

Book of Reports



2019 – 2020

Department Chairmen



AEF

Auxiliary Emergency Fund



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida AEF Year-End Report

2019-2020

Department: Florida

Department Chairman's Name: Linda Knoblach-Harkness

Due to Covid 19 we have many more members applying for AEF.

The numbers from the units are hard to quantify right now. Our Units are working closely with their members to help as more members are affected.

We continue to encourage our members to "Get To Know Auxiliary Emergency Fund" (AEF). This program is so vital to our members. Although our mission is to serve our Veterans, Military, Military Families, Children and Youth, as well as our communities, it is just as important to take care of our members, AEF is the only program that is solely for our members. We urge each of our members take the time to familiarize themselves and the units with the Program Action Plan.

One of the ways we have helped our members "Get to Know Auxiliary Emergency Fund" is by having a class on "Demystifying the Application". We have found that many members don't apply because they feel a bit intimidated by the application. In addition, some of our Unit members who would be investigators are apprehensive when it comes to fulfilling this all-important task. We believe that by taking the time to teach our members, it alleviates the angst that might accompany this process. Our members are encouraged to call the Department AEF Chairman and I will go thru the application line-by-line, if need be, to ensure they have completed the application properly. If a disaster hits our state I am prepared to go to the area and help our members with the application/investigation process. Although The Department of Florida has established a "Boots-On-The-Ground" AEF committee, we are very limited on our travel.

We have encouraged each unit to have a fund. This helps our members in two ways; the unit can distribute smaller amounts immediately and the application asks if the unit has helped the member. By having the funds on hand, both deeds can be accomplished.

We are still collecting \$1 from each of our members in order to grow our AEF contributions. It is imperative to take care of our members and this is the only program ALA has where the members are the focus.

Most of our units collect money at the monthly meetings. There are a few units that collect money in the canteen. Unit 80 held their annual AEF fundraiser. This year the theme was "Born to be Wild" They had a live band and dressed in motorcycle gear. They raised \$1000.00 for AEF.

Unit 275 has a "Pink Pig" fund. All entities take the pink pig to the monthly meetings where contributions are made. There is a "Pink Pig" Committee that determines how the money is given. In most cases the fund are distributed to the creditor or gift cards for groceries are purchased.

As of April 30, 2020, we have raised \$2015.00 towards our \$10,000 goal. One of the ways we raised these funds was by having a photobooth set up at our Workshop and our Fall Conference. Each "model" donated and dressed as Rosie the Riveter for their picture. We had a great time with this. We also raffled off a disaster relief basket that contained the items we all need to "bug-out".

To date, the Department of Florida has donated \$735 to National AEF.

It is my great pleasure to serve the Department of Florida as Department AEF Chairman.

Linda Knoblach-Harkness

Department of Florida

AEF Chairman

emergencyfund@alaf1.org

484-264-7890







Americanism



No Report Submitted

Chaplain



Department of Florida Year End Report

Chaplain – Lois Stachelrodt

President – Ann King Smith

The Department of Florida received year end reports from Twelve Districts.

Our Unit and District Chaplains have been busy all year comforting members and their families and assisting our Veterans.

As our lives are changing in this uncertain time, our Chaplains have gone above and beyond to comfort and pray with our members and their families for any losses. We especially are praying that everyone stays safe and well as we go through this pandemic.

We had Ninety-Six Units reporting that they opened and closed their meetings with prayer. Twenty-eight of those Units used the Home Front magazine during the year. There were sixty chaplains reported that they were asked to offer a prayer at different functions.

During the year, our Chaplains sent out the following cards:

826 – Sympathy

1,044 Get Well

346 Thinking of You

61 Congratulations

1,359 Birthday

Sixty-One of our Units visited the sick 469 times at hospitals, homes, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Sixty-Five of the Units draped their charters 129 times in memory of a member who has passed away. Thirty-Two Units either attended or help a Memorial Service 15 times during the year.

Five Units reported donating to the Memorial Scholarship.

Twenty-Three Units reported either participating in or holding a Four Chaplains Ceremony.

Five Units reported donating to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

Four Units used Grace Cards and handed out 3,545 of them. One District (11) gave 700 Grace Cards for each of the five holidays to West Palm Beach VA Medical Center, and they were placed on patients trays. Way to Go!

We had Units reported the following attendance at Ceremonies:

Memorial Day – 74

Veterans Day – 70

Wreaths Across America – 55

POW/MIA – 27

Pearl Harbor – 11

Flag Day – 27

Three Units reported participating in two separate “Missing In America Projects” Services. They also attended First Responders Ceremonies, National Day of Prayer, September 11 Veteran Memorial Park Services, Fourth of July, Legion Birthday, Veterans Luminary, Poppy Appreciation, and Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Services.

One Unit reported that they hold a Flag Service 365 days a year.

Units send flowers or plants in lieu of cards to members who are sick. Also donated flowers to the VAMC Chapel Memorial Services.

As you can see the Chaplains in the Department of Florida are super busy and as their Department Chaplain, I am extremely proud of them.

As the Department of Florida Chaplain, I have been there by their side, watching over them. It may not have been in person but in spirit. I hope that I have represented the Department of Florida well.

I have attended as many functions as I could and have sent out numerous cards and offered Prayers throughout the year either by facebook, email and regular mail. There are just too many to keep count on.

As our Country goes through this difficult time, our Chaplains are busy praying for everyone to be safe and well and praying that the entire world will get through this.

We have all come together to help each other by checking on members and family to make sure that there is nothing needed.

Thank you to the Department of Florida members for the honor of being your Department Chaplain. I am humbled and it is my pleasure to serve you again. Thank you for the respect and consideration you have shown me over the years.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Stachelrodt

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Florida

Chaplain

Constitution and Bylaws



2019-2020

Year-End Report

This has indeed been a challenging year with all the changes and revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws by The American Legion and our American Legion Auxiliary. Samples had to be modified with each new change for the Units to use for their convenience. Some used the sample verbatim and others typed the WHOLE thing over.

Through the year 2019-2020, emails to District Presidents and District Chairmen were sent to advise them of the changes and how best to implement them. Emails from National Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Trish Ward were forwarded to the District Presidents as well.

As the postage costs began to mount with most Units having to have their documents returned for corrections, I suggested to the District Presidents and District Chairmen to have the Units email their Constitution and Bylaws to me for review and comment on revisions to be made or if okay as is. They were then instructed to mail the actual copies to me for approval. At least 6 units have taken advantage of this convenience. I plan on continuing this cost-saving procedure into the 2020-2021 year.

Year-end reports were received from 9 districts and 1 Unit reported from another district who had not submitted a report. 62 Units have successfully updated their Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules to encompass the many changes. 12 Units submitted theirs' but they were returned for corrections and I am still waiting for the revised copies. However, with the COVID-19 shutting down American Legions across the country, Units have not been able to meet to get approvals on the changes.

I would like to thank the following for their assistance and guidance. Thank you National Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Trish Ward for your quick response to questions, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Member Pat Devine and Parliamentarian Mary Kelly-Perkins.

When we can meet again, I would like to present two awards. One for the District Chairman who submitted the best narrative and one for the District with the highest percentage of units who have updated their Constitution and Bylaws.

Submitted by:

Catherine (Cathie) McMullin

Constitution and Bylaws Chairman

2019-2020

Children & Youth



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Florida

Children & Youth Report 2019-2020

This year, the Department of Florida will “*Celebrate*” with President Kathy Daudistel and be “*Florida Strong!*” while embracing President Ann’s theme.

As we Celebrate 100 years of serving our veterans, military families, children & youth and our communities we will draw on our strength to move us forward into the next 100 years.

The Program Action Plan focuses on extraordinary youth in our communities, military children, children of veterans, chronically ill children, and children that have gone above and beyond in the “Spirit of Service, not Self.”

Units have planned an exciting year of events and fundraisers to “Open their Hearts” to the Children & Youth program. Roaring 20’s theme dinners, bake sales, bowling tournaments, bike run, raffles, 50/50’s, and many other activities to raise funds to assist and support our children and youth. Over \$30,000 was raised to assist over 1000 kids.

Military kids have been recognized during Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 events on two military bases. Red Shirt Fridays were encouraged at schools to bring awareness to children of all ages. The Military Child’s Table was presented at a Blue Star Mothers luncheon, several dinners and at a school on a military base. Units partnered with the U.S.O. to give kids at MacDill Air Force Base, Tyndall Air Force Base, Mayport Navy Base backpacks and school supplies. Trunk and treat, haunted houses and candy give-a-ways for Halloween were very popular and well attended. Several Legion families had events and supported the National Veterans Homeless Support. One Unit partnered with the military counselor in the local elementary school to identify military families. Festive holiday parties were a big hit with presents galore. Working with Operation Homefront, military families received many donations after Tyndall Air Force Base was devastated by Hurricane Michael. One Unit donated \$500 to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship.

Units worked together with Volunteers for America, Toys for Tots (\$1550) and many local organizations to assist children of veterans. Sample and full-size toiletries, food and clothing, baby items, toys, laundry supplies, and cleaning products were all donated to veteran families. Children at several standdowns received clothing and toys. Thanksgiving, Easter and Christmas baskets were distributed to families in need. Units donated \$29,500 to aid 500 military children across Florida

Children throughout Florida receive vital support from our units. Traditional and home schools and daycares were given paper products, clothing and coats, backpacks and school supplies. One Unit with 2000 members partnered with the Salvation Army to assist 950 children begin the school year. Over \$15,000 in school supplies were collected and given to

local elementary, middle and high schools. Units hosted or participated in community Halloween costume contests and Trunk or Treats and gave out Safe Halloween comic books. One Unit continues to work with Donate 4 Kids helping foster children in need and transition. \$300 was given to Benches for Babes to buy and maintain picnic tables at school bus stops for kids safety. Thanksgiving and Christmas parties were held with Mr. & Mrs. Santa and elves giving out presents. Many Units had angel trees making the holidays happy for many children. One Jr Unit was able to buy and wrap gifts for 9 kids in their community. Way to go!!! A school volleyball team and band who advanced to the state competition received donations to help with travel expenses. High-school teams, title-one school students, little league teams, traditional and charter school students are received help with uniforms. Thinking outside the box, one Unit helped a 5th grader with expenses to go to Washington D.C. for a safety patrol conference. Over \$50,000 was donated to various organizations to help over 2000 children. One Good Deed Award has been presented to a child in FL. Units will be looking in their local communities for children going above and beyond.

Auxiliary members in Florida have always monetarily supported and donated in-kind items to John's Hopkins All Childrens' Hospital since it's inception in 1926 by American Legion Post 14 in St. Petersburg. Members have been knitting and crocheting baby hats, booties, layettes and burials wraps for many years. Hospital staff and patients with low immune systems must wear masks daily. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic masks were in short supply and could not be ordered. All Children's provided the material and 35 members of the American Legion family sewed over 3,500 masks. Department of Florida Makes a Difference!!

Chronically ill children are always close to our hearts. Units have given monetary donations, volunteered or given in-kind donations or pop-tabs to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (\$12,292), Camp Boggy Creek (\$7,800), Camp Corral, Childrens' Miracle Network (\$5.00), Mailman Center (\$760), Ronald McDonald House (2,500lbs), American Flag (\$38), (Holiday baskets \$500) , Juvenile Diabetes, Special Olympics (\$12,120), Beads of Courage (\$2,185) (500 bags), COTA (\$6547), Galisano, All Childrens' (\$3,200) (2000 kitted items), Landstuhl, St. Jude (\$175), Shriner's (\$200), and Indian River(50 baby hats) Hospitals.

Units will continue throughout the year to Open their Hearts support and assist military children, veterans' children, medically in-need children and children throughout our communities.

Open Your Heart

Dee Bell

Department of Florida

Community Service



Community Service Book of Reports for 2019-2020

To begin with, this has turned out to be a challenging year. With COVID-19 keeping everyone quarantined, it has been terribly hard for the units to get any of their programs completed. Florida has kept busy though supporting community service throughout the state. The following are some of the highlights.

In District 1 they participated in parades, POW/MIA events, 9-11 programs, Festival of Trees, domestic violence events, donated candy and time for Halloween events and participated in community yard sales. They reported they had a total of 110 volunteers, with a total of 3383 volunteer hours, they spent \$9675.00 on their projects and In-Kind donations of \$6630.00. In District 2 they were busy donating proceeds from an arts and craft show towards the purchase of a bell tower to be installed at the Tallahassee National Cemetery by their local AMVETS, they sponsored clothing drives, donated shoes to school custodians, donated to local food banks and several other activities. They reported a total of 91 volunteers, 7848 volunteer hours, \$2996.00 spent on their projects and In-kind donations of \$3274.00. In District 5 they kept busy with parades, cancer awareness walks, collected toiletries for a mobile shower unit that comes around for the homeless, started a recycle program at their post home, donated books to a day care, volunteered at homeless shelters and libraries. They also helped neighbors by house sitting and walking dogs and shopping. They unfortunately didn't submit any hours, just a narrative.

District 6 participated in food drives, cemetery clean ups, volunteered at church's and donated clothing to homeless shelters. They reported 565 volunteers participated, with total volunteer hours of 9884, total money spent on projects was \$22397.00 and In-kind donations of \$14480.00

District 7 participated in food drives, Fall Harvest Festival, visited nursing homes, provided lunch for spinal cord patients, participated in Founders Day, donated to food banks and tabs from cans. They reported a total of 18 volunteers, total volunteer hours were 1600, and didn't submit any total of money spent or In-kind donations received.

District 8 participated in parades, helped with community breakfast for needy children, rode with the Riders for a Toys for Tots, donated to food banks and gave Thanksgiving dinners to families in need. They reported a total of 110 volunteers, volunteer hours of 7283, total money spent on projects was \$2700.00 and In-kind donations of \$3600.00.

District 11 donated to food banks, volunteered at Special Olympics events, collected teddy bears for nursing homes, transported seniors to appointments and shopping, collected empty pill bottles for PAWS, made and donated masks and shields to hospitals. They crochet prayer shawls and lap robes, participated in a community landscaping event, taught crafts to seniors, volunteered at humane shelters and at bingo at senior centers. They reported a total of 424 volunteers with a total of 12,557 volunteer hours and \$3,995.00 spent on projects and In-kind donations of \$6,017.00.

District 12 sponsored Angel Tree for seniors, provided transportation for seniors for appointments and shopping, participated in parades, volunteered at hospitals and church's, VITAS, adopted a park, made baskets for Kiwanis, held quarter auctions for various local charities, participated in blood drives, gave Thanksgiving baskets to needy, food pantries and soup kitchens. They reported 195 volunteers and a total of 19990 volunteer hours and total money spent on projects was \$1,3674.00 and In-kind donations of \$9,272.00.

District 13 raised money to maintain a veteran's park, donated to breast cancer awareness in memory of a unit member. They donated Halloween candy to a nursing home so the residents could pass out candy to the trick or treaters. They donated meals at Christmas time, volunteered at the Swamp Cabbage festival, and taught exercise classes to seniors. They reported a total of 15 volunteers with a total of 400 volunteer hours and \$600.00 total money spent on projects with In-kind donations of \$200.00.

District 14 donated to the Bahama Relief, participated in cancer walks, Toys for Tots, parades and received a proclamation for our 100-year celebration. They reported a total of 15 volunteers with a total of 4,249 total volunteer hours, \$150.00 total spent on projects and In-kind donations of \$300.00

District 16 supported a Boy Scout troop, carried an ALA 100-year banner in a parade, donated to food banks, breast cancer and volunteered at a Battered Women's shelter. They donated clothing and toiletries to this shelter. They reported a total of 184 volunteers with a total of 2,260 volunteer hours, \$12,220 total money spent on projects and In-kind donations of \$4,470.00

The list goes on for the great things that Florida has done for community service, but that will be covered in the yearend report.

Our total numbers were outstanding, and I am so proud of Florida.

The total number of volunteers that supported community service was 1727.

The total number of volunteer hours were 69,429.

The total money spent on the program was \$68,377.

In Kind donations totaled \$48,243.

Thank you,

Respectively submitted by

Jill Lux

Community Service Chairman for 2019-2020

Education



No Report Submitted

Girls State



Girls State

Year-End Report

Department of Florida

Charlotte Bass

Chairman

Each year the Department of Florida send 300 girls from across the state to

Girls State along with approximately 40 volunteers and 10 Female State Troopers. Our State Troopers volunteer their time each year to assist with our program.

Our girls also have the unique opportunity where they actually get to spend the last three days at our State Capitol in Tallahassee, FL. They are able to be in the actual House of Representatives sit and vote in the Congressional seats. The same is with Senate. They also do a mock trial in the Supreme Court. This gives the girls a realistic experience to see what is actually like to serve in the positions that they have been chosen to be in.

Units use a variety of ways to select their delegates for Girls State. They contact school guidance counselors, JROTC, and possible candidates from their unit. Some use questionnaires and the Americanism Essay before they do the interview process. Girls are then interviewed and selected.

Units got creative when trying to raise money to send the girls to Girls State.

