



VOLUME X • ISSUE 5 • DECEMBER 2020
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ANN KING-SMITH



FEATURED: Dept President ★ Community Service ★ Rosemary Hamblin ★ District 5

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED



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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.

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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 **MAIL CALL?**

alafl.org/submit
secretary@alafl.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANN KING-SMITH

WOW.... can it really be December already? For many of us, the calendar pages practically stopped turning in mid-March when the Covid-19 pandemic really hit. Many have managed to fit the pieces together nicely and move ahead while some are left wondering if the worst is yet to come. During this time, I hope we are all keeping in touch with ALA friends. We don't realize how many people are alone during this time and they need to hear an uplifting voice to check on them and assure them that things will be better.

Please remember the request I made in the November Mail Call for Service Not Self Shout-Outs. These shout-outs will appear in the January Mail Call and will serve as a great inspiration to help us get 2021 off to a great start. Please write a brief shout-out about a member (or group) from your Unit that has been a true unsung hero by helping your Unit survive during the pandemic. All submissions will appear in the Mail Call. If they don't all fit in the January issue, we will keep adding them to future issues. Deadline for articles are December 15th and should be emailed to Department Secretary Patty MacDonald at secretary@alafl.org

November has been a busy month for me, and I have had the opportunity to be involved in some extremely exciting things. First, came the Drive by Baby Shower for soon-to-be moms in Brevard County. The special thing is that these moms are also veterans! When I arrived at the Melbourne Vet Center to meet up with Dorothy Walsh and Dara Oliver, I was amazed to see how many items had been collected for lots of expectant veterans.

We loaded several cars, vans and trucks with all kinds of things babies need. We left the Vet Center in a caravan with vehicles decorated to the max. All the soon-to-be moms were thrilled to see us arrive at their front doors with tons of gifts. The

surprise was on us when we arrived at two of our stops and found the little bundles of joy had arrived early. We got to meet these little ones and our smiles were huge!!! I have to say that this was one of the best days I have had in a long time.

On Veteran's Day, I drove the Department car in the annual Melbourne Veteran's Day Parade. This annual event is sponsored and paid for by the American Legion Family at Post 163 in Melbourne. Their Vice-Commander, Rose Yearly, is the driving force behind this and many other community-based events. Oh, did I mention that Rose became a dual member last year? We are all so proud of her and all she does for our veterans and our community. As I drove along the parade route, I once again realized that there is nothing quite like a small-town America parade to get the patriotic emotions started. Veterans, families and school children lined up to pay tribute to our veterans.

On November 13th, Department Historian/Public Relations Chairman Eleanor Amato and I traveled to Ft. Myers for a visit with District 13. We met District President Joanne Scales-Borowy and Department Sergeant-at-Arms Jeanne Nadeau at Post 336 in North Ft. Myers for a wonderful dinner. We were joined by many, including Department National Security Chairman Rhonda Brailey-Maurer and Department Americanism Chairman Sandy Eck. The dinner was great but the visit with members was wonderful.

Early Saturday morning, we traveled to Post 136 in Pine Island for their District 13 School of Instruction. I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I was with the knowledge that chairmen and members from this District have. District President Joanne did a remarkable job of planning and presiding over this day of instruction and

Continued on Page 4 >>



information. Jan Farrington did an informational presentation on REPORTING. I capitalized this word, as December 1st is the due date for Mid-Year Reports. Over my years of being a member and attending instructional meetings, I have to say that Jan's presentation was one of the best I have ever seen. Of course, we must expect great from a schoolteacher of 36 years. I have asked Jan to video her entire presentation so we can share it with everyone on our YouTube channel.

After the School of Instruction, we drove to join members from the American Legion Family of Unit 351 in Tice for an incredibly special evening, as we presented the Good Deed Award to 10-year old Owen Fredella of Naples. Months ago, Public Relations Chairman Eleanor Amato saw a news story about Owen and contacted Unit 351 member Cindy Cornthwaite-See to see if her Unit could follow up with the award. Cindy wasted no time in locating Owen through WINK television and the rest is history. This award was first scheduled for August, but Covid-19 interfered, and the award dinner was postponed until November.

Let me tell you a little about Owen Fredella and his accomplishments. 10-year-old Owen became a little bored during his time at home during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, so he started making brightly colored bracelets from rubber bands. He had an idea that if he could sell these bracelets for \$1.00 each, he could donate his earnings to the Harry Chapin Food Pantry. Well, Owen became one remarkably busy young man and when he arrived at Post 351 on Saturday, he had raised \$1600.00 for his charity. But it didn't end there. Sergeant-at-Arms Jeanne Nadeau passed a container at the dinner and raised an additional \$277.00, which was presented to Owen. You have never seen a smile like his when he heard that total.

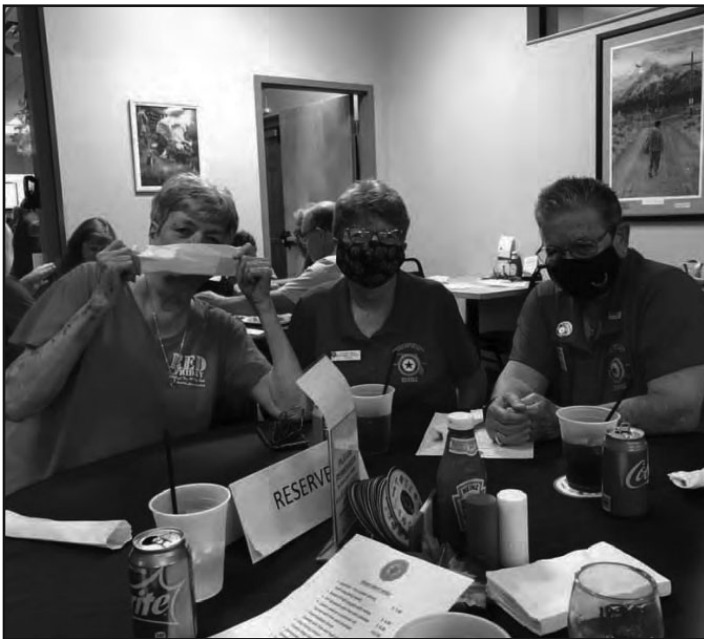
Unit 351, along with the entire Legion Family, did an excellent job of planning a perfect evening for Owen. He was escorted in by their Legion Riders and they even had the Tice Fire Department on hand for the event. When Owen and his family arrived, the parking lot was filled with members welcoming him to Post 351. There were three big banners that were specially printed to honor him.

Along with his certificate from National, the Unit also presented him with a special framed poster for his room, signed by ALA members. Of course, there were gifts for Owen and his little sister. The best yet was the dinner. There was a huge table, filled with pizza, chicken nuggets, fried chicken, macaroni and cheese...just to name a few. Turns out that Cindy had found out what Owen's favorite foods are, and they were all on that table!!!

