%			
0266	Fruitville	144	4	133	137	95.14%			
0309	Palmetto	163	1	166	167	102.45%			
0312	Oneco	262	1	247	248	94.66%			
0325	Ellenton	163	0	187	187	114.72%			
	TOTALS	3395	58	3280	3338	98.32%			

	DISTRICT 9							
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0036	Ft Lauderdale	32	2	28	30	93.75%		
0092	Hollywood	98	1	86	87	88.78%		
0142	Pompano Beach	200	8	166	174	87.00%		
0157	Margate	176	10	175	185	105.11%		
0162	Deerfield Beach	182	20	151	171	93.96%		
0180	Fort Lauderdale	95	4	101	105	110.53%		
0209	Dania Beach	20	0	16	16	80.00%		
0220	Ft Lauderdale	32	9	21	30	93.75%		
0222	Fort Lauderdale	49	0	28	28	57.14%		
0287	Deerfield Beach	15	0	14	14	93.33%		
0304	Dania	69	0	44	44	63.77%		
0310	Hallandale	37	0	35	35	94.59%		
0321	Cooper City	208	37	176	213	102.40%		
0365	Sunrise	16	0	11	11	68.75%		
	TOTALS	1229	91	1052	1143	93.00%		

DISTRICT 11								
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0020	Belle Glade	54	4	41	45	83.33%		
0047	Lake Worth	103	2	77	79	76.70%		
0062	Stuart	393	2	518	520	132.32%		
0064	Okeechobee	126	0	125	125	99.21%		
0065	Delray Beach	54	4	47	51	94.44%		
0141	West Palm Beach	92	5	70	75	81.52%		
0164	Boynton Beach	140	12	133	145	103.57%		
0199	W Palm Beach	41	0	35	35	85.37%		
0268	Riviera Beach	80	11	69	80	100.00%		
0271	Tequesta	156	8	147	155	99.36%		
0277	Boca Raton	99	0	101	101	102.02%		
0288	Boynton Beach	30	15	11	26	86.67%		
0367	Royal Palm Beach	42	5	24	29	69.05%		
	TOTALS	1410	68	1398	1466	103.97%		

DISTRICT 12							
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT	
0001	Titusville	311	15	280	295	94.86%	
0022	Cocoa	86	1	87	88	102.33%	
0039	Vero Beach	199	4	168	172	86.43%	
0040	Fort Pierce	187	2	172	174	93.05%	
0081	Melbourne	137	2	169	171	124.82%	
0117	Palm Bay	499	18	487	505	101.20%	
0126	Jensen Beach	216	1	201	202	93.52%	
0163	Eau Gallie	253	8	224	232	91.70%	
0171	Fort Pierce	16	0	13	13	81.25%	
0189	Sebastian	135	0	146	146	108.15%	
0191	Melbourne	95	15	68	83	87.37%	
0200	Satellite Beach	165	10	169	179	108.48%	
0318	Port St Lucie	874	7	888	895	102.40%	
0344	Merritt Island	45	10	32	42	93.33%	
0348	Cape Canaveral	181	0	182	182	100.55%	
0358	White City	64	0	61	61	95.31%	
0359	Port St John	283	12	316	328	115.90%	
0366	Barefoot Bay	74	24	43	67	90.54%	
0394	Palm Bay	161	4	160	164	101.86%	
0410	Viera	12	0	12	12	100.00%	
	TOTALS	3993	133	3878	4011	100.45%	

DISTRICT 13								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0038	Fort Myers	45	0	34	34	75.56%		
0090	Cape Coral	244	6	251	257	105.33%		
0103	Punta Gorda	430	2	493	495	115.12%		
0110	Port Charlotte	560	9	583	592	105.71%		
0123	Sanibel	60	1	45	46	76.67%		
0130	Labelle	131	1	138	139	106.11%		
0135	Naples	339	1	337	338	99.71%		
0136	Saint James City	460	3	450	453	98.48%		
0192	Fort Myers	21	2	19	21	100.00%		
0274	Fort Myers Beach	588	3	560	563	95.75%		
0303	Bonita Springs	404	17	367	384	95.05%		
0323	Lehigh Acres	434	34	398	432	99.54%		
0336	N Ft Myers	354	4	366	370	104.52%		
0351	Fort Myers	91	2	89	91	100.00%		
TOTALS 4161 85 4130 4215 101.30%								