District 1, raises funds from Unit Bowling, held a Golf Tournament and dinners. District 2 had bi-monthly hamburger and cake sales, District 6, one unit received a Community Club Grant, one unit gets help from their Riders' Chapter, the Chapter pays for one girl each year. The 6th District also has an annual District Picnic with the proceeds going transportation. In the 7th District Unit 72 held a Chicken Dinner Fundraiser and served 42 Dinners and proceeds of \$400.00 were raised to send 1 girl to Girls State. Five members assisted with 15 hours of volunteer time. District 8, one unit did a Wine Raffle Basket. District 12 used proceeds from Queen of Hearts, Lottery Hat Raffle, "Boozo", Quarter Auctions, and Turkey Bowl to help send girls to Girls State. District 13 received donations from the Sons of American Legion and the American Legion Riders to help. District 15 had 9 out of the 12 girls return to speak to their sponsoring units. Also, some of the girls assisted with Poppies and Memorial Day Services.

Other fundraisers across the state were raffle baskets, craft sales, 50/50, yard sales, Bingo, and a variety of other fundraisers.

It costs our units \$400.00 per girl, \$120,000 for the 300 we send. Other expenses include meals that are provided to the girls at an approximate cost of \$164,000, plus housing, transportation to and from Tallahassee, and transportation to and from the Capitol

for 3 days. We have set up a registry at Walmart for items needed in the dormitories where units can purchase items, also we have a Cost List of each meal for the day that units can donate to sponsor one of those meals.

As 2020 approached, we proved to be "Florida ALA Strong". Units began contacting schools to get their Girls State Delegates. Applications were given out, girls were interviewed, fund raisers continued. Orientation dates were set, and all were ready to proceed to the next step of preparing our girls for the 2019-2020 Girls State Session. Then in March, everything came to a screeching halt, with uncertainty of what was going to happen next, due to the pandemic and closing of posts.

Our Districts and Units proved that they were "ALA Florida Strong" and were willing to hold phone conference orientations, whatever it would take to still work the program not knowing what the future would bring. Then the heartbreaking decision had to be made to cancel Girls State for the safety of both our Staff and Girls State Delegates.

I am pleased to say that I had 100% of District Girls State Chairman (16) turned in Year-End Reports.

For 2019 Girls State Session we had 283 attend with a total of \$115,200 spent to send them, this didn't include the extra spending money that most units give the girls for incidentals once the girls get there. For the 2020 Girls State Session, 283 Girls had completed all of their paperwork with the total cost to units being \$113,200. Most units have opted to roll over that money for the 2021 Session. The additional donations for either breakfasts, dinners, or other items needed for the Girls State Session totaled \$8,791.00. There were 107 girls from 2019 Session that returned to speak to the units about their Girls State experience. Some of the girls helped with dinners, fundraisers, and distributing Poppies. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida had 18 girls join the Auxiliary after attending Girls State.

For the 2019-2020 year, from the units reporting to their Districts we have 282 Volunteers with a total of 6,863 hours. We have approximately 30 Girls State Volunteers that spend a total of 11 days prior to the girls coming and while the girls are there with a total of 2,716 hours.

We may have had a few hurdles to overcome but as we proceed with next year's Girls State Program our motto says it best "Forward Forever, Backward Never, within ourselves our future lies.

Historian



History Book of Reports

The Department of Florida consisting of 214 units received 20 senior unit histories for competition. All membership groupings has submissions. There were no Veteran's History project submitted by senior or junior members.

We need to continue to promote the importance of keeping a thorough and complete record of activities and accomplishments in our units and districts for the year so that the department can reference their activities in the department's report. This was especially important for our 100 year anniversary.

But Boy What a year for History! The pandemic hit not only the United States but also the entire world. Anniversary celebrations were canceled along with meetings, constitutional conferences and conventions. It has been determined that the ALA will continue with celebrations in the coming 2020-2021 year.

National advised that several programs will give awards for the combined years of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Breakout sessions for History and all other programs were held at Department Convention and Fall Conference. The Historian was available for any questions during the entire years. Department will be sending in a narrative history for competition in our division and for the Toomey Trophy Award. There were several unit histories sent into Southern Division for competition; however, this must be addressed for the following year because it needs to be sent in by the Department Chairman.

Plans for the upcoming year will be to continue to work on histories together with the units through Facebook and now zoom.

For God and Country,

Eleanor Amato

Department of Florida Historian

Juniors



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES 2019 – 2020

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

YEAR-END REPORT

This year, Florida's Juniors reported to have just over 1200 Junior members participating in the Junior Activities Committee. At Department Convention June 30, 2019 Junior Members had their own election and were installed by Children & Youth Chairman: Jane Hardacre. It was the first time in several years that the Juniors participated at Convention and it was very well received. The slate of Officers installed were: Honorary Department Junior President: Delaney Oliver, HDJ VP: Sydney Brotchi, HDJ Secretary: Kayti Taylor, HDJ Treasurer: Jasmine Harris, HDJ Chaplain: Addie Hawk, HDJ Sgt. at Arms: Julianne Asplen and HDJ Historian: Savanna Staelens. Delaney & Sydney also had participated at Florida ALA Girls State in June. The Juniors sold scarfs, bracelets, cards, key chains and ornaments at convention and raised \$163. for Final Salute and the girls were featured on several media and public relations outlets including National President Kathy Dungan's slide show at National Convention in Indianapolis, IN in August.

We are rev'ing up membership with President Ann King-Smith that chose Honor Flight as her project. Juniors were encouraged to participate at Honor Flight events and donate where they could. Because of COVID-19 several events were cancelled or postponed to a date in the near future, but our Juniors were certainly busy and active.

Many Units had their own Installations, events and projects including serving meals, delivering items to the Ronald McDonald House, and

several Juniors participated in the Military Child's Table at their own posts or Units as well as mask making and helping during the pandemic.

Juniors were invited to Department Workshop August 9 - 11, 2019 - 5 Juniors and 1 young SAL attended and participated. Several Units donated snacks for Honor Flight and won a certificate for the most snacks donated in their membership grouping. The Juniors helped President Ann open the meeting by singing the National Anthem.

At Fall Conference November 1 – 3, 2019 – 9 Juniors and 1 SAL member attended and held elections for the upcoming year. The slate of Officers will be: Honorary Department Junior President: Jasmine Harris, HDJ VP: Michelle Johnson, HDJ Secretary: Ianna Nunez, HDJ Treasurer: Haylie Schoolcraft, HDJ Chaplain: Evelyn DeRouin-Davidson, HDJ Sgt. at Arms:

Julianne Asplen and HDJ Historian: Brooklyn Fugua. Installation will be forthcoming, once we can get together. The children participated in the membership parade at Fall Conference, helped the raffle tables, made 100-year memory books, learned cheers and how to run a meeting as well as campaign and run for office.

January 11, 2020 – 10 Florida Juniors attended the National Juniors

Southern Division Meeting held at the Renaissance Hotel. Our own Delaney Oliver ran the meeting as the National Honorary Junior Southern Division Vice President, and she asked Jasmine Harris to be Secretary for the meeting. All attendees that haven't reached their 17th birthday can run for HNJS DVP "Intent to Run for Office" forms are due by July 3, 2020, ballots will be out, and elections

will end August 13, 2020 - Winners will be announced August 27, 2020. A scholarship is awarded to the winner and she is responsible to run the next National Juniors Southern Division Meeting in 2021.

April 3, 2020 was Purple Up Day and 9 Juniors (and a few young SAL Members) wore purple, all the Juniors will be receiving a certificate.

Department Convention – which was obviously cancelled, but Juniors

all across the state of Florida as well as young SAL members participated in the Patch Program and with social media, we got a first-hand look into all the wonderful things our youths did for others, especially during quarantine. National ALA started a new patch this year called the Goodwill Patch and Delaney Oliver was the first recipient for this. Jasmine Harris and Annie Shellhammer video chatted and finished the Junior E-Learning Course together. Brooklyn Fugua was featured on the National Juniors page for participating in a Flag folding and disposal ceremony, Ashley Colegrove participated in the Junior Shooting Sports and Operation Gratitude paracord contest. Haylie Schoolcraft handed out American flags while Ianna Nunez, Michelle Johnson and members of Unit 283 served at a party and delivery Christmas cards as well as many other things.

Units performed the Military Child's table, assisted with fund raisers, participated in Flag disposal ceremonies, assisted with Poppy distribution, helped at membership tables and visited Veteran facilities and Military installations as well as submitted essays for the Americanism Contest.

Our Juniors Facebook page has so many of our Junior members on there promoting our programs while social distancing. Please Like our page: American Legion Auxiliary Florida Juniors as of this date we have 230 friends.

Awards for this year will continue until 2021 per National ALA guidelines. Don't forget to submit any and all submissions we want Florida Juniors to be stars to brighten up the future.

I need to thank my past committee member: Robin Shellhammer and the current committee of Carolyn Brown, Tara Harris & Nancy Patterson for Facebook video chatting and for all the great things you've done and are willing to do this year for our Juniors. Thank you also to President Ann King-Smith for allowing the Juniors to start again and Rev'up for the next 100 years.

Yours In The Auxiliary,

Dara Oliver

Department Junior Activities Chairman

juniors@alafl.org

Leadership



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida

Year End Leadership Report

Leadership Development Opportunities in the Department of Florida

Department Level Leadership Training

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida Leadership program started out in a great way. So many members interested in learning about the program and the ABC/Leadership Schools offered in each district. District Presidents started signing up for these schools at the Department Workshop. There was a lot of enthusiasm during the Leadership presentation which was done as a team effort. Part of the program was a skit “the Frankfurter Sisterhood” designed to help members understand the challenges of being a new member. Then in a show of unity and comradery the members in attendance participated in the finale “Girls’ Just Wanna Have Fun”. To bring home the point that programs need to be fun and motivates members to get involved. Several districts used the power point presentation and the skit during their District Schools of Instruction.

At this year’s Department Fall Conference the Department Leadership and UD&R chairmen held a “Conflict Management” breakout session which was very well attended by 46 members. During the breakout session the importance of team building, mentoring, grooming, and leadership development were strongly encouraged. We discussed issue and conflict resolution along with conflict dos and don’ts. The session ended with a question and answer period which resulted in members helping other members with ways to resolve some of the same challenges.

ABC/Leadership Training Sessions

Auxiliary Basic Concepts/Leadership training classes are ongoing training sessions held throughout the ALA year. These classes are held at the district level and are taught by highly trained ABC/Leadership instructors. The ABC instructor training takes anywhere from a year to two years to ensure that the instructor is fully knowledgeable and has the necessary leadership skills to ensure that members are properly educated. It is also necessary that they can answer the questions that come up during the training session and if they can’t answer a specific question, that they have the tools needed to find the answer. Currently there are eight (8) certified instructors with four (4) getting ready to become certified. There have been 23 classes held to date with an average of 35 – 40 members in attendance at each. We had been at 100% of districts holding ABC/Leadership schools until the pandemic hit, we then had to cancel four (4) classes.

The feedback from the classes was mostly positive but also some districts’ feedback was very mixed on the reviews of the knowledge of the instructors. They reported that it was also

problematic to motivate members to want to attend the ABC school. The Department Leadership team is planning on incorporating this feedback into restructuring the program and re-educating the instructors as well as brainstorming with them on how to get members motivated to WANT to participate.

How do we propose to do that? This is how we plan to start:

1) Revise the current ABC/Leadership school program agenda and materials for a more intense focus on:

- > Reporting and the materials available to assist units to do that. So many members are unaware of the member impact report form, which is a basic and critical tool for reporting.
- > Conflict Management (which has become a National Focus under the Leadership program)
- > Basic Protocol
- > Basic leadership training materials available through the National Website
- > Who we are, what we do and why we're here
- > Working and playing nice together

2) Educate and train ABC Instructors on revised program

- > through zoom meetings work together to brainstorm and fine tune the program
- > have an intense day long training session of the new program

We are anticipating that these revisions will help to promote a stronger leadership throughout the Department of Florida.

District Reports

For the mid-year report, this writer received ten (10) out of sixteen (16) district reports. For the year end report, this writer received eleven (11) out of sixteen (16) district reports. The yearend reports received were dynamic. Each District reported holding the standard Schools of Instruction and attending the ABC/Leadership Schools as well as the department level training sessions at Workshop, Fall Conference and Convention. Many district and unit chairmen reported actively mentoring their members and helping them to become new and better leaders.

The 15th District President and Leadership Chairman have taken training a step further and have been holding “mini” training sessions that include topics such as protocol, duties of officers and chairmen and how and when to file their 990s. Excellent feedback was reported as being received.

Old Glory Unit 183 reported a strong effort in their Leadership Program and reported ongoing review of Proper Protocol, Code of Conduct, proper use of the forms available on the Department and National Websites. The Fifth District incorporates training methods at each of the monthly District Meetings. Unit 133 reported that they have distributed the

extremely useful How To sheets and reviewed them with their membership to ensure that they all know how to utilize them.

The 12th District Leadership Chairman reported ongoing distribution of materials to the units to ensure that they were kept up to date on information and were reminded of how to utilize the tools available to them. The District was in the process of creating a training session for potential officers and chairman when the dreaded pandemic hit.

Inspired by their President, LaBelle Unit 130 has re-sparked its Leadership program enthusiasm by having members attend the different District and Department level meetings to help them become stronger leaders. Unit 303's Leadership Chairman held a special training on report writing. Report writing has been highlighted as a strong need for additional training. Ten (10) members of Charles E. Murray Unit 186 took the Senior Auxiliary Basics Course, and they all passed with flying colors!

Unfortunately, and sadly only three (3) units reported offering the National Junior Leadership Course. Our Juniors are our future!!

It's anticipated that including a stronger focus on the reporting "how tos" and the tools to help with reporting in our future Leadership training sessions, more units will be reporting all the great and wonderful work they are doing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Walsh

Leadership Chairman

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Legislative



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Florida

2019 -2020 Year End Legislative Report

Department Chairman - Lisa Hoyland

The Department of Florida legislative work was Florida Strong as we started with creating the FLALA Legislative Facebook Page so that our members across the state could be engaged in staying strong with legislation. I was privileged to travel to many districts throughout the state meeting with units and promoting our legislative program. I also attended the National Legislative Conference in Washington DC which I found a true learning experience. As units celebrated the American Legion Auxiliary 100th Year Anniversary many met with their mayors and local officials as the ALA Centennial was proclaimed across the nation. Units across Florida, especially since it was the 100th Auxiliary Anniversary, worked very hard getting their Proclamations completed and signed and letting members and communities be aware of the bills and issues that involve all of us. I was fortunate too to have so many units complete their Year-End Reports and realizing the importance of their information to us all.

District 1- Kim Eden– 2 units reported:

Unit 356 – The Mayor of Lynn Haven is a member of this unit. Other members met the mayor twice at their office. On one occasion the 100th Year Anniversary Proclamation was completed and signed.

Unit 402 – A member of the unit attended the National Legislative Conference and visited Rep. Neal Dunn and Rep. John Ruthersford. Members were encouraged to sign up for Action Alerts and two members subscribed to elected officials e-newsletters. Members utilized the Congressional Meeting Report Form and nominated a member to the Legion Legislative Council. Their focus was on Homeless Veterans and Burn Pits, (S.2950) 20 volunteer hours were reported.

District 2 - Kathee Coughlin - 3 unit sent a report:

Unit 84 – Local elected officials were contacted by phone, two emails/letters and four personal visits to their offices. They contacted state officials by phone and sent email/letter. Two letters were sent to national elected officials. At Post Family functions three legislative issues were shared. Elected officials attended three Post Family events, Legislative issues were shared and discussed at seven meetings of the auxiliary. Members were encouraged to sign up for Voter Voice Alerts through the National American Legion Legislative Center and members of the unit have subscribed to elected officials e-newsletters. A Town Hall meeting was attended by members who gave the opening prayer. The unit focused on homeless veterans and affordable housing.

District 3 – Jennifer Day - NO REPORT

District 4 -Elizabeth Chavous -NO REPORT

District 5 - Yvette Moore - 6 units reported:

12 units request and received acknowledgement of ALA 100TH Birthday. Either by an Official seal letter or Proclamation from their local officials. Youth activities promoted a learning tool

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for their youth to be involved with some aspects of legislation. Many ladies around the district attended Town Hall meetings. The 5th District also received a proclamation letter from Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry and it was presented at the 5th District meeting.

Unit 9 – Members attended a local Town Hall meeting. Calls regarding the **Gold Star Widow Tax (H.R.553 and S.622)** were made by three members. Reported 3 hours.

Unit 194 – Elected officials were contacted through four emails. Local elected officials attended two Post Family events. Legislative issues were presented during a unit meeting. At the invitation of the St. John's County, Women's League of Lawyers, three auxiliary members escorted seventeen students grade 3-9 to the St. John's County Courthouse where the students learned about the positions within the county system and how these positions keep the county judicial branch operating. Students attended a mock trial and portrayed the role of the judge, prosecuting lawyers, defense lawyers and other judicial members. At the end of the visit they were given a copy of The Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States. The 100th Year Anniversary Proclamation was completed and signed by their mayor. The unit reported 21 volunteer hours.

Unit 233 - Six phone calls were made to the governor and six emails were sent discussing issues that pertained to veterans. Additional emails were sent concerning the Honor Flight Hub located in Jacksonville. Legislative items were discussed at two meetings. Four members attended a Meet Your Candidate event and fourteen members attended four Town Hall meetings. Six responses were received back from the Governor's office. 20 volunteer hours were reported.