Just when we thought it couldn't be any better, we were treated to a wonderful breakfast by Unit 38 in Ft. Myers. The food was great, and I will stop in again for some of those awesome biscuits and gravy! I was given a tour of their well-stocked and meticulously organized food pantry which has helped so many veterans and their families. Unit members then presented a generous donation to Honor Flight. I was so grateful that members are still remembering that this is my President's Project for the remainder of the year.

It was so nice to be out and about again. Please remember that wearing masks is important and try to make a habit of practicing wearing your mask every day. It's important to let others know that we care about them and their health. Speaking of masks, congratulations to Carol Pirone-Udell for winning our "Show Me Your Mask Contest." That was a great picture.

I would like to wish each one of you a very blessed holiday season. We have so much to be thankful and blessed for as this year ends. Please remember to take time to remember those friends and members that we have lost during the year. I'm sure this time of year is especially difficult for their families and loved ones. Please remember to always stay humble and never think that you are better than anyone else or that their worries aren't important. As we walk into 2021, let's do so with a clear heart and mind. Let's be grateful for every experience we've had, both on rough days and good ones. Walk into 2021 with a free mind and body. Let's try and let go of all the painful things that have been a part of us this year. Let's live for the best and enjoy life to the fullest, whatever the best may be. 2021 is a year of positivity and possibility, so let's all be ready to embrace it.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

JILL LUX

Hello to my fellow auxiliary members! It is December and that means it is Community Service month.

I know most people or units have limited exposure in their communities due to COVID-19. But there are still many things you can do. You can still help with community clean ups, sponsor a little league, donate blood and help the homeless. You can donate to food banks (even if you only send a monetary donation), shop for seniors who are at risk and most important, support your Legion family with any of their projects.

I hope you have not forgot our National Days of Service which are listed as follows:

- 9-11 Remembrance Day which is on September 11th
- Make a Difference Day which is on the 4th day of October
- Veterans Day on November 11th
- Martin Luther King Day of Service not Self which falls on the 3rd Monday in January
- National Volunteer Week which is the 3rd week in April

We have had a record amount of named storms/hurricanes already this year. Some of them have impacted our state of Florida so please remember to help them in any way you are able to.

Thank you for all your great year end reports. I am immensely proud of the volunteer hours that were

submitted, and I am looking forward to sending my report to the Southern Division and National.

One thing that I would like to mention though, is to be careful as to who you are sending your reports to.

UNITS SEND REPORTS TO DISTRICT DISTRICT SENDS TO DEPARTMENT

I received a few reports that should have gone to District. Also, be careful as to what you are reporting and to who. A lot of what I did receive for Community Service should have been reported to other programs.

A good idea to help you is to have a copy of the Plan of Action handy at reporting time to verify if it is Community Service or maybe it should go to a different program.

I know this past year has been a little difficult but, it is a first for all of us and we will get through it together. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. My information can be found in the Unit Guide.

Stay safe – wear a mask and send me some great midyear reports. I am looking forward to reading all you have done with our lock down being lifted.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans, families and communities.



Visit Your Local Tag Office and get yours today!

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

floridalegion.org

ROSEMARY HAMBLIN

TONI GROSS (UNIT 5)

Being a relatively new member to the ALA, I began attending meetings at this Unit two years ago. Although there are several closer and more convenient ALA Units near my home, I chose this one, the ALA Unit 5, USS Tampa, for several reasons.

The primary reason is the genuine care and concern of the officers and members towards all, not just newer members like myself, but to every one who walks through the facility's doors for a socially distanced live and in person meeting. At these meetings, there are no strangers. Auxiliary President, Rosemary Hamblin, and each and every officer takes time to greet and speak with everyone. The monthly Unit meetings are like a family gathering without the family drama.

When I first joined, even though Auxiliary President Rosemary Hamblin was standing by her husband's side during his cancer battle, she would email me encouraging personal emails that always came at just the right time and continues to do so.

Before I began attending meetings regularly, I was sitting at a back table at a formal dinner that the Auxiliary hosted for a very special group of ladies, for "Mothers of Fallen Military Members", also known as "Gold Star Mothers". I observed as a delicious meal was enjoyed by the 40 Gold Star Mothers, I listened to the mothers talk about their fallen heroes, I saw them laughing and at times, crying too. I was touched by the compassion and care that the members of the Auxiliary extended to those moms through special hand crafted gifts, through asking them to talk about their loved ones and through the members expressing genuine interest in the moms.

I recently learned that the ALA Dept of FL "Gold Star Mothers' Support Award" had been presented to my

ALA unit from the Department of Florida, National Security Chairman, Rhonda Brailey-Maurer.

I believe that my Unit was rightly selected as the recipient for this coveted award. They certainly earned it, in part because of what they have done, but mostly because this is who and what they do...it's just who they are...kind hearted, thoughtful, and selfless in their service to others.

You see, I was one of the Gold Star Mothers at that wonderful and memorable dinner. The members of this Unit truly "honor through service".



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Make sure you choose us when you check out.

DISTRICT 5

ANNIE ANDERSON

As of November 1st all the Units within District 5 are having their monthly meetings at their home Posts, due to the fact that some Posts were very slow in opening. The Units are very busy, trying to make up for lost time.

Unit 9 & 88 had their Fall Festivals the attendance was not like the past years, but the children and adults still had a great time with all the games. Most all Units had their Halloween Parties for the members and the community children and are planning for the Christmas Parties.

Unit 129 had a carwash, bake sale and raised over 1600.00 for Unit 551 members Lake Charles, LA whose homes were devastated by two Hurricanes, but this Unit sent over \$6,000.00 to Unit 551. "Members helping Members" Unit 316 raised and donated over \$1,500.00 to one of their Unit members' mother, also from Lake Charles, LA whose home was also devastated by the two Hurricanes. I am very proud of our 5th District Juniors, these

Auxiliary and SAL Juniors presented the "Military Childs Table" on November 6th to all the members present. We had over 65 American Legion Family members at the presentation, awesome, awesome. Plus we had several Auxiliary Department Officers and Legion Department Officers at the ceremony.

For our next District meeting in December we are trying to build up the morale and enthusiasm of our members. Unit 283 is serving a PJ Breakfast and I am encouraging all our Auxiliary members to wear Christmas or Regular PJs to the meeting. Everybody's moods are very low due to this nasty visitor COVID, and the 6th is only a short time away from the Holidays, we are trying to bring everyone into the Holiday spirit. Prize for worst and a prize for best.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



The Mighty Fifth District Juniors and SAL Member presented The Military Child's Table Setting on November 7th at Ocean Beaches Post and Unit 129, with at least 60 Legion Family Members attending. We were very honored to have all the Department of Florida Vice Presidents along with NECW Michelle Degennaro as well as several Department of Florida Legion Officers be with us.