DISTRICT 14									
UNIT	UNIT CITY GOAL JR SR TOTAL PERCENT								
0028	Key West	57	0	55	55	96.49%			
0031	South Miami	176	5	173	178	101.14%			
0043	Homestead	57	1	67	68	119.30%			
0067	North Miami	55	0	45	45	81.82%			
0098	Coral Gables	21	0	21	21	100.00%			
0133	Miami	71	6	59	65	91.55%			
0154	Marathon	157	0	145	145	92.36%			
0168	Key West	12	0	12	12	100.00%			
0333	Key Largo	80	0	78	78	97.50%			
0346	Miami	20	1	15	16	80.00%			
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	40	40	95.24%			
TOTALS 748 13 710 723 96.66%									

	DISTRICT 16							
UNIT	СІТҮ	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0007	Clearwater	294	2	258	260	88.44%		
0014	St Petersburg	104	4	109	113	108.65%		
0079	New Port Richey	433	54	404	458	105.77%		
0104	Pinellas Park	226	10	229	239	105.75%		
0119	Largo	389	19	325	344	88.43%		
0125	St Petersburg	329	14	276	290	88.15%		
0158	Treasure Island	301	1	265	266	88.37%		
0173	Holiday	274	4	249	253	92.34%		
0238	Safety Harbor	278	11	261	272	97.84%		
0252	Seminole	1005	11	972	983	97.81%		
0273	Madeira Beach	3210	5	2951	2956	92.09%		
0275	Dunedin	851	6	856	862	101.29%		
0305	St Pete Beach	114	1	118	119	104.39%		
0335	Hudson	76	5	63	68	89.47%		
TOTALS 7884 147 7336 7483 94.91%								

DISTRICT 15								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT		
0005	Tampa	42	2	39	41	97.62%		
0026	Plant City	18	1	13	14	77.78%		
0111	Tampa	46	1	59	60	130.43%		
0138	Tampa	448	8	433	441	98.44%		
0139	Tampa	117	0	98	98	83.76%		
0147	Odessa	37	2	38	40	108.11%		
0148	Riverview	186	7	207	214	115.05%		
0152	Tampa	268	12	238	250	93.28%		
0167	Tampa	22	3	20	23	104.55%		
0186	Brooksville	382	2	386	388	101.57%		
0246	Sun City Center	13	0	3	3	23.08%		
0248	West Tampa	25	1	20	21	84.00%		
0389	Ruskin	16	2	11	13	81.25%		
	TOTALS	1620	41	1565	1606	99.14%		

	DISTRICT 17								
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT			
0006	Deland	94	2	82	84	89.36%			
0017	New Smyrna Beach	229	1	162	163	71.18%			
0045	Palatka	49	3	37	40	81.63%			
0115	Palm Coast	41	1	39	40	97.56%			
0120	HollyHill	212	5	208	213	100.47%			
0127	Lake Helen	26	5	20	25	96.15%			
0204	Daytona Beach	21	10	10	20	95.24%			
0255	Deltona	31	8	21	29	93.55%			
0259	Debary	22	4	18	22	100.00%			
0267	Ormond Beach	177	4	186	190	107.34%			
0270	Port Orange	127	0	178	178	140.16%			
0285	Edgewater	119	2	99	101	84.87%			
0361	S Daytona	196	9	181	190	96.94%			
TOTALS 1344 54 1241 1295 96.35%									



## The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida

PO Box 547917 Orlando, FL 32854-7917

407.293.7411 | 866.710.4192 www.alafl.org