Unit 283 – local, state and national elected officials were contacted by phone and email. Two post family functions legislative issues presented, 8 unit meetings legislative items were shared. They received return responses from eight officials including Gov. Ron DeSantis, Sen. Rick Scott and Mayor Lenny Curley. Subscriptions were made to elected officials e-newsletters and eight members signed up for Voter Voice.. The 100th Year Auxiliary Anniversary Proclamation was completed and signed. Hot topics discussed by the unit included the Legion Act, The Coast Guard Reauthorization Act, The Veteran's Compensation cost of living Act of 2019, **Widows Tax (H.R. 553)**, The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act among many others. Members watched a video on the Widows Act. Legislative report was submitted to each unit meeting. A Meet your legislator event was being planned prior to COVID-19. Information cards were made available to the members with websites to sign up and submit emails for Action Alerts along with the ALAFL Facebook page. Voter registration applications were made available for members to help distribute among the community.

Copies of the newly revised Preamble were distributed to the unit members. 50 volunteer hours reported and \$35.00 to expand the program. They completed the 100th Birthday proclamation.

Unit 316 - A heavy concentration of phone calls, emails and letters were sent to elected officials from this unit. Gov. Ron DeSantis and Sen. Rick Scott among others sent responses to them. Post Family functions were attended by elected officials. At 8 meetings legislative issues were discussed. A Town Hall meeting was attended by 8 members. Legislative issues focused on Veteran's Mental Health and Pay to the Coast Guard.

Unit 372 – Local elected officials were contacted by email by four members. Legislative issues were presented at two meetings. Members were encouraged to sign up for Voter Voice Alerts through American Legion Legislative Action Alert. Members have subscribed to elected officials e-newsletters. A Town Hall meeting was attended by two members who gave the opening prayer. Their focus was on homeless veterans and affordable housing.

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District 6 – Rebecca Bastin - 4 units report

Phone calls, twenty-one emails/ letters along with four personal visits were made throughout the district to local elected officials. Fifteen emails and 1 visit were made to state elected officials. Six calls, forty-three emails made to National elected officials. 3 post family functions legislative issues, elected officials attended post family events and 7-unit meetings legislative items shared. Members were encouraged to sign up for Voter Voice and members subscribed to elected e-newsletters from elected officials. Members attended Town Hall meetings and volunteered at polls. They received thirty-three responses from President Donald Trump, Sen. Marco Rubio, Sen. Rick Scott, county commissioners and mayors. Three Congressional Meeting Report Forms were used, and units nominated members to the Legion Legislative Council.

Unit 80 – Visited a state and a national elected official. 2-unit meetings legislative items were shared. Members signed up for Voter Voice.

Unit 183 - The unit members of Post 183 Old Glory have had the opportunity to visit with the Mayor of Winter Springs on two separate occasions. At a Meet the Candidate event they met with the mayor for over an hour. One member attended a Town Hall meeting in Winter Springs to listen to the council discuss what community efforts can be done in raising awareness of PTSD for veterans in the immediate area. A total of two hours was spent at this meeting. In conjunction with the other members of the American Legion Family, 12 members attended a meeting at our Post Home where a Longwood City Council member partnered with a local medical marijuana distributor to discuss the bills going to Congress to legalize the use of marijuana for veterans, primarily those that are suffering severe pain or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A total of three hours was spent on these two meetings. We also had 5 members attend the Challenge 22 Walk in Winter Garden where Congresswoman Gail Demings spoke to the veterans about her plans for getting more national attention for

their needs. Those members spent a total of 4 hours at that event. A unit member chaired a Meet and Greet with Mayor Dale McDonald of Maitland and discussed the importance of our Poppy program. The American Legion Family held a Town Hall meeting in January that honored one of our oldest members and a Vietnam War Veteran. The Mayor of Seminole County as well as the Sherriff of Seminole County presented him with a plaque for his service to the community and nation. We had two members who have worked at the polls during the primary and have volunteered a total of 20 hours each. Finally, with regard to the recent Coronavirus outbreak, we have had three members write to Gov. DeSantis asking him for tougher restrictions to protect our elderly veterans. Plans to continue to work with our local elected officials to bring awareness of PTSD and veteran suicide to the forefront in our community continue. Over 75 volunteer hours were reported.

Unit 219 – Four emails were made to National elected officials. Elected officials attended three Post Family events. Members subscribed to two e-newsletters and received a response from Sen. Rubio.

Unit 242 - Unit members were encouraged at unit meetings to vote in all local and national elections. Legislative reports were given at unit meetings. Local, state and national elected officials were contacted by phone, emails with messages left when alerts and hot topics needing attention were being voted on in attempt to get important veteran issues passed. Members met with three different attorneys on Florida legal issues. Members gained knowledge of issues by reading Florida laws in magazines and online. Members spoke with Florida residents on topics about Right to Work laws, immigration and equality, Members attended two local meetings on Land Use with elected officials in an open forum format. 40 volunteer hours were reported. 4

District 7 – Mary Lewis – 1 unit reported:

Unit 72 - A letter was sent to state elected officials. Members reported that they registered for several websites including Voter Voice and elected officials e-newsletters. They focused on veteran's needs. 5 volunteer hours were reported.

District 8 – Linda Legeer– No Activity

District 9 - Loretta Young- 2 units reported:

Unit 321 - Four members subscribed to elected officials e-newsletters. The 100th Year Birthday Proclamation was completed and signed.

Unit 365 – Local elected officials were contacted by phone and two emails/letters were sent. Elected officials attended a Post Family event. At Post Family functions and unit meetings legislative issues were presented. Members were encouraged to sign up for Voter Voice Alerts. Members subscribed to elected officials e-newsletters. Two members attended a Meet the Candidate event and 1 member attended a Town Hall meeting. The unit focused on the **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veteran's Act of 2019. (H.R.299 S. 1195)** The 100th Year Anniversary Proclamation was completed and signed by their mayor.

District 11 – Barbara Susco - 6 units reported:

Most ALA activity is conducted at the local level. Some of the members serve in local government or on government committees where they must rely on those governing bodies for taxes and regulations. State legislature is the next level of government wherein members try and advocate for education benefits as well as property tax breaks and protection against fraud for veterans, military and their families. Focus was placed on the Legion Act by making phone calls and sending emails to Congress to fulfill the goals of the **VA Mission Act of 2018 (H.R. 2308)** to expand the Veterans Healing Veterans Medical Access and Scholarship Program to include more students and schools. They also are focused on bills to aid the homeless veterans and their dependents. They seek support for women veterans and especially the Gold Star families. Units work with other organizations such as the 2nd Amendment Coalition (for gun rights) and the League of Women Voters (voting issues).

Unit 20 - Ten emails were sent to local elected officials. A member volunteered at the polls. Another member attended a local Town Hall meeting. Their focus was on veteran benefits.

Unit 47 – Met with their Mayor and unit reported 53 hours.

Unit 65 - 94 phone calls were made to state and local elected officials along with sending 28 emails and making one personal visit. 37 phone calls, 57 emails/letters were sent to national elected officials. Legislative information was presented at 10 meetings. Members were encouraged to sign up for Voter Voice Action Alerts. Members have subscribed to elected officials e-newsletters. 7 members attended a Meet the Candidate event and 1 member attended their local Town Hall meeting. They received responses back from Rep. Frankel, Sen. Scott and Sen. Rubio. Their focus continued on veteran homelessness, PTSD, VA Hospital Services and **Veterans' Suicide. (S.785)** Dozens of hours were reported.

Unit 164 - Elected officials were contacted by sending twenty emails and one personal visit was conducted. Five emails to state officials were sent. Legislative issues/actions were discussed at five meetings. Members have subscribed to elected official e-newsletters. The Unit Legislative Chairman attended a community meeting of the League of Woman Voters and spoke on the importance of voting and veteran benefits pending legislation. 5

Unit 268 – Five calls were made to national elected officials and four emails were sent. They received a response from Sen. Scott. Their focus was on the Legion Act and VA Benefits.

Unit 277 - Personal visits were made to elected officials' offices for Memorial Day and Fourth of July holidays.

Unit 367 - Local elected officials were contacted by making twelve calls, sending fifteen emails/letters and made eight personal visits. State officials were contacted by calls and sent two emails. At Post Family functions two legislative issues were shared. Local officials attended two Post Family events. Legislative issues were discussed at two meetings. Two members attended a Meet the Candidate event and twelve attended a Town Hall meeting. Two members volunteered at the polls. Legislative funding for town programs was one focus

while discussion of membership changes from the Legion Act continued. This unit worked very hard reporting hundreds of volunteer hours.

District 12 - Shirley Fashano— 11 units reported:

Unit 1 - Cathie McMullin focused on educating their Post Family members on Legislative issues that involve them through the use of our Auxiliary Facebook, newsletter and verbal conversations. They sent letters to their state elected officials and one to a local elected official. Congressman Posey wrote back on a couple of occasions. They held two events in which elected officials attended. They reported members registered for elected officials e-newsletters.

Unit 39 – Jennifer Trefelner and Felix Poppell of this unit supported the Legislative program by announcing capwiz subscriptions at meetings resulting in three subscriptions. Legislative issues were presented to membership at three different meetings. The Mayor of Vero Beach attended a Legion Family meeting where he held a Meet and Greet for a short time following the event.

Unit 81 - Diana Ferguson followed the legislative issues promoted by the American Legion and

updated members at the November meeting information about Amendment #3 on Gambling which passed by the State of Florida. The following month she reported that the American Legion case of Bladensburg Veterans Memorial, MD - WWI Memorial will be going to the Supreme Court. Letters have been sent to Sen. Rubio and Rep. Rutherford.

Unit 117 - Rebecca Mills encouraged members to vote by educating at round table meetings.

Unit 163 - Shirley Fashano reported the Legislative team worked with local city officials to have the Proclamation completed and signed regarding the 100th Year Anniversary of the ALA. Members received four e-newsletters from officials as well as emails from POTUS. Shirley attended 5 Town Hall meeting. She serves on the Brevard Board of Realtors Legislative Committee having an interest in the homeless veterans of Brevard County. One event was held with the mayor in attendance. She is active with the AL Legislative Action Alerts and passes information on to the unit members for guidance and knowledge.

Unit 189 - Ann Feldhann reported one of their members attended the City Council meeting. One subscribed to capwiz.com from the encouragement of Ann's handouts. At each meeting they discussed the 116th Legion Legislative Agenda.

Unit 200 - Christine Goldsworth reported this unit has been actively working to bring local representatives to the American Legion Post to educate the members and public on important veteran issues.

June-November 2019

Letters have been written to local, county, state and federal representatives voicing member concerns regarding current legislation affecting active military and veterans. It is the position of 6

the members that it is America's duty to ensure that the men and women who serve our country, as well as those who have served in the past, are given adequate protection of benefits. These should include healthcare, job assistance and/or retraining, housing assistance, and rehabilitation for mental and physical issues. These protections should not only be limited to our servicemen but need to be extended and protected for their families (spouses and children). The current Legislative Chairman at the beginning of the 2019-2020 term had subscribed to the American Legion Action Alert List @capwiz, the American Legion Legislative Update e-newsletter, and the unit has downloaded the ALA Legislative Guide, Senators Rubio & Scott on their Facebook pages, and we are subscribed to their newsletters to keep updated and to regularly voice the concerns of the membership. The unit also made sure that concerns or support for current legislation is expressed by going to each representatives' website multiple times monthly and submitting our support or distaste for that legislation. Locally, letters have been written and contact via the internet has been made to Representative Bill Posey as well as Brevard County Commissioners. Requests to schedule them to come speak to our unit has gone unanswered at this time, however, our chairman continues to work hard to make this happen. The goal is to have a meeting open to the public to discuss issues that are important locally, these include cleanup of the Indian River Lagoon, preservation of our beaches and decrease or cessation building on our beach coast by using tax incentives or other measures to encourage cities to require new construction to be at least ¼ mile away from the beach. Our unit has been in contact with Sheriff Wayne Ivy's office and is working with his office to secure a date for a visit to the post. The suggested topics for his visit include holiday safety while shopping and at home, how to prevent being a victim of current scams, and his crusade to protect animals. These are just a few of the topic suggestions. We are hoping to have him at one of the Sunday breakfasts, which are open to the public. The unit held an Honor Flight auction and dinner on November 16, 2019 raising over \$2,800.00 for the program. The event was published on multiple Brevard County event sites as well as the Florida Today Newspaper. Speakers from Honor Flight and NHVS educated those in attendance about the program. (These hours are accounted for in VA&R)

December to March 2020

Mayor of Satellite Beach was contacted regarding a Proclamation for the Auxiliary 100th Birthday in December. He responded to our request right away, however, the proclamation was delayed due to the death of the young girl on A1A close to Christmas time. The unit chairman sent a letter to the Satellite Beach City Council about the danger of the crosswalk in place and referenced a crosswalk death of two children on Post Road in Melbourne more than a year prior. The letter included support for a change in the type of crosswalks being installed and gave suggestions for solutions to prevent any further accidents or deaths. We finally did receive our Proclamation in February and shared a picture on Facebook, the ALA Department site and sent the picture to Mail Call. The unit has been unsuccessful in securing training for CERT. None of our emails or phone calls have been returned. Although the unit has not been successful this reporting year, we are going to continue to work hard to bring the training to our unit and post and hopefully bring in the public. We are also hoping that

we will be able to bring Sheriff Wayne Ivy and other political representatives to our Post to discuss veteran topics in our upcoming year. The unit will continue to receive updates from our congressional representatives and from the National American Legion to advise us what we need to do to educate others for the needs of our active military, veterans and their families. The chairman also fought to educate members of the unit and post about COVID-19 and urged passionately that all games be suspended for at least fourteen days to control how many people were coming into the post. As a medical professional 7

the chairman understood the seriousness of the virus and made every effort to educate members and public alike about it beginning in late February. A statement was also posted on ALA Florida Facebook urging members to contact their officers to urge post officials to consider the same before the governor ordered posts closed. The reasoning for this was that we had to advocate for our veterans and members, many of whom have medical conditions that increased their susceptibility to contracting the virus, and we as advocates, needed to educate the members and public about the hazards and what could happen. The chairman even pleaded with the Post Commander to stop the games. Many of the officers stated that the chairman and public were over-reacting and refused to do anything until the governor said they had to close. Hours to date: 96; Mileage: 0; Personal funds spent to date: \$30.00 for paper, stamps, envelopes, copying costs.

Unit 344 - Members have worked hard this year addressing issues with elected officials, particularly as they are related to our veterans. Legislative Chairman, Barbara Mennillo met several times with Florida State Senator Tom Wright about our veterans receiving Hyperbaric treatment for their PTSD. She learned the details on how our unit members can advocate for our veterans to be able to receive this treatment for PTSD. Throughout the year Barbara has attended several Town Hall meetings where issues such as state legislators' proposal of a bill to make JROTC a college credit which would help toward a college degree. Another Town Hall meeting Barbara attended, our State House Representatives, Tyler Sirois reported that he is working on a bill to give power to our local pharmacists to be able to do a nose swab test when we may have symptoms of the flu or strep throat; they would have the equipment to check within 10 minutes to let you know what you have. Barbara Mennillo explained that she has learned about ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center). ERIC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist states in improving the accuracy of America's voter rolls. ERIC is governed and managed by states who choose to join. This system keeps track of voters so if a state has this system it can check if a person has voted in another state or is voting with a deceased persons ID. Our great State of Florida does not have this system installed so we cannot be informed as to who or how many times a person has voted. If you live in another state and have property in Florida, you can vote in both places because we have no way of checking. That is why we need to get on our Legislative Representatives to have ERIC put in place. Unit President, Dorothy Walsh met with several elected official to discuss veteran issues and access to services. During a community breakfast meeting she spoke directly with Senator Rick Scott about the lack of female law enforcement officers available at the local VA facilities. She also addressed this issue at a forum with Congressman Bill Posey. Dorothy was invited to sit on a panel discussion called Forward March where

community, state and national legislators gathered to discuss the issues facing veterans and active duty military and ways in which to address the issue of veteran suicide. Three members volunteered a total of 54 hours training and working the polls during elections.

District 13-Linda Hall - 8 units reported:

Unit 103 – In October, the Post family had a membership drive. The Punta Gorda mayor and council member attended.

Unit 110 – The legislative committee analyzed the American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 116th Congress. They passed out information on the Legion Act onto all members, posted on social media and attached to the bulletin board. They encouraged members to sign up for Voter 8

Voice. Letters and for those members that do not have computers they printed out the information to have at their monthly meetings. They also posted information on Facebook. Letters were sent to Congressman. They received an email back from Senator Streube thanking the committee for their interest in veteran matters. They have signed up for his Facebook page and received a phone call asking for their input on crucial veteran concerns. Their focus was on the following bills **Military Surviving Spouses Equity Bill (H.R. 533)**, the **Pay Our Coast Guard Act (HR367 and S21)**, veteran suicide, helping veterans and the Legion Act. They use congress.gov for updates and to see who has signed on to sponsor a bill. The American Legion Legislative site, ALA FL Facebook page t just name a few sources the committee uses to stay up to date on legislative information.

Unit 192 - Legislative information was shared at three meetings. The unit reported that a monthly meeting is held by the councilwoman to discuss problems/concerns in district. These discussions are not limited to their district but inclusive of others. Political input has been given via a person that explains each item that will be presented to the voters on city, state and national level. Topics have included issues with safety such as ringing doorbells, smoke detectors and basic CPR classes.

Unit 274 - One member subscribed to an elected officials e-newsletter.