CHAPLAIN

LOIS STACHELRODT

As we approach the Holidays, may we all remember those who are not here with us. They are watching over us and are always in our Hearts. We are never alone. May you all have a Blessed Holiday Season, a Happy Chanukah and a Merry Christmas.



Recently Departed Members

DISTRICT 1

Evelyn Morrison, Unit 75

DISTRICT 4

Elsie Bell, Unit 230

DISTRICT 6

Gloria Doerflinger, Unit 347
Donnie McGlone, Unit 347

DISTRICT 8

Mary T. Runnell, Unit 24
Cameron Barnard, Unit 69

DISTRICT 11

Mary Civitano

DISTRICT 12

Michelle DuClau, Unit 126
Victoria Ray, Unit 126
Helen LaMountain, Unit 163
Christine Cole, Unit 189
Yvonne Rathbon, Unit 359
Marie Crutchfield, Unit 366

DISTRICT 13

Phyllis Moody, Unit 130
Ruth Otis-Taylor, Unit 303
Elaine m. Thomson, Unit 303

DISTRICT 15

Carolyn L. Ohlson, Unit 139
Carol L. Costley, Unit 186

DISTRICT 16

Erald Jarvis, Unit 79
Roberta Drumheller, Unit 252

Heavenly Father,

As our world has changed, we ask that you place your loving and healing hands on everyone, help those who are struggling with illness to get better. We need your guidance, your wisdom and your love during this Holiday season. Our lives are changing and our children are trying to understand the reasons why they cannot be with their grandparents or other family members for the holidays.

As our world evolves into a new path, we ask that you guide us all to understand, listen and help each other through these tough times. May we all gain the kindness, love, understanding and give hope to those who are in need. We are all in this together

and as long as we check on each other daily, we will be better after it is all over. We all need each other to survive. No One Is Alone.

We also ask that you protect the men and women who are still fighting for our Country and bring them home soon. Let the families of our fallen soldiers know that we are here for them and that we remember their sacrifice. Let our Veterans know that we are here for them and their families and will help whenever we can. In closing Father, we ask that you send your healing prayers to all. Thank you for all you do for us and for our Country.

On thy holy name,
Amen

AMERICANISM

SANDIE ECK

There was a mail out to all District Presidents asking to pass it along to District Chairman then to all units. The mail out explained the Americanism Five Point Program if you have not received a copy contact your District President or Chairman.

There is couple things I would like to add work with adult groups, fine out what you can do in your community.

Don't forget the Spirit of Youth Fund. There are two programs that you can help the Americanism Youth Conference conducted each spring for the Auxiliary by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and the four year "Spirit of Youth Scholarship" for Junior Members.

Remember the Americanism Essay will be the same as last year. With the school year being so different it will be hard I know for you and the school but

I have faith in all of you do a great job.

If there is anything I can do to help please call or email: 239-218-9912 | sanran38@aol.com

My best wishes for the up coming holidays

P.S. Don't forget Mid Year Reports



CHILDREN & YOUTH

DEE BELL

Happy Holidays Members,

Families with children are struggling across Florida and need a little extra help. Churches, schools, community recreation centers, Posts, military bases, libraries and many other facilities have become food distribution centers. Here is a fun and interesting way to "Open Your Heart" and support local, military and veteran families.

Thank You to 5th District President Annie Anderson for this AWESOME idea. Please everyone wear a mask, wash your hands, social distance and Stay Well and Stay Safe. Looking forward to seeing you in the new year.

GIVE THIS A TRY



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REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

JUNIORS

DARA OLIVER

Honorary Department Junior Officers have Installation via Facebook Video

With COVID stopping, slowing down and prohibiting personal contact, The Honorary Department Junior Officers were able to have installation on October 17th via Facebook Video chat. Technology made it easy to allow our Juniors to meet together and have their Installation. Florida Juniors Installation was even mentioned at the ALA Academy Live Junior Mentor Training Series held by National Headquarters on November 16th. Junior Activities Committee members that assisted and participated in the installation were Carolyn Brown, Robin Shellhammer, Tara Harris and Chairman; Dara Oliver.

We want to Congratulate: Honorary Department Junior President: Jasmine Harris, (who was able to be to sworn in on the softball field in-between games) HDJ Treasurer; Halie Schoolcraft, HDJ Chaplain; Evelyn Derouin-Davidson, HDJ Sgt. at Arms; Julianne Asplen, HDJ Historian; Brooklyn Fugua. HDJ VP: Michelle Johnson & HDJ Secretary; Ianna Nunez were not available that day, but are serving in their respective Offices currently. We are so Proud of all the Girls and look forward to the Juniors supporting our Veterans, Military & Families, Community and Children & Youth.



American Legion Auxiliary

JUNIORS

Department of Florida

2020 - 2021 Florida ALA

Honorary Junior Officers

Honorary Department Junior

President - Jasmine Harris

Honorary Department Junior

Vice President - Michelle Johnson

Honorary Department Junior

Secretary - Ianna Nunez

Honorary Department Junior

Treasurer - Halie Schoolcraft

Honorary Department Junior

Chaplain - Evelyn Derouin-Davidson

Honorary Department Junior

Sgt. at Arms - Julianne Asplen

Honorary Department Junior

Historian - Brooklyn Fugua

**CONGRATULATIONS
#ALAFLJUNIORS**

DISTRICT 8

THERESA WALLS

American Legion Auxiliary members work at the mission every day in District 8 in many different ways. We have units that are preparing dinners, hosting dances and supporting the Legions in anyway they can. Installations were held in unique ways. Most units had their installation during their monthly meetings, a couple larger units during Legion installations while others opted to pass on the installation this year altogether. While COVID-19 has slowed us down, all units are still supporting their local schools, veterans hospitals and nursing homes.

I would like to introduce you to our District 8 Member of the Year of 2019/2020. Cookie Agan transferred to unit 325, Ellenton from Arizona in 2019. She asked if we participated in the girls state program. Unit 325 have never had a girl state chairman, so she was welcomed with open arms as our Chairman. Cookie wanted a unique way to raise money for Girls State so after researching ways to accomplish her goal, she decided to participate in Wreaths Across America. She contacted the cemetery that is a couple blocks away from Post 325, Mansion Memorial Park Cemetery in Ellenton, Florida. They were very interested in participating. She then contacted Wreaths across America and after much hard work, the cemetery was officially named the 101st Wreaths Across America site. She successfully raised enough money to place 450 wreaths in just six weeks. She organize the ceremony with the mayor of Palmetto, Shirley Groover Bryant and asked the sea cadets to assist. It was an amazing day. My confidence in today's youth has been restored. She raised enough money to send not one but two girls to girls state.

Cookie is eagerly working on the 2020 Wreaths Across America placement and ceremony. As of the date of this article she has sold nearly 800 wreaths and hopes to reach her goal of 1600 wreaths. Cooking is going to all District 8 events and sets up a table with information and raffles off a basket every time. She offers her help to any auxiliary unit

who wants to make their local cemetery a Wreaths Across America cemetery. She even passes around a jar to collect change at every unit 325 meeting. You can see her all over the area spreading the word and asking for support, whether it is a government meeting, Kiwanis club or other local organizations. She has mailed out hundreds of letters to local businesses explaining the program and asking for donations.

This year of 2019/2020, Cookie is District 8 Americanism Chairman, unit Chaplain, unit Americanism Chairman, unit girls state chairman and unit public relations Chairman. She helps with every event the post and auxiliary has.

Cookie invited the two girls chosen last year for girls state to the unit 325 October meeting, along with their families to be presented certificates and a bouquet of flowers. Cookie submits to the local North River news weekly. She has a different Veteran from Mansion Memorial cemetery each week. She made a Wreaths Across America presentation to the city of Palmetto's City Council and was presented with a proclamation naming December 19, 2020 Wreaths Across America day in Palmetto. Cookie presented the proclamation to the president of ALA unit 325, Linda Legeer at the October membership meeting. I could go on and on about Cookies many attributes but I only have a page of this magazine. Oh, and she makes delicious cookies. Thank you Cookie Agan for all you do.

I am asking all district 8 units to please submit to me by March 30, 2021 a member of their unit to be the 2020/2021 District 8 member of the year. We have many phenomenal members doing amazing volunteer work and I want to have the honor of presenting them with this award.

Continued on Page 14 >>

Thank you for reading my article. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Woot, woot, vroom, vroom,

*** Please consider sponsoring a wreath for MMDC. Contact Cookie Agan at 850-461-1806. Wreaths are \$15 each. Wreaths Across America mission is "Remember the fallen; Honor those who served and Teach your children the value of freedom ***



Unit 325 President Linda Legeer with Cookie Agan presenting appreciation awards to the 2019 Girls State girls Reagan Williams and Riley Bergmann



installation of Unit 309



Unit 325 President Linda Legeer and Cookie Agan with the proclamation from the City of Palmetto



Terry Gallagher, department membership chairman at District 8 membership class



installation of Unit 113



installation of Unit 325



installation of Unit 24



Presentation of membership award for District 8 at Unit 69



Cookie Agan at the Wreaths across America 2019



Cookie Agan at the Wreaths across America 2019



installation of Unit 254



Wreaths Across America 101st official cemetery



District 8 meeting September 19, 2020. Rosie the Riveter theme. Harriet Martin, Danielle Orsino, Rhonda Felicita, Kathy Rudd



Palmetto Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant at the 2019 Wreaths Across America



Charlotte Bass, Girls State Chair at our District 8 meeting in September



Sea Cadets at the Wreaths Across America ceremony 2019

ORNAMENT CONTEST WINNERS

Department President Ann King-Smith would like to thank everyone who participated in the ornament contest. We had a great turn out. A special thank you to our judges T.K Wildrick, Lois Stachelrodt and Keny Gardner. Below is the winners of each category.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS

Senior Category

- 1st Shirley Fraser
2nd Diana Harris
3rd Harriet Martin

Junior Category

- 1st Lily Edwards
2nd Lily Edwards

RED, WHITE AND BLUE

Senior Category

- 1st Susan Pierce
2nd Patricia Delgado
3rd Kathleen Downs

POPPY

Senior Category

- 1st Kris Baker
2nd Kathleen Downs
3rd Patricia Delgado

VETERANS

Senior Category

- 1st Kathleen Webb
2nd Diana Harris
3rd Lois Glosch



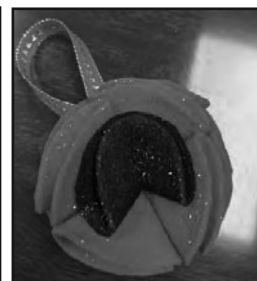
ALA

Senior Category

- 1st Diana Harris
2nd Stacy Cusano

Junior Category

- 1st Jasmine Harris



FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS

District 15: District 15 has been busy, we've learned to think outside the box but still work our programs safely. Unit 5 had their Unit meeting and made Christmas ornaments for fundraising. Unit 111 went to the Tampa Police Department on Patriots Day and served them lunch. Unit 138 received their 100% membership ribbon and held their first Trunk or Treat handing out goodies to 115 children in the community. Unit 139 received their 100% membership ribbon and Unit 147 received their 100% membership ribbon. Unit 148 waved flags on Patriots day and placed flags on Veteran's gravesites. Unit 167 donated household items for Veterans getting housed and Unit 186 filled 185 backpacks for children of Veterans in need. Unit 248 collected Thanksgiving Dinners for 102 Veterans in need and their families. The 15th District held a safe, socially distanced School of Instruction at their District Meeting.