Unit 303 – Emails were sent to their mayor and five personal visits to the mayor's office. Their focus was on the Legion Act. Their Unit President is a member of the local Veterans Council of Bonita Springs, this provides her an active voice on the panel regarding veteran rights. She serves as the liaison between City Hall and the American Legion. Mayor has attended many of the post family events and have built a working relationship. The unit legislative chairman receives literature on what the state representatives are doing. She has posted information on the American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 116th Congress and encourages members to read these notices. Monthly meetings they urge members to stay abreast of what is happening in all levels of government. They encourage members to contact state elected officials and to vote in elections. Post messages on Facebook.

Unit 323 - Many members signed up for legislative alerts and they subscribed to the Legislative Update which continues to help guide them in building better relationships with their local, state and federal officials to help raise awareness regarding veteran issues. Several members are actively writing to legislators on these issues. They contacted local and national officials about several issues involving veterans such as mental health to help resolve the many mental health issues that veterans are having such as employment opportunities, homelessness, and better health care. They had 12 volunteer hours and have been focused on the **Military Surviving Spouses Equity Bill (HR 553)**.

District 14 - Stacy Cusano - 5 units reported:

Reported five calls and sent five emails to state elected officials. Six events in the district to attend Meet the Candidate events. Three proclamations were received throughout the district.

Unit 31 – Received a proclamation for 100th Birthday from South Miami.

Unit 98 - Rep. Donna Shalala visited the post for President's Day.

Unit 133 - The mayor presented Girl State Delegate Certificates at a City Council meeting. One member was involved in Zero to End Prostate Cancer and is lobbying for better screening and health care of prostate cancer in the VA system. Calls, emails and personal visits to state elected officials were made.

Unit 154 – Received proclamation for 100th Birthday. 9

Unit 346 – Attended a Miami-Dade Commissioners meeting ideas were presented on billboards throughout the country, "Thank You Veterans for Your Service"

District 15 – Marsha Craig

Unit 5- Completed a Proclamation for ALA 100TH Birthday and for Arm Forces Day.

District 16 - Lisa Hoyland, 9 units reported.

Unit 79 - The unit worked hard as they made 20 phone calls to local elected officers, 25 emails were sent with 1 personal visit. They also contacted state officials with 15 calls and 30 emails and made 1 personal visit. They had 1 Post Family event where elected officials attended. At six meetings legislative items were shared. Members signed up for 2 e-newsletters to elected officials. Members attended a Town Hall Meeting and a member volunteered at the polls. They focused on Congressional funding for VA healthcare to prevent suicide among veterans, support for women volunteers and homeless veterans and additional support of our women veterans healthcare to have a better quality of life, and additional support and funding to help our veterans and families so that the number of homeless veterans decreases.

Unit 119 – Five emails were sent to state elected officials. Elected officials attended a Post Family event. Legislative information was provided at six meetings. The Legislative Chairman encouraged members to sign up for Voter Voice.

Unit 125 – Four phone calls, 8 emails/letters were sent to local officials with one visit conducted locally. Two phone calls and 44 letters/emails were sent to state elected officials. At five meetings legislative items were discussed. Subscriptions to capwiz and e-newsletters were made. Two members volunteered at the polls. Sam Henderson, the Gulfport Mayor signed and took pictures with the Legislative Chairman at City Hall, for the presentation of the 100th Year Anniversary Proclamation.

Unit 158 – Emails/letters were sent as well as a visit to local elected officials office. Ten emails/letters to state elected officials with one personal visit made. Five emails to national elected officials. They received three responses back from Congressman Charlie Crist. Four Post Family events were attended by elected officials including their mayor who participated in the Post Family Veteran's Day Parade. Legislative items were presented at five of their unit meetings. Members were encouraged to sign up for Voter Voice and elected officials e-newsletters. Two members attended a Town Hall meeting where the 100th Year Anniversary Proclamation was presented to the auxiliary unit. Two members volunteered at polls. Their focus was on local, state and national veteran affairs.

Unit 173 - Legislative information was shared at six-unit meetings.

Unit 238 - Legislative information was presented at their unit meeting.

Unit 252 - Ten phone calls to elected officials, five calls to state elected officials and five to national elected officials were made. Legislative information was shared at six of their unit meetings. The unit completed the 100th Birthday Proclamation signed by their mayor. The main focus was on the Legion Act and Gold Star Families.

Unit 273 - During the 2019-2020 year, the Legislative Committee met with Steven Cary, District Director for Congressman Charlie Christ, on August 16 (refer to attached Congressional Meeting Report Form) to establish a working relationship with Charlie Christ. During the meeting, Mr. Cary discussed current legislation impacting our Veterans and set a plan to communicate at least monthly on progress for passing pending legislation. As the Chairperson, I communicated with Mr. Cary on multiple occasions, in person and via email, to discuss current activities in 10

Washington and the impacts to our local Veterans. During each of the Auxiliary meetings September – November 2019, I provided a report to the membership on pending and passed legislation. Some of the information provided during these meetings included:

2020 VA Funding

Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative

Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Special Adaptive Housing

VA Benefits Information in Tagalog and Spanish

POW/MIA Flag Act

Veteran Treatment Courts

Joint Veterans Advisory Board

Unit 275 – Phone calls were made to local elected officials and one visit was conducted. Legislative issues were discussed at five meetings.

District 17 – Sandy Van Camp Kirt - No Report

For God and Country,

Lisa Hoyland

Department Legislative Chairman

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(727) 482-0873

Membership



“REV UM UP” WITH MEMBERSHIP 2019-2020

The year started off with a bang with unit's processing membership from all the renewals coming in. With a crazy beginning things moved very quickly. Bootcamp was very informative and helpful. Having a workshop to help all the unit's along with the programs and the changes for the new year. Department of Florida was shifting it self into 1st gear.

By Fall conference we were in 1st gear getting ready to shift in to 2nd gear. The conference was 25 mile marker and 50 mile marker awards. 25 mile markers were awarded to Group 1 Unit 344 Merritt Island, Group 2 Unit 241 Sneads, Group 3 Unit 321 Cooper City, Group 4 Unit 163 Eau Gallie, Group 5 Unit 138 Tampa, and Group 6 Unit 275 Dunedin. 50 mile markers award to Group 1 Unit 344 Merritt Island, Group 2 Unit 166 Homosassa Springs, Group 3 Unit 321 Cooper City, Group 4 Unit 62 Stuart, Group 5 Unit 69 Avon Park, and Group 6 Unit 252 Seminole.

Unit's held many membership drives. Many were done in very creative ways. Dinners, dances, fairs, walks, and all kinds of functions are ways to bring new members in. Going to the schools teaching flag education and how to fold flag, that helped bring in new members.

Sharing and Caring week was a good time to get in touch with many members to see how they were holding on while under quarantine. Buddy checks were another good way. It also helped get membership paid up. This has been a unusual and trying time for many being isolated.

The Conventions were cancelled due to the COVID- 19. The Department Officers and most chairman are now running two year programs instead of one year.

75 mile marker awards: Group 1 Unit 344 Merritt Island, Group 2 Unit 166 Homosassa Springs, Group 3 Unit 321 Cooper City, Group 4 , 5, and 6 had no unit reach the 100% by goal date.

100 mile marker awards: Unit's: 75, 296,382,13,241,58,77,166,237, 88, 244, 372, 35, 55, 347, 34, 30, 69, 74, 266, 220, 321, 62, 65, 277, 39, 40, 171, 189, 318, 344, 358, 135, 351, 98, 139, 147, 148, 186, 248, 275, 45, 115, 258, and 361.

Great Job To All

Department of Florida as of July 2020 is 99.14% at National Level. 2nd Place.

Terry Gallagher

Department of Florida Membership Chairman

2019-2020

National Security



Book of Reports for National Security 2019-2020

By: Rhonda Brailey-Maurer, Chairman

This year, our Department Presidents theme was “American Legion Auxiliary Strong”, It goes without saying that we have strong members that clearly support our Active Duty Military, their families, and our Homeland Security members.

Troop Care Packages:

This year our units did an outstanding job with sending troop care packages to our deployed service members with a total of 1,261 boxes were shipped. Just a side note, care packages were also sent to the US Hospital in Germany for our wounded soldiers. Many times, units do not have the resources or names of deployed, so they team up with outside organizations to send a little piece of ALA love to our soldiers.

Volunteer Hours: 5,500+, Postage was \$31,109.00

Coupons:

Our units had another fantastic year with the coupon program! We shipped off manufactured coupons valued at \$12,641,096.00. AMAZING!

Volunteer Hours: 30,800+, Postage was over \$7,200.00

Gold Star Mothers (ASGM)/Families

Is there any stronger mother than a Gold Star Mother? Not likely and because of that our members have a great respect for them and find many wonderful ways to honor them. We have had special ceremonies for Gold Star families. We even have one member that looks out for a 98 year old Gold Star Mother by running errands for her, shopping and preparing meals for her, taking her to doctor appts, and on special occasions take her to the cemetery where she can pay her respects. We have units that support the Gary Sinise “Snowball Express” program, which supports Gold Star Children.

Also, Unit 39 participated in the Walk-A-Thon for Military Suicide Awareness for the Indian River Gold Star Mothers, 8 members attended. There were two units that honored ASGM chapters. On May 5, 2019, Unit 5, hosted their 2nd annual afternoon tea with some special gift bags for each for the Gold Star Mothers. Attending were approximately 12 members of the Tampa Bay ASGM Chapter. On Sept 20, 2019, Unit 189 hosted their first Gold Star Mother event with a luncheon and some pampering for 8 members of the Indian River ASGM chapter.

In support of the “Hershel Woody Williams, Medal of Honor Foundation Monument” for Gold Star Families, Unit 133 members have been working with the village of Palmetto Bay to get one built at their Veterans Park. There are times when our members have attended ceremonies that the AGSM chapters have put on and made donations to.

Volunteer Hours: 621, Donations made to AGSM chapters: \$2,623.00

Blue Star Mothers (BSM)

Our units reported presenting five blue star banners with one star for the year. A few units do get involved with the BSM chapters in Florida since we have seven throughout our state. For instance, Unit 27 supported their BSM Ocala chapter and Unit 148 also supported their Tampa Bay BSM chapter with a packing parking party for their loved ones. It has been an extremely stressful time for these mothers so many of their children were deployed within weeks of each other. We will continue to pray for our deployed service members by wearing **RED** on Friday to bringing awareness.

Volunteer Hours: 168, Donations to BSM chapters: \$1,150.00, in-kind donation: \$790.00

USO – The Force Behind the Forces

We have several members that are vetted volunteers at the USO centers and for their events, but we can not report those hours. However, outside of vetted opportunities are those that members can get involved with, such as donating in-kind items for their food pantry, bringing them holiday cards to be given out, shopping for back-packs for school or Christmas gifts for military children. We also supported the 8th annual Stars & Stripes USO show & dance at the St Petersburg Coliseum in May 2019

Volunteer Hours: 5,422, Donations: \$5,906.00, in-kind donation: \$5,433.00

Operation Homefront

Like the USO, we have a few members that are also “vetted” with this organization, but there are still many opportunities that units can help with. There is the “Holiday Meals for the Military”, which Unit 5 and Unit 194 participated in and served in combination over 700 Military families. Food baskets are given out, along with a \$20 or \$25 gift card for them to use for a turkey or ham, and other household items. Sometimes the units will have special treats and even decorations they donated to the families.

Operation Homefront also has two other events: they have a partnership with the Dollar Tree Stores for their “Back to School Brigade” and the “Holiday Toy Drive”. Units in District

11, 15 and 16 got involved with both these programs from July-August and November-December 2019.

Volunteer Hours: 1,768, Donations: \$862.00, In-Kind Donation: \$100.00

American Red Cross, Service to the Armed Forces

Unit 286-participated in the "Holiday Mail for Hero's" program

Volunteer Hours: none submitted

Military Spouses eMentoring Program

We have twelve (12) unit members signed up as mentors for military spouses, two (2) members have been contacted and has or is still mentoring.

Volunteer Hours: 25

Military Children

The Military Child's Table had been set up for POW/MIA ceremony at several units. Unit 344-junior members performed the meaning behind each item on the Military Child's Table.

Volunteer Hours:74

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program(YRRP)

We are increasing our awareness of this program for the Reserve and National Guards, Unit 330 made donations for lunches they made and took to the National Guard Armory in Leesburg. During the holidays they decorate the Armory's Christmas Tree and brought toys for the Military children

Unit 43 members participated in several events involving the National Guards & Reservist and their families from the Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB). Events were for Easter, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Promotion Day one of their members husband was being promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 5. It was attended by 75 military members and numerous spouses.

Unit 252 paid \$250 for a bouncy house for the military children of the Army Reserve for their holiday party, plus helped with arts and crafts for the children.

Volunteer Hours: 760, Donations: \$0, in-kind donation: \$1,561.00

Military Family Readiness

The best way to describe this program is that anything and everything that falls under the Military and their families can be found in this program. Unit 316 got permission to come aboard the USS Roosevelt and served Thanksgiving dinner to roughly 150 sailors and family members. This unit held a fundraiser to purchase hams and turkeys. As a unit they also supplied household furnishings for military families.

To name a few other activities, Unit 5 hosted a Mad Hatter Party for Military spouses from MacDill AFB, a total of fifteen spouses attended, they also babysat forty-two children so their parents could attend the JSCE holiday party.

Unit 36 hosted a holiday toy fundraiser for Active Military families. Unit 148 members made a presentation to the Navigator Academy about what their unit and the ALA do in helping our Military and their families. Unit 275 had ten members volunteer to stuff 200 stockings for their 3rd annual "Toy Soldier" event and delivered stockings to the local National Guard and families at MacDill AFB

Volunteer Hours: 465, Donations: \$0, In-Kind Donation: \$2,609.00

CERT/FEMA

There were four (4) members certified with the CERT program this year

Volunteer hours: 24

ROTC/JROTC

This is one of our biggest National Security youth programs, but unfortunately with the Covid-19 pandemic, a lot of on-going functions that the cadets normally could have attended in 2020 ceased. Here are some of the highlights from 2019 Unit 183 had Lyman High School cadets assist with the flag retirement.

One member from Unit 242 had gone to the local high school and spoke 3 times to the JROTC students about what the Post and Auxiliary do for the community and veterans. Some of the cadets got involved with the units troop care packing troop event. Unit members also attended the high school for the 911 memorial, and one-unit member (veteran) volunteers at the school competitions and handed out awards.

Unit 189 has had the local JROTC cadets assisting with Friday night dinners, first responders' lunch, honor guard dinners, and special holiday events. Fourteen cadets earned 149.5 volunteer hours, and the unit presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Unit 133 members invited and involved the JROTC cadets from Hanagan High School to all their events. During a special event for the Prostate Cancer 5k, the cadets presented colors and helped out with volunteering.

Unit 158 has a junior member that is also a JROTC cadet, and a member of their Honor Guard. She performs in many aspects of the legion family.

There have been many units that have the cadets at their post home, helping with lunches, dinners, and participating in ceremonies to earn their volunteer hours. Many medals and certificates were given out at the end of the 2019 school year.

Volunteer Hours: 720, Donations: \$2,700.00

Homeland Security

As Auxiliary members we know the importance for supporting our Homeland Security aka First Responders. We did it last year with the Government shutdown that directly affected our Coast Guard, and we have stood steady with supporting our Law Enforcement, Firefighters and EMT's. I believe that what we have seen and gone through the first part of 2020, that we will be forever grateful for the men and women who serve and protect us all. Here is an example of our great ALA gratitude:

Members of Unit 296 deliver breakfast every Sunday to the local fire station.

Members of Unit 356 delivered 41 meals to their local first responders. They also had one member pay for meals on two separate occasions for first responders who were dining at a restaurant.

One member from Unit 84 babysits for three children under 10 when dad is "called out" for SWAT duty, and the mom's at work.

Two members from Unit 107 attended the Live Oak Civilian Police Academy; they learned how the local police handle duties. They also participated in active shooter scenarios, learned how texting while driving causes accidents, and how it felt to drive drunk by wearing "beer goggles" while driving a golf cart.

After the 911 ceremony, Unit 117 members prepared and packaged 300 meals to deliver to all first responders at 15 location, including three school resource officers, all done in 45 minutes. Monthly they deliver fresh baked cookies to three fire stations in their area.

On the 100th ALA Anniversary on Nov 9, 2019, Unit 189 decided to honor First Responders by delivering 55 lunches to the local Police Dept and Fire Station, and by serving 22 responders at the post.

One member of Unit 110 presented a cake to the local Sheriff's office for National Peace Officer Day in May 2019. Members also crocheted 18 red, white & blue scarves for our First Responders. A donation was made to the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Fallen Heroes Program.

Unit 130 held an Appreciation Luncheon for 75 First Responders. Members of Unit 303 brought blanket dolls, toys and other items to the Police and Fire Stations, so they had them available to pass out when going on a call where children are involved.

Unit 133 supports the Opa Locka USCG by attending several events, also participated in the National night out. Members of Unit 374 had the Fire Dept & EMT's help with serving veterans at their BBQ meal for patients from the VAMC

Unit 138 members have donated baskets of food to their local fire station on 9/11. During fall festival Tampa police officers & fire fighters come to the unit to support them and volunteer their time with their local children.

Unit 148 members delivered "Thank You" baskets, to three fire stations and one Sheriffs Dept.

Unit 273 has four members that participated in the Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony held in May 2019, to pay their respects to the fallen.

Volunteer Hours: 282, Donations: \$0, In-Kind Donation: \$2,518.00

Ceremonies (9/11 & POW/MIA)

Most, it not all units, have member participation at these ceremonies

Retreats for Military/First Responders

Unit 141 held a fundraiser for Renewal Coalition from Jupiter, FL.

Blood Drives

Statewide it was reported that we gave over 1,500 pints of blood, which means it has the potential to saving up to 4,500 lives!!! Thank you for your donation.

Warrior Games 2019

June 2019 members from District 15 and 16 were on the planning committee from MacDill AFB, and several members attended the events or were an event worker. It truly was an inspiring couple of days

Volunteer Hours: 123, Donations: \$250.00

Impact Reporting:

Service to Active Duty Military

Total hours members volunteered = **12,770**

Total dollars spent = **44,793**

Total number of Military assisted = **1,385**

Service for Military Families

Total hours members volunteered = **2,005**

Total dollars spent = **8,295**

Number of military families served=**731**

Past Presidents Parley



Past President Parley

Year End Report 2019-2020

A number of our units had to report no activity because of the world's problem, they had to cancel the Past President Luncheons.

However, two of our biggest units were able to hold Lady Lake Unit 347 held a Women's Veterans Luncheon to honor and thank our female veterans for their service. They had 80 female veterans at no charge and 48 guests. Each veteran received a gift.

Madeira Beach Unit 273 honored the active duty woman by their relationship at the Tampa Bay Group Support and in one month they sent 437 boxes called, a Little Bit of Home to the deployed men and women. The unit's chairman received a wonderful gift from them, a flag that was carried on a highly classified mission, what an honor.

Units Past Presidents in all the units were right there to help teach members on the programs of the organization, participated in installation, initiation, raise money for the nurse's scholarship. Port Charlotte Unit 110 gave two \$3,000.00 scholarships to two granddaughters of a member so they could continue their nursing program.

Many of the units pay past president dues. Several then signed their spouse up in the Auxiliary. The Presidents are highly active in conventions, conferences, workshops, National conventions and bring the information back to the members.

The Past Department Presidents in the past held a luncheon at Department Convention, this year however we decided to hold more in various locations so those that could not travel to a certain luncheon could make it to another location. We held on before Covid-19. We had 10 attend. It was held in the Southwest area. Looking forward when we will be able to travel to the next one. Right now, we are waiting to find out if we are canceling our convention and whatever the decision the Past Presidents will be there to help.

This concludes my report.

Shirley Fraser

Department of Florida

Past Presidents Parley Chairman

Poppy



Year-End Poppy Report 2019 - 2020

Department of Florida

We started the year off Florida Strong but unfortunately COVID-19 slowed us down.

The Department of Florida held its Boot Camp July 11th - 14th, 2019, preparing the 2019 – 2020 Program Action Plans. The Plans were presented at Department Workshop August 9th – 11th, 2019 where all Districts and Units were invited to attend. The Poppy Program, as all other programs, were presented with display boards and slide presentations, as well as, copies of all programs were distributed to all District Presidents and Chairman with copies available for all members, including all reporting forms and instructions, on the Department of Florida website: www.ALAFL.org

The Department of Florida Fall Conference was held November 1st – 3rd, 2019, which included an hour breakout meeting for the Poppy Program. The importance of reporting was highlighted in the breakout session. Included as part of Fall Conference was a Poppy Contest, open to all units, asking for Poppy table and wall decorations, not to exceed 12x12 inches for display and raffle. Twenty-three Units submitted 33 Poppy projects raising \$535 toward President Anne King Smith's project, Honor Flight.

An article was submitted for the February Issue of Department of Florida Mail Call. The article announced the winners of the Fall Conference Poppy Contest, reminded all of upcoming Poster Contest, Year-Reports due dates and reminded District Presidents of the Poppy Centennial Project.

District Presidents were asked to have their Units design a poppy for the National Poppy Chairman's "Centennial Poppy Project", submitting their District's winning poppy to Department by April 1. Five Poppies were received but only one was actually submitted by a District, all others were sent direct from Units. All submissions were considered and the winning Poppy was submitted by Kelly J Mixon Unit 9, Jacksonville. It was forwarded to Beth McGinn, National Poppy Chairman on April 27th, 2020 with notification to Susan Hall, Southern Division Poppy Chairman. The winner was posted with a photo of the Poppy in the May Mail Call.

Eleven of sixteen Districts, submitted Year-End reports, reporting activity since 2019 Year-end reports. Approximately 59,119 poppies were distributed raising \$71,716.16. Based on Department Poppy Contribution and Proceeds Quick Book reports it appears we have only had about 75% of our revenue and little more than half the poppies distributed are reported. Most notable: District 6 raised a total of \$20,131.47, District 12, \$10,627.96 and District 7, \$10,145.50.

The Poppy Program was promoted through Proclamations from cities and townships, newspaper coverage, TV coverage, social media, distributions at local businesses, mail outs, raffles, picnics and promotion of National Poppy Day. One Unit distributed poppies and flags

to 25 Veterans who were given keys to their new homes at a special ceremony on Veterans Day.

Innovative ways were found by Units to increase Poppy revenue including one Unit setting up a Poppy information/display table at all attended events to educate the community about the story behind the Poppy Program. Most Units increased the number of distribution locations and number of volunteers participating in distribution.

Two Districts reported having one Unit each promoting the Poppy Poster Contest. The Covid-19 situation shut down schools making virtually impossible to promote the Poster Contest. Six posters were submitted for the Poppy Poster Contest, all coming from Unit 286, Pinecastle. One Class II and five Class III and all made by local Girl Scout Troop. The Class II and the winning Class III were forwarded to Susan Hall, Southern Division Poppy Chairman via email, as instructed, on May 17th, 2020. Originals still in my possession.

Two Districts reported having one Unit each with a Little Miss Poppy. Actually, one Unit had a set of triplets, two girls and a boy, acting as their Little Miss (and Mr.) Poppy. The children attend different Veteran related events promoting the Poppy. Only one Little Miss Poppy Contest submission was received following guidelines which was submitted to Susan Hall, Southern Division Poppy Chairman June 19th, 2020. The Department of Florida Little Miss Poppy 2020 belongs to Evelyn DeRouin, Orlando Memorial Unit 19.

The **Shirley Harbour Award** is awarded to Pinecastle Memorial Unit 286 for best narrative outlining their Poppy Program.

Due to 2019-2020 Department Convention being cancelled awards will be handed out at 2020-2021 Fall Conference.

There will be no Annual Poppy report sent to Southern Division/National for 2019-2020 as they are requiring a 2019-2021 report at the end of the 2020-2021 reporting year.

We will continue stressing the importance of reporting and hope for better results this coming year knowing COVID-19 has already affected our 2020-2121 results but also knowing "Florida Strong" will overcome.

For God and Country,

Ruth Sovern

Poppy Chairman, Department of Florida

Public Relations



END OF YEAR / BOOK OF REPORTS

We had a wonderful year last year and this is because of the communication at the unit level. Who doesn't like to see their name in lights? I know I do. As a result, the Department of Florida had over 1800 pictures posted on Facebook and we have a total of 554 members on our page. Wouldn't it be nice to hit 600 by Christmas? Department received a total of 41 entries for the public relations scrapbook/narrative. There were 21 proclamations made in our state along with birthday wishes from Governor Ron DeSantis.

We are still celebrating the Auxiliary 100 year anniversary. This is our second chance. If your unit didn't do a celebration last year plan one this year and remember however big or small invite the mayor, councilman, dignitary and picture it and send it to the newspaper. (It doesn't have to be a party, did you help clean the post? Didn't you do it to help the Legion) How about a bus stop bench or a plaque in the veteran's park. There are so many things we can do. Be creative.

Florida Public Relations gave our members a challenge during this pandemic crisis. Send the names of the members who are making masks for our frontline heroes to FLALA Public Relations, and your name will be put in for a drawing for a beautiful handmade jewelry set made by Kathy Helmly. Drawing will be done at Fall Conference. We have a total of 26 in the drawing. Thank you ladies and gentlemen for your talent.

This past year Public Relations created biographies for each chairman and officer and published the bio in our newsletter called "Mail Call". Our members were able to put the face with the chairmanship.

In ending, the Facebook Public Relations page was and still is a success. It has proven to be a great education page as well as keeping in touch with our entire department. Keep up the good work and remember I am here for you.

Eleanor Amato

Department of Florida

Public Relations Chairman

Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION 2019 – 2020

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

YEAR-END REPORT

This year, Florida's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee chose a theme of "Land of the Free, Because of the Brave"! We promoted our mission to enhance the lives of U.S. veterans, military, and their families. In doing so, Florida members achieved Goal 5 of the ALA Centennial Strategic Plan, set forth by National. Our Department President's theme this year is "Florida ALA Strong." Here are some of the ways that Florida Units stayed "STRONG" for our veterans and their families.

Helping our homeless veterans was at the top of our list. The Department of Florida Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman enlisted our help with the homeless female veteran population in Florida. When assisting homeless veterans in our state, he admitted that they often overlooked the special needs of our female veterans. We put our heads together and came up with a game plan. The American Legion Auxiliary would donate female hygiene products and the Legion would strategically place around the state for storage. This way, when homeless veterans were identified, necessary supplies would be readily available.

Workshop is where our Districts learn about our programs and how to fulfill our mission. Program Action Plans are presented and Power Point presentations show examples. At workshop, I presented the idea of donating items for our female veterans. Flyers were handed out, put in the Newsletter "Mail Call," and posted on the Department website. The supplies were to be dropped off at our Fall Conference in November.

Our members did not let our veterans down! Boxes and boxes of shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, socks, underwear, and Poise pads came pouring in! All items were geared for females. Hour by hour, available space in the designated room got smaller and smaller. It quickly became apparent that Florida's female homeless veterans were not forgotten by our members. 2 Department of Florida Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation 2019-2020

These supplies have distributed to Pensacola, at The Her Foundation, which is transitional housing for homeless female veterans. Gainesville received supplies for their "Blessing of the Buckets," where the American Legion Family hosts a stand-down at the Post. Clothing, haircuts, and food are served to the homeless veterans and each one receives a bucket full of supplies. Titusville, which is the staging point for a homeless veteran program, received goods. Stuart, Jacksonville, and Port St. Lucie received supplies for their efforts to find homeless veterans in the woods.

Pasco County holds an annual stand down that involves Hillsborough County as well. Boxes of supplies were given to the Legion Families who volunteer every year cooking and serving our homeless heroes. Other Unit members around the state volunteered their time at stand-

downs. Veterans Court was held by the Clerk of The Court. Veterans were given the opportunity to go before a judge and have their driver's licenses restored. Many of these veterans were now able to get jobs to help themselves. Seven Districts held Stand Downs in Florida.

Another Unit participates in "Hearts and Homes" which finds homeless veterans families with immediate housing. Fundraising, food and household items, and transportation are how they donate to this wonderful cause. They have made it an annual focus for their VA&R program.

Florida ALA members visited veterans in hospitals and nursing homes. They volunteer to host bingo, socials, picnics, and just to visit. Our Junior members handed out birthday cards, holiday cards, and flags with little "Thank You" tags on them. Clothing, toiletries, movies, and books were brought to the veterans at these facilities.

Auxiliary members serve coffee and donuts at the facility, offer their decorating services each holiday, and some even offer carpenter and sewing skills. What a wonderful way to engage newer members to our organization! These are wonderful and intriguing ideas to help volunteers feel valuable and just plain good about volunteering!

One Unit adopted the veterans in the VA Hospital who were in the Spinal Injury Ward. They filled their vehicles with items from the veteran's wish list. It varied from movies, CD's, phone cards, specialty food items, and clothing that reminded them of home. 3 Department of Florida Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation 2019-2020

Other Units cook lunches and dinners at the Post home for veterans in the community. They transport the veterans to the post home and make an event out of it. Sometimes, they hold ceremonies to honor the veterans. Other times it involves activities to engage and include the veterans in the post and community.

We have a Unit near the Keys that sets up tents at concerts that raise money for Project Vet Relief. These events, sponsored by the Legion Riders, are a great way to inform the public about our organization. Our members pitch in any way they can including holding raffles and staffing membership tables.

Parades, Wreaths Across America, Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas parties, and ceremonies that honor veterans are other ways our members show their respect. Veterans across our state received honor, friendship, and gifts.

Our members did not forget our veteran's caregivers. Babysitting, spa day gifts, housework, and lawn care were just some of the ways our members gave back to our veterans and their families. Offering to drive the veteran to their doctor and VA appointments were another way our members honored our brave men and women.

Last, but not least, our Department President's special project this year is Florida Honor Flight. Auxiliary members in Florida are helping WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veterans visit

their memorials in Washington D.C. Some Units are writing letters for those veterans to receive and read during their flight (Mail Call).

Other Units are donating money to their local hub to help send escorts to accompany the veteran. Members are participating in welcome home ceremonies for the veterans when they return. Fundraising events are being held, raffles, and community support are some of the ways our Strong Florida ALA members are supporting our President's project.

Covid 19 definitely cut the year short for our organization. However, our Units in Florida continued to work for our veterans until they were no longer aloud. To date, Florida Auxiliary members have spent 91,478 hours helping 21,422 veterans and their families. The veteran 4 Department of Florida Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation 2019-2020 community and the private sector, in Florida, definitely know... Who We Are, What We Do, and Why We Matter!!!

For God and Country,

Jane Hardacre

Department VA&R Chairman

veteransaffairs@alaf1.org

District Presidents



District 1



DISTRICT 1 REPORT

UNIT 75 CRESTVIEW

Volunteer Hours	11,851
Poppy Donation	\$ 850.00
Unit Scholarship	\$ 2,000.00
Military Families Assisted	19

UNIT 221 NICEVILLE

All new officer took over in middle of the year

They are now in compliance.

Volunteer Hours	8,324
Children & Youth	\$ 250.00

UNIT 240 WARRINTON

Volunteer Hours 8,834

Held a casino night that raised \$500.00

When the terrorist shooting happened aboard NAS PENSACOLA in December 2019, they reached out to the community to make Post 240 a safe haven for those that had been affected. In the following days they Legion Family of 240 feed the first responders that helped with the shooting. \$800.00 was donated to the victims of the shooting.

Feed the families at the local Ronald McDonald House of North West Florida. Prepared and Cook

one dinner and then with Covid-19, Made arrangement with Olive Garden to deliver food to the House.

Meat Bingo has been averaging \$500.00 which is held once a month.

Girls State had 2 young ladies that was attending.

Poppy donations \$435.00 the funds go to buy coloring books, crayons etc.. to the children at the VA Hospital.

Handing out donuts to the Veterans and families at the VA once a month.

Held a Halloween and Christmas with Santa party for the children and youth.

UNIT 375 SOUTHPORT

Still recovering from Hurricane Michael raised

\$249.00 for the new building funds.

Volunteer hours 1966. Prepared and donated

12 Thanksgiving and 12 Christmas Baskets for local

Families in the community. Donated \$422.00 to Honor Flight.

UNIT 382 NAVARRE

Volunteer Hours 120

Unit Scholarship \$ 2,000.00

Children& Youth they have served 200

District 2



Madam President:

It gives me great pleasure to have served as the Second District President for the fiscal year of 2019-2020. The Second District is a small urban area with a whopping SIX active units.

The District itself held the School of Instructions on September 14, hosted by Unit 241 Sneads Memorial. On November 16, Unit 84 host a class on Reporting and Writing Narratives presented by PDP Kathee Coughlin. On February 29, Unit 13 hosted the District's Auxiliary Basic Concepts workshop presented by Linda Knoblach-Harkness. Female items were collected District-wide and taken to Fall Conference to be distributed throughout the state as requested by 2nd Vice President, Jane Hardacre. The District held a clothing drive for the clients at Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee; collections were given to PDP Kathee Coughlin as Hospital Representative for delivery.

Several Units attended the POW/MIA Ceremony at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

UNIT ACTIVITIES:

Unit 13

Unit 13 participates in activities for veterans as keeping the pantry at the VA Clinic stocked with food items for transit veterans, and local veterans housing facility. They hold special holiday celebrations at the VA Clinic as Valentine's Day by sharing apples, oranges, and valentines made by homeschooled children. Unit 13 partners with a local funeral home to collect, stuff, and ship Christmas Stocking to our troops abroad. Special events observed were Veterans Day Breakfast and Parada, Poppy distribution for Veterans Day; however, this year, our Memorial Day celebration was off due to Covid-19.

September unveiled the Purple Heart Monument at the Tallahassee National Cemetery with several unit members attending

January through October, Post 13 honors the members by having a family social. The Auxiliary decorates the Post, usually in a theme, and furnishes dessert for all to enjoy.

The Four Chaplain & Post Everlasting Ceremony was held February 2, honoring those members who have past for both the Legion and the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary furnished finger foods after the ceremony.

Individual Members continue volunteering to provide support and service to our military families and community during these difficult times

Unit 82

Unit 82 has a very active FaceBook page by posting announcements as Hamburger nights, pizza nights, and farm share. All proceeds from hamburger night go to support the various programs as Girls State and also provides funds to celebrate our Veteran's birthdays in the nursing homes. This year on veterans day, 3-ALA members served food and donated all the tips to our ALA account totaling \$420.00. This year we have supported the Children of Franklin county by purchasing toys to distribute at Christmas. Also, with our fundraising money, we were able to give \$1,200 in merchandise to the homeless veterans through the

Big Bend coalition. In addition to FB, Unit 82 created an Email distribution to communicate with all members.