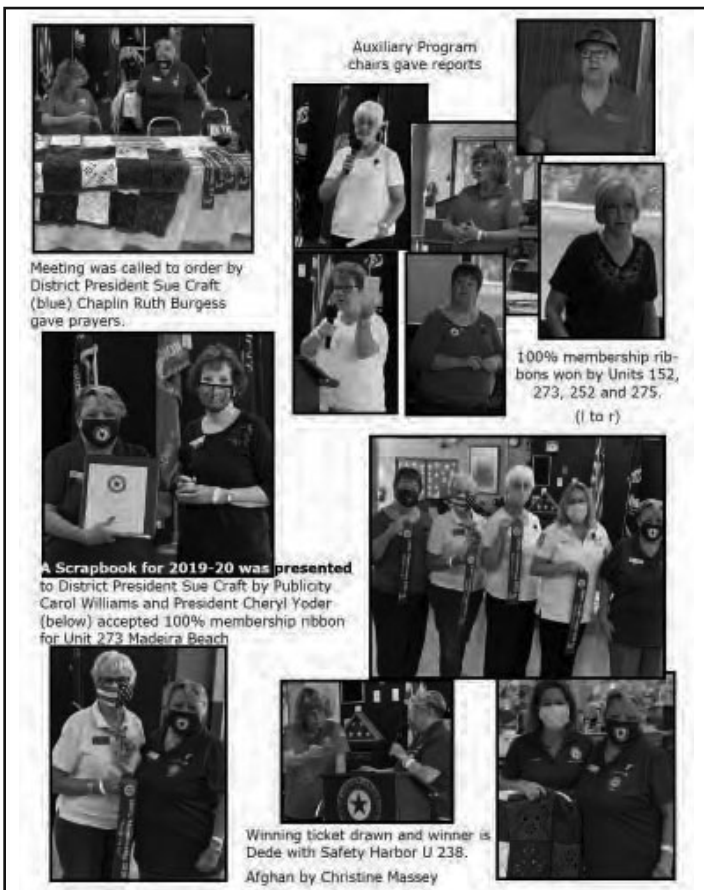




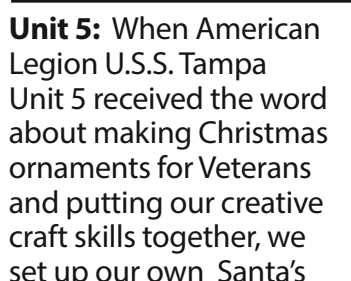
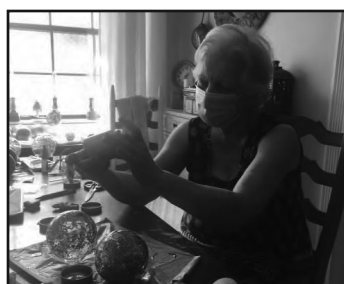
District 16: District 16 Unit 158 Treasure Island is all about Veterans Day. Besides marching in the Veterans Day Parade, holding a Post Family ceremony on Veterans Day along with the usual poppy donations received at several locations our Poppy extravaganza for our Veterans promises to be a great event.



10 year old Owen Fredella received the National Good Deed award presented by Department President Ann King Smith and was nominated by Cindy See Unit President in Tice Florida



District 16: 16th District Mini School of Instruction, with Dept 3rd Vice in attendance Dee Bell.



Unit 5: When American Legion U.S.S. Tampa Unit 5 received the word about making Christmas ornaments for Veterans and putting our creative craft skills together, we set up our own Santa's workshop at Auxiliary President Rosemary Hamblin house. Not only did we work on ornaments, we also cut coupons out for our military families who are deployed and got Halloween candy and coloring books ready for the military children on MacDill AFB it was a very productive day we safety distancing and we did wear our mask.

FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



Unit 9: Unit 9 Members with District President at their Fall Festival



Unit 9: Madison Haynes Unit 9 Junior, passing out poppies at Veteran's Day Parade.



Unit 9: Post 9 Charter Draping Ceremony (left to right Mary Tarnowski 5th District Sgt at Arms, Annie Anderson 5th District President, Nancy Chandler 5th District Secretary, Roberta Tucker Unit 9 President).



Unit 9: Unit 9 Senior and Junior Members in Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade 11-11-2020



Unit 9: Pickett Elementary Thanksgiving meals (Left to right Roberta Tucker Unit 9 President, Liz Shumaker Unit 9 Historian, Pickett Elementary Secretary, Guidance Counselor, kneeling Principal).



Unit 9: Unit 9 Jacksonville Fall Festival



Unit 13: Donn Winsloe, VA&R Chairman, and Nell Hewitt, VP of Unit 13, delivered Buddy Baskets to Tallahassee Vet Village for veterans completing the program and moving into their own accommodations. Shown with a veteran in the program.



Unit 38: Unit 38 Ft Myers presented President Ann with a donation for Honor Flight. Are you up for the challenge?



Unit 148



Unit 148



Unit 241: The Sneads Carlisle Rose Garden Club placed a new patriotic wreath at the Blue Star Memorial Highway marker located in Sneads on Highway 90. This memorial marker is honoring all Armed Forces personnel and sponsored by the Club in conjunction with the American Legion Post 241 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 241. Thanks to club member Faye Walden for making the wreath. Pictured left to right is Faye and member Margaret Zeigler. God Bless America!



Unit 241: On Oct. 29th Unit 241 hosted a Veteran's Day Dinner at Post 241 in honor of members for their service to our Country. Pictured left to right: Mack Lipford, Harold Beauchamp, Guy Edwards, Milton Schouest, Dillon Kilpatrick, Bobby Edwards (Post Commander), Debra Mann, Clark Riddle, Homer Hirt.



Unit 241: Unit 241 in conjunction with Post 241 have constructed and placed 252 PVC cross flag holders at veteran graves at two Sneads cemeteries in recognition of Veteran's Day. Let the "wave of patriotism" fly! God Bless America!



Unit 19: Orlando Memorial Unit 19 Member Colette DeRouin received the Life Saving Award today for saving a man's life that drove into a lake.

FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



Unit 291: On October 31st the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 along with members of the American Legion and Son's of the Legion set up golf carts at the Post for Trick or Treat. Since the county cancelled all events this was something special for the children in Steinhatchee.



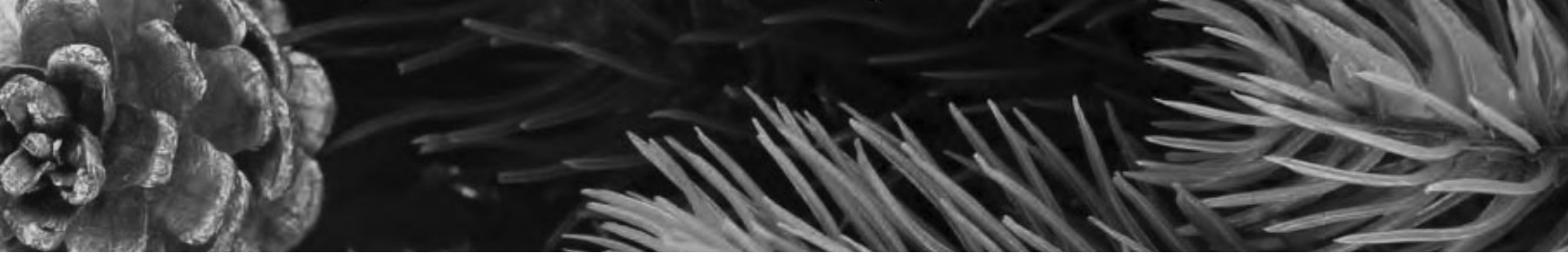
Unit 291: In preparation for Veterans Day the members of the American Legion Post 291 and other volunteers placed the 400 crosses along the streets of Steinhatchee. Each cross honoring a veteran that served our Country. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 started this project in 2018 and it has grown from 190 crosses to the 400 that was put out this week.



Unit 291: On Sunday November 11, 2020 the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 of Steinhatchee celebrated Veteran's Day. The Auxiliary along with the Son's did an outdoor cook out with pulled pork and all the fixings. Inside we had an appetizer table and Veterans and guest drank free from 12-6. Great day outdoors with music by Vinyl Refuge, dancing and a bomb fire later in the evening. Dinners were also sold to non members.



Unit 291: On November 9, 2020 at the Auxiliary Meeting for Unit 291 Steinhatchee two of our members were honored by the Legionnaires. Jackie Pons and Nina Johnson was awarded a certificate of appreciation along with a \$100.00 gift card each for the hard work that they do taking care of our Veteran's in our local nursing homes. Jackie and Nina have stayed in touch with our veteran's even through the Covid outbreak. The Veteran's are recognized on every holiday day and receive a special gift for their birthdays. Pictured from left to right is Commander Jimmy Dietrich, Jackie Pons, Van Jester, Nina Johnson, and Past Commander Butch Cantrell.



Unit 303: As I reflect back to the summer of 2020, I can't help but feel deep gratitude for 5 of our ALA members from Unit 303. We were closed for 5 solid months. That meant no business, no revenue and many people's jobs and livelihoods on the line. Talk about unsung heroes! Auxiliary members Julie Sorensen, Nicole Sorensen, Deb Whiteley, Kat Sitarek, Cheyenne Tru and Cathy Young stepped up!

I want to give the loudest "SHOUT OUT" possible to recognize these members that went above and beyond the call to portray true "Service Not Self" not only to our Unit 303 but our Post, as well. These members took shifts every day doing every job imaginable. They started with a deep clean and sanitized the whole post. They tore the kitchen apart and scrubbed areas that hadn't been cleaned for a long time. They took pictures down, dusted and then painted the whole Post. They scrubbed the floors and

washed the windows. As they began to realize this pandemic wasn't going away, they created virtual auctions with incredible prizes. They tried raising money at a time when many members were out of work and panicking about the future. They fielded hundreds of phone calls and patiently explained why we couldn't open especially when other fraternal clubs were opening. In short, these ladies were our glue. They held us together! "Service, not self." Everything they did was for the post. No pay check was earned because we had no money. They stepped up and never ever sat down until we opened. I will end this with the fact we are still struggling and they are still in that Post every day working to bring it back! God bless every one of them!

Jan Farrington, President
Unit 303, Bonita Springs

 THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
PRESENTS
2020 Virtual Conference
View it online at <https://bit.ly/33DQ3jp>

One of the Best Days of My Life!



Story and photography by Sue Paquin, SWFLHF photographer

May 5, 2018 is a day Wilson (Will) Wareham will remember for the rest of his life. The former US Navy Seaman, a World War II veteran, had never been to Washington DC. The then 90 year old just assumed he never would travel there,

and that he would never see the incredible monument dedicated to the the sacrifice of the men and women he served with during the war. That was about to

change.

It started a few months earlier, as a short conversation with Will, who is my neighbor, where I learned that he had never traveled to the World War II monument. As photographer for Southwest Florida Honor Flight, I encouraged Will to fill out an application. Soon we were preparing Will's first trip to Washington D.C.

The day was a whirlwind of activity, an early morning departure out of Fort Myers, landing in Washington D.C. to a water cannon salute as the aircraft taxied to the gate, and visiting the WWII Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Woman's Memorial, the Women In Military Service For America Memorial, the United States Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial), and of course, Arlington National Cemetery to see the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the



Unknown Solider.

Will's guardian, Bonnie Rorh, helped Will throughout the day, as he enjoyed seeing our nation's capital, and the monuments for the first time. The highlight of the day for Will, of course, was the World War II monument. Upon our arrival at the plaza, it was like stepping back in time, volunteers dressed in WWII era clothes were there to greet the veterans, nurses giving kisses to the vets, and dancing to the wonderful music of that time. To top off the day, Will got to meet and be photographed with former senator Bob Dole! As we flew home, the vets had "Mail Call" receiving letters and cards from their families and from kids in the local schools. And finally, a late-night Welcome Home, greeted by hundreds of members of the community,

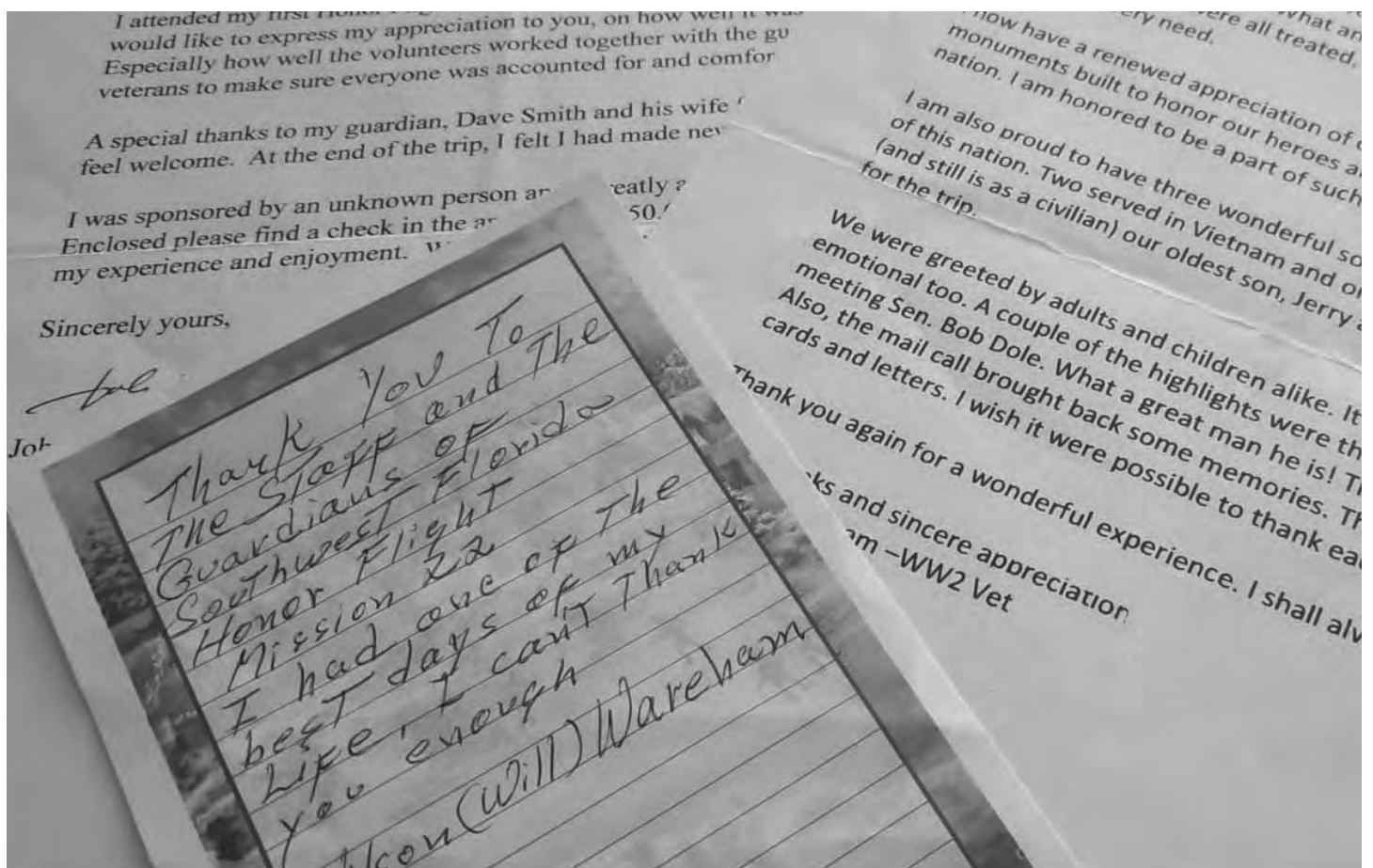
bagpipers, and color guards from many organizations. Quite an emotional day for sure.