September, several ALA members went to the local school and provided breakfast for the teachers, to show our appreciation for all their hard work.

December, we shopped for several organizations; the first one was the food pantry buying toys for the children and donating them to the pantry to give out. We went shopping for a new organization that we discovered, which is the Big Bend Homeless in Tallahassee. We also provided gifts and food for the 19 veterans at a local nursing home. Also, we gave gifts to the nursing home once a month for the Veteran's birthdays.

Lanark Village sponsors a weekly food sharing project called "FarmShare. Every Wednesday, the Post is the distribution point for four areas once the food comes in. Post and Auxiliary members divide the food equally into four shares. Three shares are then transported to the surrendering areas within the county. Then Lanark sets up tables containing fruits, vegetables, dairy products, beverages, meats, etc. the local citizens pick up food for their family needs. Approximately ten volunteers work weekly, assisting with the distribution.

Every other Friday, Lanark Auxiliary make hamburgers and sell them to the local community and their families for \$6.00, this is our primary fundraiser.

Once a month, volunteers cook pizzas for the Legion to assist them in fundraising efforts.

This year we had four celebrations of life that the ALA donated money and provided food for the families of the deceased.

Unit 84

While we have been quite busy this year helping our Veterans, Children, and Community, this report will hit monthly highlights as we don't have all member's information (due to the virus).

April 2019

Tallahassee VA Deputy Pat Brennan and Florida State Hospital Representative Kathee Coughlin were invited to the Volunteer Appreciation luncheon held at Florida State Hospital. Nominating Committee reported.

May 2019

We attended the Constitutional Conference. Post and Unit members picked up "old" flags at the Havana Cemetery and put out new ones for all veterans.

Unit elections were held.

June 2019

PDP Kathee Coughlin was asked to present "Writing and Narratives" and "Secretary" classes. Pat and Kathee were confirmed in the Executive meeting for the Tallahassee VA Deputy and Florida State Hospital Representative.

July 2019

Kathee was asked to mentor to three Department Chairs at Boot Camp. Unit members started collecting school supplies.

August 2019

Officers for the 2019-2020 year were installed. School supplies collected were taken to a local elementary school. Kathee attended the workshop to be there for her mentees.

September 2019

VA comfort articles and toiletries for Lake City were delivered. Members attended the POW/MIA Ceremony at the National Cemetery.

October 2019

One Unit member helped with Farm Share at her church, while another member helped with a Cancer Society fundraiser. One member passed away, and we attended the funeral. Post and Unit 84 began leading the Prayer and Pledge at the Havana Town Council meetings as part of the Post 84 Honor Guard.

November 2019

Members attended the District Reporting Workshop host by Unit 84 and attended the Fall Conference. Goodies were delivered to Florida State Hospital. The Unit supported the Post in hosting the Veterans Day program. One member provided the doughnuts that were available to the participants along with the coffee and water supplied by Faith Funeral Home.

December 2019

Several Unit and Post members helped with the food and serving at the annual Christmas Dinner for homeless/at-risk Veterans. Members participated in the community-wide food and toy drive for those in need. On December 14, the Post 84 Honor Guard (two of the members are Auxiliary members), Unit 84 President, and a Junior member had the honor of leading the Havana Christmas parade. Afterward, a wreath was laid for the Medal of Honor recipient's grave in Quincy.

January 2020

Delivered 10 pounds of pop-tabs to the Tallahassee Ronald MacDonald House. Attended District ABC School at Post 13.

February 2020

Unit 84 held the 4 Chaplains Service at the Havana Baptist Church. We participated in the primary fundraiser for Unit 217, Quincy, by attending the Annual Love Breakfast. We had a clean-up day at the building in Havana that we hoped would be our Post Home.

March 2020

Unit 84 hosted a District Reports Writing workshop for the four attending units. Then the Coronavirus wreaked havoc with our calendar for completing reports and starting our election process. We were able to resolve both; reports were mailed on time! Toiletries were taken to the local homeless shelter.

President communicated approximately two and sometimes more times a month via email (and regular mail for one member) to keep everyone apprised of upcoming events and any issues that members needed to be made aware of for comments.

Unit 100

Marianna has been very busy during the year, even tho we are small in number, due to illness and age, we keep ongoing. Monthly an Auxiliary member bakes a cake to be raffled at our monthly social. During the holidays, the Auxiliary sells chances on gift cards from Wal-Mart. During the week of Veterans Day, three nursing homes were visited to honor veterans with a pin, certificate, music, drinks, and baked goods. Coffee, fruit, and cookies are taken to the VA Clinic regularly for the veterans to enjoy during their medical visit to the clinic. The week of Valentine, the Auxiliary takes sorted baked goods to the VA Clinic for all to enjoy. Two scholarships are given to Chipola College annually; the Auxiliary honors the senior class graduates at Hope School with a Pizza Party, gift cards, and certificates. Unit 100 participates in the Girl State program. Marianna continues to work through the destruction of Hurricam Michael's path.

For National Salute to Veterans week – February 11 – 15, 2019, tables were full of assorted baked goods from Auxiliary members and GFWC Marianna Woman's Club members. Once again, as we started the week of saying "Thank You" to the many Veterans who stopped by to say hello, pick up their Valentine cards, sweets along with Valentine coffee mugs full of candy. By the end of the week, with ALL our cups gone, we had Valentine's plastic cups ready to complete our project. This was our fifth year going to the local Marianna VA Outpatient Clinic, and we were able to visit with Veterans we had met in previous years.

Eight members volunteered (along with Marianna Woman's club members) for 62 hours of service, with a cost of \$92.00 was for paper goods, candy, and other treats (diabetic cookies). We saved mugs for over a year to complete this project, and we also collected Christmas mugs to take care of the First Responders and Veterans when we do a Thank You for them at Christmas.

Veterans Appreciation Fair at Madison Street Park in downtown Marianna, FL,

We welcomed our newest Community Service Partner, the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System Marianna VA CBOC. The Marianna VA Clinic brings to our table, a network of volunteer opportunities to inform the Veteran community of information available to them. The Chipola Civic Club, our first Community Service Partner for the Veteran's Fair, will once again "man the grill" for our Hot Dog lunch. In the past, we have honored our oldest Veteran, and this year, special recognition was given to our **Female Veterans** attending the Fair. Door prizes and gift cards were collected for the registered Veterans attending the Fair. Oglesby Plans donated plants for all the female Veterans.

A female Veteran sang the National anthem and read the poem; "I AM A VETERAN" and the highlight of the program was the "SALUTES TO VETERANS" performed by the 110 members of the Riverside Beaver Chorus under the direction of Anita Whelchel, Chorus Director and Music Teacher of Riverside Elementary School.

Five Club members baked goods and helped the Marianna Woman's Club with this project. Our past President, Vivian Jenkins, always had a table set up, but we were not able to do that this year. Volunteer Hours for this project were 214 hours. Three hundred members and guests were served; many donations of baked goods and door prizes were given to support

this yearly worthwhile project for the Veterans and their families. The Cost of \$430.00 was paid for by Jane Powell as her donation to Veterans Services.

Our year got off to a good start with our District President Nell Hewitt coming on July 9, 2019, to install officers. Nell brought our Packet and our 100% Membership Banners. Right away, our unit president, Vivian Jenkins, appointed chairmen for Plan of Activities for the year. Although we were small in attendance, since Hurricane Michael and sickness, we got busy with our duties.

Meagan Pelham was our Girl's State Representative. She is the Granddaughter of one of our Legionnaires, John Schwencke. Meagan came to our regular monthly meeting in September 2019 and gave a fascinating talk on her experience at Girl's State. Now Meagan and her mother, Vicki Pelham, are our two newest members. We are excited to have them join us and have given them both jobs.

Sadness came to us when our dear friend and President, Vivian Jenkins, passed away on September 9, 2019. Vivian held us together with her great spirit and enthusiasm. She was a very dedicated President. We appreciate all of your prayers, love, cards, and donations in Vivian's memory. We are trying to carry on with the most appreciated help from our District President, Nell Hewitt.

At our regular monthly meetings, we have a covered dish dinner with the Legionaries. One of our ladies furnishes a cake to raffle before Dinner. We make a little money there.

Regularly we take coffee, cookies, and fruit to the VA clinic for those coming for the medical visits to enjoy. During the week of Valentine's Day, we also join the Women's Club, who ask us to join them, taking goodies to the VA clinic and help serve the veterans as they come for their medical appointments.

When there is a deceased member or spouse in our Unit, we donate to our Chipola College Scholarship Fund, and in return, we receive applications from students needing help. We review those applications and select deserving students to receive the scholarships.

In May, we hosted a pizza luncheon for the graduates at Hope School, a school for disadvantaged students. We served pizzas, soft drinks, cookies, brownies, and cupcakes. We also serve other classmates. We give each graduate a framed certificate in appreciation of their accomplishments. Also, we provide each one a gift certificate to Wal-Mart. We take pictures and get to know them and their plans for the future.

This year we did not do poppies. We did not do our nursing home visits as we do every year. Our attendance and funds were low.

We held our officers' election by phone (due to the Corona/COVID-19 virus) with ten members.

Unit 217,

Quincy serves coffee and donuts every Tuesday at the Tallahassee VA Clinic. These ladies drive approximately 50 miles round trip to make sure our veterans are welcomed and enjoy a smile and a hot cup of coffee.

In November, the Legion and Auxiliary prepared six boxes to be distributed to disabled veterans and the elderly.

On Veterans Day dinner was served at the Usher Union of Gadsden County to veterans and their families.

In December, the Unit hosted an annual Christmas Party of food, drinks, and door prizes. Members from Unit 84 were guests for the occasion.

February brings the annual signature fundraiser "THE LOVE BREAKFAST." this is their biggest annual fundraiser, and you will not leave hungry. Poppies are distributed on Memorial Day, followed by a dinner from the Legionnaires. Unit 217 volunteers hours adds up to 4,314.

We rewrote our Constitution and bylaws and received them back APPROVED beginning in July 2019.

The Auxiliary assists the Post with expenses as utilities and the security system on the building.

Unit 214 celebrates Birthdays quarterly with Dinner and cake after the regular meeting.

Officers were installed on September 9, 2019, by the District President Nell Hewitt for the year 2019-2020.

A Meet and Greet was held on October 20, 2019, with a dinner for all attendees. Our District President, Nell Hewitt, spoke and answered questions regarding different areas of both the Legion, Sons, and the Auxiliary. This was an opportunity for both the Legion and the Auxiliary to reach out to the community.

Four members attended the School of Instruction on September 14, 2019

The city-wide Usher Union served Dinner at the Post to Veterans and their families on November 11, 2019. The Legion and the Auxiliary gave five boxes to Veterans and the elderly.

The Christmas Party December 13, was given success to the community

February 8, 2020, we held our Annual Love breakfast, which was our fundraiser and very successful. President Hewitt assisted with serving and welcoming all guests.

We were planning to start up the Youth department with a party for March 20, when we had to cancel all meetings because of Covid-19.

Unit 241 Sneads,

Unit 241 starts the school year out with Flag Education at Sneads Elementary School to 100 students, including two Post members demonstrating proper flag folding. Each student was given a bag, including a mini U.S. flag, Presidential Ruler, and a flag pamphlet. October 31, Unit 241 holds an annual "Halloween Party." "A Safe Place" for the children to celebrate. They served 373 guests with total expenses of \$471.88 Requirement for all attendees must wear a costume to participate. Unit 241 gives annually copy paper tp Sneads Elementary School, Sneads High School, Grand Ridge, and Victory Christian Academy total cost \$425.90. Donations of \$500.00 given to Sneads High School Volleyball Team for travel expenses. The team brought home the State Championship for the 6th consecutive year. Donations of \$500.00 was given to Sneads High School Foundation to assist with the annual student trip to Washington, D. C. Sneads holds a yearly School Staff Appreciation Luncheon at four local schools serving 180 teachers and assistants with an expense of \$916.98. Candy was purchased for participation in two Christmas parades with a cost of \$208.86. In February, 1,000 valentines were made by Sneads Elementary School for all hospital residents, including approximately 125 veterans. an additional 1,513 valentines were made by unit members and distributed to 10 Veteran Medical centers, nursing homes, hospitals, outpatient clinics total Cost of supplies and postage was \$121.71

Membership is an all year ongoing project for all Units!!!!!!

Respectfully Submitted
Nell Hewitt, President
American Legion Auxiliary
District 2

District 3



No Report Submitted

District 4



District 4 Year End Report

July 2019 began with the completion of Unit Officer Installations. A well-attended School of Instruction was held at Unit 237 in Beverly Hills.

District 4 includes Alachua, Citrus, Levy, and Marion Counties, so all Units participated in the Back to School supply drives. Several elementary schools in each county received van loads of backpacks full of needed items.

A visit to Malcolm Randall V.A. Center in Gainesville provided an opportunity for Auxiliary members to visit patients and distribute handmade lap blankets and hats, as well as puzzle books and comfort items.

August was time to plan for the upcoming holidays so Units focused on putting together baskets of food for needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Local children's homes furnished names and details of children to help Units plan gifts for them.

September brought 9/11 Remembrance ceremonies by American Legion Posts with Auxiliaries providing meals and decorating, meetings, Bingo, and dinners continued. October saw seasonal members returning and dinners, Bingo, and events were being held weekly at each Unit. November was Poppy time with Veteran's Day ceremonies at each Unit's Home Post.

Packing and distributing food for Thanksgiving was done in the Units, as well as providing a meal for Post members.

December was busy with Units preparing food baskets for donation, gifts for homeless children and parties at each Unit and Post. Units came to Bushnell National Cemetery to help with Wreathes Across America, where the American Legion family placed thousands of wreathes.

February hosted the A.B.C. School of Unit 149 in Newberry that was great for all members. On February 22, Department of Florida President Ann King-Smith joined District 4 members at Unit 237 in Beverly Hills for a Ride for Honor Flight by the Legion Riders. It was a great day and we were able to donate \$4,300 to Honor Flight.

In March, we were able to do St. Patrick's Day fundraisers and have some meetings. Shortly after that came the shutdown. With the shutdown, some Units have not met in person since March; but were able to elect officers by other means. We have all been working to the best of our abilities to continue with some sense of normalcy; but it has been a difficult end to our year.

Elizabeth Chavous

District 5



The 5th District 2019-2020 year End Summary

The Year "Florida American Legion Auxiliary Strong" started by installing all Unit Officers. August 22 District members attended Auxiliary Work Shop in Orlando. On December 4th 2019 the 5th District American Legion Auxiliary of Florida received "100th Anniversary" from Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry.

The School of Instruction was held September 21st 2019, the date had to be rescheduled since Hurricane "Dorian" paid us a visit during the first week in September. ABC School of Instruction was in February 2020 and PDP TK Wildrick was our Leadership Instructor.

All the Units have been very busy holding raffles, fund raisers and serving breakfast and dinners to raise funds for Girl State and all the Auxiliary programs.

Several Units donated items, clothing and money and gave a helping hand at the Jacksonville Homeless Veterans Stand Down. The Veterans received toiletries, new underwear, socks, medical and dental checkups and haircuts.

Several Units supported and helped the Clay County Homeless Veterans Stand down.

Units sent 405 care packages to the Troops overseas and held welcome home ceremonies on their return.

District Auxiliary members attended and helped with 5th District Picnic and the Picnic was visited by our Department AEF Chairman Linda Knoblauch-Harkness.

The Units held Christmas Parties for the Members Children, Grandchildren and Children of the Community.

Units volunteered 6023 hours in cutting and mailing \$1,013,168.80 in coupons

Several Unites participated in their City's 4th of July, Veterans Day and Christmas Parades.

Members helped with Habitat for Humanity.

After Hurricane Dorian devastated the Bahamas Islands, one Unit collected over \$25,000.00 worth of items for the Hurricane Relief. These items were flown in a private plane to the Bahamas.

This same Unit was able to raise funds through a huge fundraiser, to purchase hams, turkeys to be served on the USS Roosevelt, with our Department President Ann as one of the servers to serve the Thanksgiving Dinner to our Sailors and their Families on Thanksgiving Day aboard the USS Roosevelt at NAS Mayport.

Several Units donated feminine items to VA&R program for female homeless Veterans. All these items were delivered to the Department VA&R Chairman at the Auxiliary Fall Conference in November 2019.

Most of the Units were visited by Department Presidents Ann King Smith at her official visit in December 2019 and each Unit had a round table discussion with Madam President.

Madam President met Representative John Rutherford at one of the Christmas Parties she was invited too. Mr. Rutherford is a big supporter in getting an Honor Flight Hub here to the First Coast.

Due to COVID19 Pandemic in Florida, everything came to screeching halt for all of us. On March 17th at 5PM all American Legion Posts had to close their doors by the order of Florida Governor. All Unit meetings, DCCs and Department Convention were cancelled; all Department Officers are to retain their positions.