It's that kind of day that the members of the SW Florida Honor Flight committee strive to bring to each and every veteran that we bring on our flight. The kind of day that leads to heartfelt thanks, from the veterans and the guardians. The kind of day that leads to a handwritten note which reads

"Thank you to the staff and the guardians of SW Florida Honor Flight Mission 22. I had one of the best days of my life.

I can't thank you enough."

No Will, we can't thank YOU enough!



MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

NOVEMBER 25, 2020

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	185	0	103	103	55.68%
0078	Milton	15	0	12	12	80.00%
0193	Pensacola	82	1	34	35	42.68%
0221	Niceville	72	0	57	57	79.17%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	166	1	78	79	47.59%
0240	Pensacola	220	4	153	157	71.36%
0296	Destin	50	1	44	45	90.00%
0340	Pensacola	322	4	206	210	65.22%
0356	Lynn Haven	145	0	89	89	61.38%
0375	Southport	56	1	30	31	55.36%
0378	Gulf Breeze	47	0	23	23	48.94%
0382	Navarre	164	0	69	69	42.07%
0392	Panama City	144	2	117	119	82.64%
0402	Panama City Beach	34	0	26	26	76.47%
TOTALS		1702	14	1041	1055	61.99%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	88	5	58	63	71.59%
0082	Lanark	81	1	49	50	61.73%
0084	Havana	31	11	8	19	61.29%
0100	Marianna	36	4	25	29	80.56%
0217	Quincy	52	4	31	35	67.31%
0241	Sneads	69	23	46	69	100.00%
TOTALS		357	48	217	265	74.23%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	22	0	16	16	72.73%
0057	Lake City	232	0	153	153	65.95%
0107	Live Oak	44	1	34	35	79.55%
0131	Greenville	11	0	0	0	0.00%
0215	Jasper	36	2	18	20	55.56%
0224	Madison	36	0	22	22	61.11%
0291	Steinhatchee	184	3	134	137	74.46%
0383	Old Town	129	1	63	64	49.61%
TOTALS		694	7	440	447	64.41%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	43	1	14	15	34.88%
0027	Ocala	15	1	13	14	93.33%
0058	Dunnellon	44	0	33	33	75.00%
0077	Inverness	48	0	30	30	62.50%
0149	Newberry	24	2	19	21	87.50%
0155	Crystal River	328	6	248	254	77.44%
0166	Homosassa Springs	109	2	90	92	84.40%
0230	Hawthorne	38	2	24	26	68.42%
0236	Bronson	36	0	14	14	38.89%
0237	Beverly Hills	169	0	103	103	60.95%
0284	Bellevue	84	0	27	27	32.14%
TOTALS		938	14	615	629	67.06%

DISTRICT 5

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	37	1	14	15	40.54%
0037	Saint Augustine	30	0	6	6	20.00%
0054	Fernandina Beach	164	3	105	108	65.85%
0088	Jacksonville	90	3	55	58	64.44%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	361	10	248	258	71.47%
0137	Jacksonville	469	10	271	281	59.91%
0194	St Augustine	74	3	34	37	50.00%
0197	Jacksonville	50	1	19	20	40.00%
0202	Keystone Heights	56	0	28	28	50.00%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	172	32	84	116	67.44%
0244	Jacksonville	25	4	16	20	80.00%
0250	Middleburg	326	24	161	185	56.75%
0283	Jacksonville	459	12	243	255	55.56%
0316	Atlantic Beach	345	44	187	231	66.96%
0372	Mandarin	33	1	17	18	54.55%
0373	Orange Park	41	6	17	23	56.10%
0401	Hilliard	41	1	18	19	46.34%
TOTALS		2773	155	1523	1678	60.51%

DISTRICT 7

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	74	0	53	53	71.62%
0004	Lakeland	63	3	46	49	77.78%
0008	Winter Haven	586	7	437	444	75.77%
0034	Haines City	73	0	40	40	54.79%
0071	Lake Wales	43	0	32	32	74.42%
0072	Mulberry	152	3	82	85	55.92%
0201	Florence Villa	37	1	17	18	48.65%
TOTALS		1028	14	707	721	70.14%

DISTRICT 6

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	191	2	131	133	69.63%
0018	Wildwood	15	0	1	1	6.67%
0019	Orlando	126	2	65	67	53.17%
0035	Mount Dora	129	2	70	72	55.81%
0041	Eustis	13	0	11	11	84.62%
0052	Lake Panasoffkee	4	0	3	3	75.00%
0053	Sanford	54	2	43	45	83.33%
0055	Clermont	146	0	96	96	65.75%
0063	Winter Garden	35	0	14	14	40.00%
0080	Saint Cloud	248	19	141	160	64.52%
0101	Bushnell	116	0	89	89	76.72%
0109	Ocoee	16	2	4	6	37.50%
0112	Winter Park	23	2	19	21	91.30%
0183	Fern Park	132	1	63	64	48.48%
0219	Fruitland Park	205	1	137	138	67.32%
0242	Orlando	123	9	55	64	52.03%
0286	Orlando	167	5	105	110	65.87%
0330	Leesburg	63	1	53	54	85.71%
0331	Orlando	13	0	16	16	123.08%
0347	Lady Lake	2647	8	2058	2066	78.05%
0412	Orlando	17	2	7	9	52.94%
TOTALS		4483	58	3181	3239	72.25%

DISTRICT 8

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	34	10	20	30	88.24%
0024	Bradenton	289	13	223	236	81.66%
0025	Lake Placid	355	0	202	202	56.90%
0030	Sarasota	78	8	43	51	65.38%
0069	Avon Park	636	7	431	438	68.87%
0074	Sebring	94	0	57	57	60.64%
0113	Rotonda West	327	2	204	206	63.00%
0159	Venice	730	0	402	402	55.07%
0254	North Port	120	0	87	87	72.50%
0266	Fruitville	144	4	73	77	53.47%
0309	Palmetto	163	0	117	117	71.78%
0312	Oneco	262	1	107	108	41.22%
0325	Ellenton	163	0	110	110	67.48%
TOTALS		3395	45	2076	2121	62.47%