In membership the District has 9 Units over 100% and one Unit is over 120%

A summary of what all the Units accomplished is on the following page

Unit 9

The Unit raised over \$500 in helping to send 399 decorated Christmas Trees and other goodies to Trees for American Troops. Members decorated their Christmas tree in Red, White and Blue and circled the bottom of the tree with military boots. One member made a quilt with all the District Units in the quilt, this quilt will be raffled off and proceeds to go to Honor Flight. The same member created a 2"x2" poppy patch representing the State of Florida. This Poppy patch was submitted for the Centennial Poppy Project and this Poppy was selected to represent Florida on the Country Poppy map to be presented to the National President.

The Unit supported all Auxiliary programs and was also supporting their Community.

Unit 37

I am so sorry to say, that this Unit has no Legion Post to call home. At this time the Unit is struggling to keep the Unit and there are no Unit Officers and the members are ready to turn in the Unit Charter.

Unit 54

Unit donated \$500.00 adopt a Soldier. Have monthly visits to the VA Hospital. Members participated in the Veterans Day Parade on a star spangled banner float. The Unit has Road Kill Bingo and Wing night to raise the funds for several Auxiliary programs, also for Wreath Across America, Trees for Troops, NEFLWV Childrens Christmas Party, also distributed Poppies and raised fund for the Easter Baskets for the Veterans in the VA Hospital.

Unit 88

A bin was placed in the Post lobby for collecting school supplies. Members offer coffee, juice and muffins outside one of the labs at each of the 3 VA Clinics in Jacksonville. For the Children and the Community this Unit held their 6th Annual Fall Festival plus a Bake Sale. They held a surprise 90th Birthday party for one of their members. The members offer different dinners every Wednesday night; breakfasts and Road Kill Bingo to raise funds for the Auxiliary Programs.

Unit 129

The Unit started the 2020 year with their annual Christmas in July. They donated \$1000.00 to the US Military Family Pantry. The members send 220 Christmas cards for 5 Star Vets and 300 Christmas cards for the USO. Raised and donated \$500.00 towards Wreath across America. The Unit was presented with a Proclamation by the Jacksonville Beach Mayor for the American Legion Auxiliarys 100 Birthday. The members raised their funds for the Auxiliary Programs through Steak Bingos, special Dinners, twice a week Bingo and raffles.

Unit 137

Donated \$500 for Breast Cancer Walk, donated \$500 to the Legion Post towards the Annual VA Hospital Christmas Party. Due to Hurricane Dorian the Labor Day Celebration had to be cancelled. Participated in the Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade, in early bird dinner with the famous annual early bird dessert auction, which raised over \$500. Donated money to St. Jude Hospital and adopted a family through the USO and provided Christmas presents for their children.

The Unit is raising funds for the Auxiliary programs through Pancake breakfasts, Dinners and special fundraisers.

Unit 194

The Unit was the first within in the District to receive the Auxiliary "100th Birthday Proclamation" from the St. Johns County Commissioners. This event was attended by 21, 5th D District Auxiliary members. Participated in and donated gifts to annual Christmas gift wish list to Clyde E Lassen VA Nursing Home. The Unit reached out to Dunkin Donuts for a partnership to provide donuts to the Veterans residing at the Clyde E Lassen VA Nursing Home, this was confirmed as "Donut Day" and continues every 2nd Thursday of the month. Assisted the Legionnaires with their annual free Thanksgiving meal for Veterans and served over 200 meals. Assisted with the annual free community cookout at the Post home honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Unit members are still volunteering throughout the year with the after-school Kids Safe Zone.

Unit 197

The Unit did not have meetings in July, August and September but still raised money for Community projects and Auxiliary programs. Plus the Unit had some internal strife; the Unit will start with new Officers for the coming 2020-2021 Year and with the support of all of them the Unit will be strong again.

Unit 202

The Unit put a cook book together and is all set for distribution. They planned a kick-off party where each Auxiliary member makes one of her dishes and the Public will be invited.

The Unit serves dinner every Thursday and assist on the third Wednesday with the weekly Bingo games. Members dressed in costumes and visited with patients at the VA Hospital in

Gainesville. The Unit raised their Auxiliary program funds through the Dinners and special projects.

Unit 233

November 9th the Unit had an Auxiliary "100th Anniversary Celebration" in attendance were District President, Legion Department SAA, Auxiliary Department 1st Vice President and Legion 1st Vice Commander. Several members attended the Post Community Forum. Ladies served Dinners, had Steak Nights and Breakfasts. Provided Christmas refreshments for Homeless Veterans at the Clyde E. Lassen Veterans Nursing Home in St. Augustine. Members attended a luncheon at Clara White Mission. Presented a \$500 check for a new refrigerator for the Boulevard House for Female Homeless Veterans.

Unit 244

The Unit is very small, but members helped the Legion with the upkeep of the building by cleaning, painting etc. and helped the Legion with different events and parties. Raised and donated to various programs.

Unit 250

The Unit is serving Dinners, Sandwiches and Breakfast to raise funds. Collected school supplies for the Schools in need. Sending boxes to the deployed troops. Assisted with the annual Fall Moon Festival. Unit collected lots of items for the Female Veterans. The Unit delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets for our Military Families and Community Families in need. The Unit raised and donated monies for various programs.

Unit 283

The Unit collected and purchased school supplies to stuff 60 backpacks, which were delivered by the ALR 283 to Mayport USO, also delivered boxes of school supplies to two local schools. The Unit has a very active Junior program, two of the Juniors were elected as Honorary Department Officers during Fall Conference. Provided 21 families with Thanksgiving baskets and 20 families with Christmas baskets full of food for the Holidays. Presented 6 Veterans with Buddy baskets as they moved into homes after being homeless. Members joined the Legionnaires to serve the "No Dough Dinner" at Mayport USO. Held an Ugly sweater contest during the Post Family Christmas Party. Presented a local boy with the National Good Deed Award, because he spend his Christmas money buying lap blankets for the Homeless in Jacksonville. Helped a member from the Units AEF at the time of unemployment during COVID19. The Unit raises funds from Dinners, special Dinners, Sandwich Nights, Breakfasts and Raffles for the various Auxiliary Programs.

Unit 316

Donated books to the VA Clinic, Jacksonville and clothing to the Rescue Mission. Donated school supplies to a local Elementary School. Collected and donated toiletries to the Portable Showers for the Citys Homeless. Supported the Beaches Veterans Park in Atlantic Beach, FL.

After Hurricane Dorian ravaged the Bahamas Islands, had a Hurricane relief drive. Within 3 days collected over \$25,000.00 in supplies to be delivered by a private plane to the Bahamas. The Unit got permission to serve Thanksgiving Dinner on the USS Roosevelt stationed at NAS Mayport to the Sailors on duty and their Families. The Unit had a huge fundraiser with donated cash and items for a Silent Auction, to purchase the Turkeys and Hams to be cooked and served to the Sailors. Unit members and Legionnaires were taken by the Ships Van to NAS Mayport. The Unit was honored to have Department President and Department Leadership Chairman present to serve the Thanksgiving Dinner onboard the ship. The Unit Cookbooks are now available for an \$8.00 donation. Raised monies with Dinners, Special Dinners, Sandwich Nights and Raffles for the various Auxiliary programs.

Unit 372

For a small Unit with reaching 128% in membership it is awesome. The Unit adopted the 5th grade Safety Patrol to ensure they had a complete understanding of the flag they raise and lower each day. Provided flag etiquette books about the history of the flag. Participated in the newly Legion commissioned Stamp Program and collected over 6,000 stamps. Members participated in Blood Drives and POW/MIA ceremonies. The Unit received the "100 year Anniversary" proclamation from Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry.

Unit 373

The Unit collected aluminum cans and pull tabs. They have a mystery raffle on their meeting night. At one of their meeting night, they had an unexpected guest, a homeless man in a wheelchair, he was not a Vet. This man had been sleeping behind the Meeting Building and the Clay County Police told him to go somewhere else. The members invited that Homeless Man to eat with them and he did. They gave him extra food and some money before he left, along with information of Agencies who could help him. This Unit works hard to have fundraisers within the Community since they do not have a Post Home.

Unit 401

The Unit raises funds from dinners and Pick a Box. Donated \$500.00 to a member of the SAL for medical expenses incurred due to a motorcycle accident. One member donated a quilt to raffle off for extra funds. Purchased school supplies, book bags for local schools. Held a Flag Essay Contest for Middle School students at the local Schools and awarded the winners at the Veterans Day Ceremony. Distributed Veterans thank you gift bags and Veterans comic books to the children at the Veterans appreciation ceremony. A member is very talented and donated Christmas items to be purchased and that money collected is donated to the Unit. The Unit had several fundraisers for Community projects and Auxiliary programs.

For God and Country

Annie Anderson

5th District President

District 6



The following Units reported:

Units 19, 41, 55, 63, 80, 112, 183, 219, 330 and 347

Unit 19, Orlando

They donated food, clothing and money as needed in the community. They did a free Father's Day dinner. Volunteered at the Domiciliary and visited Senior Citizens Nursing homes. They are sending 2 girls to Girls State.

Unit 41, Eustis

Gave presentations at the High School and supported the ROTC.

Gave out cookies to Eustis Historical Museum. Participated in all patriotic parades. Visited Nursing Homes and Assisted Livings where they showed veteran related videos. Do coffee at Veterans Clinic.

Mail thank you for your service notes to Veterans. They are sending 2 girls to Girls State. Send out newsletters to members to keep them informed.

Unit 55, Clermont

They do live Red Shirt Fridays on Facebook. Gave holiday gifts to veteran families. Will be doing Wreaths Across America. Working on raising money for new Post home building. They did an Angel Tree at Christmas. Supported various community projects.

Unit 63, Winter Garden

They did a Christmas party for children in the community. Did a welcome home for Vietnam Veterans and gave them medals to recognize their service. Hosted ABC school for District 6. Assist Post in doing Bingo. Helped at Challenge 22 to prevent Suicide among veterans. Did memorial services.

Unit 80, St. Cloud

Bought school supplies for 2 elementary schools. Sent food to the local food pantry and to District 12 for Hurricane victims. Did membership drives and distributed poppies. Hosted Halloween party for local children. Hosted a show and raised \$1,088.00 for AEF. Helped out with Christmas dinner and the Transition House. Helped the Sons of the American Legion with Special Olympics.

Unit 112, Winter Park

Received 70 essays from 2 schools and forwarded one to Department for award review. Distributed flags and Elementary schools on Veterans Day. Distributed poppies. Did school medals. Bought muffins for Teachers Appreciation Day. Gave food to school for pantry that serves 70/90 homeless.

Unit 183, Fern Park

They do a POW Ceremony with the Post every Saturday. Gave out school supplies for the GIVE 10 Program and did back packs. Gave check to K9 for Warriors and did a tour of their facility. Did cookies for first responders. Attended patriotic parades. Gave out toys to children for Christmas. Sent a girl to Girls State.

Unit 291, Fruitland Park

Collected 273 jars of peanut butter to give to community. Purchased bin for flags that will be disposed. Sending 3 girls to Girls State.

Bought vests for local police. Hosted President Michele's visit and accompanied her to Boggy Creek. They gave them lap robes from the unit. Did Wreaths Across America at the Shiloh Cemetery.

Unit 286, Pine Castle

They did an Easter party for community children. Did treats to Elementary school to Teachers Appreciation day. Did ROTC awards.

Did a big project and put up 50 years of photos of Presidents and Commanders, at the Post. Handed out certificates to businessmen who flew the flag. Did a Halloween party. Clipped coupons totaling

\$236,992.94. Mailed boxes overseas. Junior member Jasmine was elected Department Treasurer for Florida Juniors. Held a Christmas party for children. Held a 4 Chaplains Ceremony. Went to Fisher House and Lake Nona to donate goodies.

Unit 330, Leesburg

Donated \$75.00 to help 7 children. Did goodies for first responders.

Gave flags to school kids. Made pillows and blankets for local nursing homes. Sent 1 girl to Girls State. Cut and mailed coupons totaling

\$26,822.64. Distributed poppies. Made pillows and afghans for veterans.

Unit 347, Lady Lake

Handed out flags at Honor Flite. Gave 3 \$1,000.00 Americanism scholarships. Contributed \$500.00 to Fruitland Park and \$500.00 to Unit 347 for Wreaths Across America. Raised money for **AEF**. Sponsored a Little league softball team and gave money to Charter High School bowling team to go to a tournament. Participated in Town Halloween and Easter parties. Collected 200 toys for Toys for Tots. Sponsored girls softball league for \$2,500.00. Gave \$1,000.00 to Special Olympics. Gave \$500.00 to Boggy Creek and COTA. Gave \$3,000.00 to Child Welfare Fund. Donates \$150.00 per month to 3 local food banks. Distributed 75 food baskets to needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Awarded 3 \$1,000.00 scholarships and sent 4 students to the National Flight Academy. At a cost of \$3,000.00. Donated school supplies. Sent 15 girls to Girls State. Held a Women's Veterans Lunch and had 87 veterans and 57 guests. Ordered 9,000 poppies for distribution. Volunteers go to the VA Clinic 3 times a month. 3 volunteers went to the Wheelchair games in Orlando. Collect plastic mats for homeless veterans. Collect toiletries for Domiciliary and Veterans Hospitals. Hosted a fundraising dinner for a quadriplegic woman veteran. Did a Fashion Show and donated \$10,000.00 to Final Salute.

Mary LaNoce

6th District President

District 7



District 7 Report

Mary McElrath, District 7 President

Dear Department President Ann King Smith,

After convention, I installed the following units: Lakeland, Mulberry, Winter Haven and Lake Wales

The following units were installed by other appointed members:

Unit 3 (Bartow)- Past District President Faye Kirkland

Unit 34 (Haines City) Unknown due to lack of communication

Unit 201 (Winter Haven) Past Unit President

On July 16 at Unit 71, I attended a memorial service for the fallen. The unit invited the community to the event to show their patriotism. Also, the color guard presented colors. 21 gun salute.

Unfortunately, I could not attend boot camp this year because of the unit installations. However, I did attend the Department Workshop and learned about Honor Flight and other activities to do with youth and small groups. I came on Friday and met with the different chairman.

In August, I attended the National American Legion Conference and witnessed “ normal people “doing amazing things in their community. I attended the Women of the Year Banquet, participated in the parade, fellowshipped with my Florida family. It was an amazing opportunity.

School of Instruction-September 21, 2019 at Unit 4 there were 14 attendees and we discussed “how to write a report” and deadlines for reports. Each chairman that was present made a presentation about when they would like for their report to be submitted.

ABC School- Instructor Rhonda Maurer October 12,2019 held at Unit 8 certificates were given to all the attendees. Rhonda played a jeopardy game with the members and the member who won donated her winnings to “Honor Flight” Audra Anderson Unit 8 president was the winner.

District meeting was conducted on April 5th -Zoom (Virtual) Meeting. District team discussed reports from the units. Discussed what should the unit expect during the pandemic and how can the members still serve the community and veterans- suggested making a face mask.

May 5th (virtual meeting) with District chairman and unit presidents discussed unit and district positions. advised chairman, unit presidents that I could not hold the position of District 7 President and Faye Kirkland would assume all leadership duties.

December 20th meeting held at Unit 72-discussed plans to help encourage unit members to complete and turn in their reports. Also, if anyone has donated items for the basket and women hygiene products, please bring it at that time.

I was only able to conduct the following visits: Unit 201,72,72 before the county was placed on lock-down per the governor.

Due to COVID-19, the Department President had to postpone her visit. The Constitutional Conference was cancelled that was going to be held in May at Unit 3- Bartow. All units ceased conducting events and activities in March.

This concludes my report. I would like to say "Thank You" Department President Ann King for allowing me to serve during the 2019-2020 year. It has been a pleasure to lead District 7

For God and Country,

Mary McElrath

District 8



Year end District 8 Report.

Dear Department President Ann King
Smith,

Woot woot vroom vroom. That's how we roll in District 8. We have a battle call and teach it to all the unit as we rev em up for membership.

Avon Park, unit 69 received the plaque for highest membership percentage of 108% by May 2020. I went to the post and presented to them and had a delicious lunch of tacos. I was also able to visit the monkeys that were at their home after being monkey napped when Department President Ann King Smith came for her visit in February. Unit 69 was able to raise nearly \$800 for the return of the monkeys. The money that was donated went to honor flight. At the same time that we were visiting with Ann and going to 12 units we raffled off a flying pig painting for unit 24, Bradenton and they received nearly \$600 in donations for honor flight. All in all, our district was able to raise \$3000 for our flight.

The year started off great. I went to workshop and Boot Camp. When I got home we started right away with installations. We had a School of instruction at unit 25, Arcadia and he had over 40 members show up. Our district 8 held four ABC classes and invited every member of the district to all of the classes. The instructors were all amazing and we learned a great deal.

All of the units worked on getting school supplies for their local schools. Many units went to their local nursing homes, schools and VA hospitals and brought special treats such as lap blankets and goodie bags.

We had several veterans in district 8 sign up for honor flight and were accepted. Unfortunately, when COVID-19 began all of their flights were canceled.

Unit 325 in Ellenton has a very special member named Cookie Agan. She is their girls state chairman. This is the first time that unit 325 has had a Girls state chairman so Cookie was starting from scratch. She raised enough money to send 2 girls to Girls State. The way she did this is very very unique. She contacted a local cemetery that has many veterans graves and contacted Wreaths across America. She was able to single-handedly have Mansion Memorial Cemetery become an official Wreaths Across America Cemetery. She was able to sell over 600 Wreaths. She organized a ceremony and wreath placement. She was able to get the mayor of Palmetto, the town that the cemetery is located in to officiate. She has set her goal for next year to have a

wreath for every veteran in the cemetery which is 1600. That's quite a feat but I know she'll do it, After all what she did do was in just 90 days.