DISTRICT 9

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	32	0	21	21	65.63%
0092	Hollywood	98	1	64	65	66.33%
0142	Pompano Beach	200	3	124	127	63.50%
0157	Margate	176	9	101	110	62.50%
0162	Deerfield Beach	182	20	104	124	68.13%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	95	4	74	78	82.11%
0209	Dania Beach	20	0	0	0	0.00%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	32	9	19	28	87.50%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	49	0	17	17	34.69%
0287	Deerfield Beach	15	0	0	0	0.00%
0304	Dania	69	0	27	27	39.13%
0310	Hallandale	37	0	25	25	67.57%
0321	Cooper City	208	30	105	135	64.90%
0365	Sunrise	16	0	10	10	62.50%
TOTALS		1229	76	691	767	62.41%

DISTRICT 12

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	311	13	203	216	69.45%
0022	Cocoa	86	1	52	53	61.63%
0039	Vero Beach	199	1	95	96	48.24%
0040	Fort Pierce	187	1	128	129	68.98%
0081	Melbourne	137	1	92	93	67.88%
0117	Palm Bay	499	7	299	306	61.32%
0126	Jensen Beach	216	1	119	120	55.56%
0163	Eau Gallie	253	4	143	147	58.10%
0171	Fort Pierce	16	0	13	13	81.25%
0189	Sebastian	135	0	112	112	82.96%
0191	Melbourne	95	14	20	34	35.79%
0200	Satellite Beach	165	8	104	112	67.88%
0318	Port St Lucie	874	4	583	587	67.16%
0344	Merritt Island	45	2	27	29	64.44%
0348	Cape Canaveral	181	0	137	137	75.69%
0358	White City	64	0	36	36	56.25%
0359	Port St John	283	1	170	171	60.42%
0366	Barefoot Bay	74	21	37	58	78.38%
0394	Palm Bay	161	4	93	97	60.25%
0410	Viera	12	0	7	7	58.33%
TOTALS		3993	83	2470	2553	63.94%

DISTRICT 11

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	54	2	32	34	62.96%
0047	Lake Worth	103	1	50	51	49.51%
0062	Stuart	393	2	413	415	105.60%
0064	Okeechobee	126	0	61	61	48.41%
0065	Delray Beach	54	4	38	42	77.78%
0141	West Palm Beach	92	5	56	61	66.30%
0164	Boynton Beach	140	5	89	94	67.14%
0199	W Palm Beach	41	0	32	32	78.05%
0268	Riviera Beach	80	10	44	54	67.50%
0271	Tequesta	156	4	105	109	69.87%
0277	Boca Raton	99	0	79	79	79.80%
0288	Boynton Beach	30	6	4	10	33.33%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	42	5	20	25	59.52%
TOTALS		1410	44	1023	1067	75.67%

DISTRICT 13

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	45	0	31	31	68.89%
0090	Cape Coral	244	1	167	168	68.85%
0103	Punta Gorda	430	1	308	309	71.86%
0110	Port Charlotte	560	2	402	404	72.14%
0123	Sanibel	60	0	16	16	26.67%
0130	Labelle	131	1	81	82	62.60%
0135	Naples	339	1	252	253	74.63%
0136	Saint James City	460	1	257	258	56.09%
0192	Fort Myers	21	0	14	14	66.67%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	588	0	388	388	65.99%
0303	Bonita Springs	404	15	249	264	65.35%
0323	Lehigh Acres	434	30	240	270	62.21%
0336	N Ft Myers	354	0	219	219	61.86%
0351	Fort Myers	91	2	43	45	49.45%
TOTALS		4161	54	2667	2721	65.39%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	57	0	34	34	59.65%
0031	South Miami	176	5	126	131	74.43%
0043	Homestead	57	1	21	22	38.60%
0067	North Miami	55	0	35	35	63.64%
0098	Coral Gables	21	0	15	15	71.43%
0133	Miami	71	1	40	41	57.75%
0154	Marathon	157	0	75	75	47.77%
0168	Key West	12	0	12	12	100.00%
0333	Key Largo	80	0	26	26	32.50%
0346	Miami	20	0	9	9	45.00%
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	32	32	76.19%
TOTALS		748	7	425	432	57.75%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	294	2	185	187	63.61%
0014	St Petersburg	104	2	71	73	70.19%
0079	New Port Richey	433	15	236	251	57.97%
0104	Pinellas Park	226	6	175	181	80.09%
0119	Largo	389	6	223	229	58.87%
0125	St Petersburg	329	5	197	202	61.40%
0158	Treasure Island	301	1	164	165	54.82%
0173	Holiday	274	1	177	178	64.96%
0238	Safety Harbor	278	9	164	173	62.23%
0252	Seminole	1005	6	691	697	69.35%
0273	Madeira Beach	3210	4	1915	1919	59.78%
0275	Dunedin	851	4	578	582	68.39%
0305	St Pete Beach	114	0	86	86	75.44%
0335	Hudson	76	3	51	54	71.05%
TOTALS		7884	64	4913	4977	63.13%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	42	1	25	26	61.90%
0026	Plant City	18	0	8	8	44.44%
0111	Tampa	46	1	53	54	117.39%
0138	Tampa	448	7	296	303	67.63%
0139	Tampa	117	0	68	68	58.12%
0147	Odessa	37	2	28	30	81.08%
0148	Riverview	186	6	142	148	79.57%
0152	Tampa	268	9	155	164	61.19%
0167	Tampa	22	3	20	23	104.55%
0186	Brooksville	382	1	257	258	67.54%
0246	Sun City Center	13	0	3	3	23.08%
0248	West Tampa	25	1	19	20	80.00%
0389	Ruskin	16	1	6	7	43.75%
TOTALS		1620	32	1080	1112	68.64%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	94	0	12	12	12.77%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	229	1	47	48	20.96%
0045	Palatka	49	3	29	32	65.31%
0115	Palm Coast	41	0	32	32	78.05%
0120	HollyHill	212	2	138	140	66.04%
0127	Lake Helen	26	2	14	16	61.54%
0204	Daytona Beach	21	10	10	20	95.24%
0255	Deltona	31	7	17	24	77.42%
0259	Debary	22	0	3	3	13.64%
0267	Ormond Beach	177	2	125	127	71.75%
0270	Port Orange	127	0	122	122	96.06%
0285	Edgewater	119	0	52	52	43.70%
0361	S Daytona	196	0	93	93	47.45%
TOTALS		1344	27	694	721	53.65%



**The American Legion Auxiliary
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