District 8 legion had a very enjoyable picnic at unit K 11, Arcadia in October. Many of the units donated baskets and helped the district Legion with the picnic. There was karaoke and dancing and fun and a lot of woot woot vroom vroom going on.

Life was going on very well with all of our units. They had dinners, dances, bingo, Feather your nest and many more fundraisers. Then, the world gave us an unexpected turn. COVID19. Bam. Shut down the posts. Stay at home. Get tested. Don't hug. Wear masks. No meetings. Virtual nominations and elections. Facebook postings. Life changed for all of us. I kept in constant contact with all of the units and the presidents. We were successful at holding nominations and elections. We tried to keep up morale but seriously missed each other. Constitution and bylaws are being changed as each of our members are also. We continue to be kind to each other as we go along during this pandemic. We will prevail. We are 100 year strong and nothing can keep us from helping those in need. Our veterans, their families and the community will have us for at least another hundred years.

Woot woot vroom vroom,
Sincerely yours,
District 8 President,
Theresa Walls

District 9



No Report Submitted

District 11



No Report Submitted

District 12



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida

2019 – 2020, End of Year Report

Karen Humann, District 12 President

First and foremost, I would like to thank Department President Ann King Smith, the entire Department staff, and the members of District 12 for assisting me in working and building the “Mighty 12”. As the saying goes, there is no “I” in team. I am honored to report on the fabulous work that the Units have done over the past year. Unfortunately, I can only report the highlights of all the fantastic work that the Units of District 12 have performed. Otherwise, my reporting would consume a book of its own.

Please let it be noted that this report represents activities from May 2019 through April 2020.

In addition, most of the Units held Halloween and Holiday parties for both children and adults

Unit 1 – Titusville

Members participated in Memorial Day Service with the Color Guard presenting colors and Auxiliary members distributing poppies.

On Flag Day, members were invited to the Titusville Community Service Award Ceremony, where one member was nominated for an award.

A new Chairman was added, entitled ALA Rider Liaison, who assists in reporting all the Auxiliary does as a Legion Family member.

School and nursing supplies were donated to 4 elementary schools and 7 flags were donated to Veterans in the community.

Weekly Thursday night dances are held with the proceeds going to the Children and Youth Program.

Multiple raffles are held for the Girls State and Honor Flight Program.

An Honor Flight Dinner and a Luau was held and proceeds went to Honor Flight.

Five “Joy for All” mechanical cats were donated to the Veterans nursing home in Lake Nona.

Unit 22 – Cocoa

It must be noted that the doors to American Legion Post 22 were closed on Wednesday, November 27 (the day before Thanksgiving) and the Post has not been opened since. It was

heartbreaking to the Auxiliary members who had been cooking and planning to serve meals to their Veterans on Thanksgiving. Be that as it may, they kept their heads above water and continued to plan for the future.

Unit 22 completed ALA Service for Veterans

Unit 22 completed ALA Service for Military families

Unit 22 completed ALA Service Children and Youth

Unit 22 completed ALA Service in their Community

Unit 39 – Vero Beach

Sent 3 girls to Girls State

Donated miscellaneous household goods and clothing bi-monthly to the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Boosted their renewal rates for existing members by offering an early bird incentive program, by randomly picking 3 members and paying their dues for the following year.

Initiated a standard telephone number for all questions to the Unit.

Held a gun raffle and collected \$1,300 which was donated to Honor Flight.

Donated food and a raffle basket for the Riders Honor Flight Ride-In.

Donated money to K-9 for Warriors, Girls State, C.O.T.A., and Wreaths Across America.

Upon visiting Camp Boggy Creek, delivered bags of lap blankets that were crocheted by volunteers and many items from their wish list.

Provided \$100 towards postage for the Military Moms packaging care boxes to deployed service members.

Unit 40 – Fort Pierce

Gave out school supplies and presented the teachers with thank you goodies.

Gave out three scholarships, totaling \$2,000.

Distributed poppies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day and collected about \$75 in donations.

Held a very successful Quarter Auction and 2 Sip and Paints

Collected approximately 20 lap robes and distributed them to Post Veterans, Hospice and nursing homes.

Collected items all year for Veterans in the local area.

Members made cloth masks and distributed through out the community during the COVID crisis

Unit 81 – Melbourne

Put flags on Veterans graves on Memorial Day

Took part in flag burning ceremonies to dispose of worn and tattered flags.

Collected coupons to send to Veterans and active duty Military outside the United States.

Collected eye glasses and cell phones for our Veterans.

Unit 117 – Palm Bay

Had three Girls State Candidates.

Supported Back Pack Program at Centerpointe and donated \$600.

Held a Murder Mystery Dinner Party with all proceeds going to Honor Flight.

Hosted and Honor Flight Recruitment Dinner.

Had a food drive for Thanksgiving baskets and gave 35 baskets to needy families in the community.

Had a Christmas basket food drive and gave 25 baskets to needy families in the community.

Hosted a membership luncheon for old and new members to get to know one another and learn more about what we, as the American Legion Auxiliary are all about.

Sent a donation to the Lockmar Elementary School for the One Book One School Project, in the amount of \$1,000.

The Suds of Love for Vets in Need Program received monetary and in-kind donations in the amount of \$5,900. In addition to 15 buddy baskets that were given to Veterans who found homes through the Suds of Love Program.

A total of \$196,475 worth of coupons were clipped and sent to Troopons in Daytona Beach.

Our troops, overseas, received 22 care packages from the great work of Unit 117.

Purses with a Purpose was a program that was continued. The slightly used purses contained personal hygiene items that would be difficult for someone that was just starting over.

Unit 126 – Jensen Beach

NO REPORT

Unit 163 – Eau Gallie

UNRESPONSIVE

Unit 171 – Fort Pierce

NO REPORT

Unit 189 – Sebastian

Attended Fourth of July parade and secured 3 convertibles from a local dealership. Included both a WWII and Korean Veteran in the first convertible as the Grand Masters.

Held a Gold Star Mother's Luncheon with Jaz Boothe, from Final Salute, and Joanne Maitland, National Gold Star Mother's Vice President, as guest speakers.

Began celebrating birthdays at their monthly meetings.

Makes all members aware of all events. Set up a calling team to check on homebound members. Scheduled people to pick up non-drivers to attend meetings.

Held a Bahama Strong fundraiser to assist with the hurricane ravaged Bahamas.

Held a Level one Women's Self Defense class, taught by the Sebastian Police Department.

Honored their local First Responders (past and present) with free lunch at Post and delivered.

Assisted Vero Beach Volleyball team in collecting food for all I Veterans Transitional homes.

Sent over 60 toys to Camp Boggy Creek for their Christmas Bazaar.

Worked with the Indian River Vietnam veterans of America to fulfill the needs of transitional homes. They were able to donate household supplies needed to set up a duplex with 2 household, totaling to over \$2,000.

Along with Quilts of Valor, honored and presented quilts to 15 members of the Sebastian Area honor guard.

Unit 191 - Melbourne

Held a "Soul Food Sunday", serving food to our Veterans and the Community.

Held a Luau Party in honor of Department President Ann King Smith's visit.

Had a program entitled "Ten Days of Black History that Changed Our Nation" during Black History Month. The program was for the youth in the community.

Gave a \$500 scholarship to a Brevard County graduate through the Reginald E. Johnson Scholarship Foundation.

Unit 200 – Satellite Beach

Held a Kentucky Derby Day event in which patrons were able to donate money to pull a horse name out of a jar. If the horse came in first, second, or third place, they were a winner.

Held a yard sale with donations received from members of items they had in their home.

Assisted the Post with the Welcome Home Major Eldritch trunk, in which a trunk from a WWII Veteran was presented to a surviving Satellite Beach family member. The trunk was purchased at a garage sale in Vancouver, WA in the summer of 2001.

“Adopted” a female Marine Veteran who just purchased a run-down mobile home and, through multiple donations and much work, assisted in making the home a place of beauty.

Had their “annual” pajama party breakfast during Department President Ann’s visit.

Had an Honor Flight fundraising party and raised over \$3,000.

Held their annual Turkey Bowl. Winners received prizes of either turkeys, hams, or pork loins.

Began their first annual Auxiliary retreat and teambuilding trip in which each day some time was dedicated to learning more about each other and about Auxiliary business.

Obtained a proclamation from the City of Satellite Beach for the 100th anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Unit 318 – Port St. Lucie

Held a golf tournament and raised \$8,500

Distributed approximately \$2,400 to schools for supplies and uniforms.

Gave 2 awards to St Lucie High School girls for Military and Scholastic Achievement.

Donated to Wreaths Across America and Honor Flight.

Donated \$3,000 to VA in West Palm Beach and Fisher House.

Gave \$5,000 in scholarships for college bound young women and \$500 in scholarships for DOF.

Unit 344 – Merritt Island

Spearheaded by a member who is a USAF Veteran and who lost her son to Veteran suicide, 660 flags were placed by several members at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at Wickham Park. These are to represent those Veterans who lost their lives to suicide in one month.

Participated in the inaugural Merritt Island Fourth of July parade.

Held a Happy 100th birthday celebration, along with a membership and blood drive.

Distributed poppies as well as hand made poppy pins and pens on Veterans Day.

Established the group, "Brevard Honors Veterans – Wreaths Across America" and were able to register and recognize 29 additional cemeteries in Brevard County, bringing the total to 34 ceremonies in Brevard County on Wreaths Across America Day (12/14/19).

Went to a local school on Constitution Day and presented all 117 fifth graders with their own copy of the Constitution and educated them on Americanism and Patriotism.

On Veterans Day, in coordination with the local police department, a veteran officer joined some members and did small presentations for the 3 sixth grade classes.

Sent 3 care packages overseas worth over \$150.

Are currently at 162.96% in membership.

Unit 348 – Cape Canaveral

NO REPORT

Unit 358 – White City

NO REPORT

Unit 359 – Port St. John

Began NASCAR Race games to raise money for Girls State.

Fulfilled Christmas list for 7 local families and provided 90 gifts ranging from \$10 to \$20 to children (from ages 0 – 12) of service men and women overseas.

Sewed 150 Christmas stockings for OASIS (Operation American Standing in Support) for the "Stockings from Home" program.

Distributed 15 Thanksgiving baskets to local families in need and 10 families through "Welcome Home Vets, Inc."

Completed their one-year anniversary, in cooperation with the VFW Post 4228, for Loads of Love laundry program for Veterans in need. There are currently 48 Veterans on file.

Held their second annual Talent Contest and raise \$3,500 for Honor Flight.

Unit 366 – Barefoot Bay

Adopted Camp Boggy Creek as their year long project. Made and delivered 79 bears, 10 afghans, and 1 quilt. The stuffing for the bears was received from a grant for 31 pounds of stuffing from Fairfield World.

Purchased 100 Halloween Safety coloring books and distributed them to Kindergarten and First Grade children at Sunrise Elementary School.

Crocheted 10 hats and 50 pairs of booties and delivered them to Indian River Medical Center for the newborn nursery.

Donated \$300 to the Brevard County Children's Hunger Project.

Sponsored a delegate to Girls State

During Poppy Drive, distributed 1,000 poppies and collected \$990. Money was also collected through mail distribution.

Held a Tea Party, Card Party, and Brides of Yesteryear luncheon.

Continues to donate clothing, food and other gifts to the Veterans Transitional Facility in Melbourne and other Veterans hospitals and clinics throughout the state. (Total is \$1,770)

Unit 410 – Rockledge

Helped assist 7 Veterans with home projects and transportation.

Started a mats for homeless Veterans project. Some mats are woven and some are crocheted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Humann,

12th District President

District 13



No Report Submitted

District 14



District 14 – 2019-2020 Report for the Book of Report

District 14 extends from Key West north to North Miami Beach. This was my first time being a District President and enjoyed being able to meet all of the other unit members in our district. We had good times and bad times, but we are one happy family! We have 11 units in our district and this year had 734 members (bringing us to 91.98% of our membership goal) at close of books. Boy, oh boy, those members were busy this year! Most of the Unit updated their Constitution and By Laws. We had one participant this year for the Americanism Essay Contest. We held 2 Schools of Instruction and one ABC Course. We came together to collect supplies for the Homeless Women Veterans at Fall Conference. Many of our members began making masks for the community once COVID-19 starting ramping up. Our Department Presidents visit was cut short due to the pandemic. Hopefully she will be able to return down south! I am so proud of all of our members down South here!



Unit 28 – Key West

Although I did not receive any reports from Unit 28, I knew they were busy! Their Unit was lead by President Michele Morgan. They participated in parades and held Drive In movies to raise funds.





Unit 31 – South Miami

The unit was lead by President Linda Barichak. The unit received a proclamation for the ALA's 100th Birthday from the Mayor of South Miami. They donated \$200 to a unit member who lost her partner and was in need. They donated \$300 to Gulliver Prep music club for volunteering to play for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. They used it to help go to a competition in New Orleans.

They donated \$500 to Unit 153 to help with Hurricane Irma Relief. They held bake sales, raffle and dinners. They selected one delegate for Girls State. They mail a letter with a Poppy to all of their members asking them to support the Poppy Program. They also put a "Poppy Plate" on the Post Lounge wall with the name of who made the donation. They usually distribute approximately 200 poppies and collect about \$685 in donations. They donated \$285 to Operation Homefront. They participated in the South Miami Elf Parade with their local community.





Unit 43 – Homestead

This Unit was lead by President Dorothy Stubblefield. This Unit is the closest unit to the Homestead Air Reserve Base. They hold a lot of event and have active duty military visit their post. They have several members that are military spouses. They held an event for Easter Sunday. They had about 15-20 service members and families attend. For Armed Forces Day they hosted a luncheon with about 40 service members and families attend. One Memorial Day they remembered our Veterans and participated with services at Palms Woodlawn Cemetery. Along with a Boy Scout troop, they placed flags on every known veterans grave. Later they had dignitaries from HARB come speak at the Post for services. They held a Flag Day ceremony and celebrated 4th of July. On Labor Day they held a luncheon with about 25 service members and their families. They hosted a Promotion Party to celebrate a members husband being promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Five, which brought about 75 service members and their families to the post. They held celebrations for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and a children's Christmas Party. They participated in Wreaths Across America and Military Appreciation Day. They hold an annual fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness.







Unit 67 – North Miami

The Unit was lead by President Patricia Mauro. The officers, chairman and members were busy! They collected donations and mailed 23 boxes filled with supplied to out Troops overseas. They clipped over \$165,000 coupons for the troopon program. They collected items for 30 backpacks for 3 local schools for students in need. They held a Christmas party with food and gifts for over 70 children and even had Santa there to visit! They held Flea Markets weekly on Saturdays with

donated items to raise money for the Christmas party. They gave 60 bags of clothing, shoes and socks to the Miami Rescue Mission. The unsold items from the Flea Market were donated to the Vets Pickup once a month. The members volunteered hours helping the Post with dinners, raffles for baskets and 50/50. They donated to K-9 for warriors, Fisher House and Final Salute. They ordered Poppies and had cans ready to go for donations. Many books were donated to the library and license plates were cleaned and put up around the Post home. They held a Flag Retirement ceremony, Boy Scours and "Fireman of the Year" awards.



Unit 98 – Coral Gables

This Unit was lead by President, Nancy Casquarelli. This unit is one of the oldest units in the State and the Post is a dry Post. Their building is a historic site and will be going under renovations. The Unit participates in all of our Posts special events including Memorial Day, American Legion 100th Birthday and Veterans Day. On September 11, 2019 our Post and Unit hosted a 9/11 memorial event. Representatives from the Son of American Revolution, the National Institute of Mental Health, Homeland Security, Auxiliary Coast Flotilla 67, Boyscout Troop and Coral Gables Police and Firefighters joined us for dinner. They say the Pledge of Allegiance at every meeting and we've attended and collected old American flags for the Unserviceable flags ceremony. The Treasurer Helga Laks was invited to a school for children with disabilities in Homestead, FL and taught children the history of the flag and how to fold the American flag with pocket flags. She did this 15 times (15 classrooms, with 20 kids in each class). Also several of our members attended a Military Appreciation Day Dinner in Kendall sponsored by Baptist Hospital. Besides actively collecting material like programs from our events and photos for our History Books, we love looking through our old history books. They have in our collection History books dating as far back as 1926. We get ideas from them and also share them with other members of our Unit. The Chaplain is Helen Carpinelli and she reads opening and closing prayers at all general meetings. She also reaches out to many of the members who are in assisted living facilities and sends get well cards and cards of condolence to members who have lost loved ones. The Unit participated in the 4 Chaplains

ceremony on February 8, 2020. The unit donated \$50 to Nicholous Children's Hospital. The Unit and Post collaborate to collect aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. This year we collected about 3lbs worth of tabs. Members of the Unit have attended three veteran funerals and memorials. When the 1st Vice President Dorothy Thomson's daughter tragically died, the unit donated \$50 to her daughters favorite charity The Tim Tebow Foundation. For their annual Holiday party our Unit and Post participated in Toys For Tots drive. The Unit raised \$60 and donated 8 unwrapped toys (each worth \$10). They also donated some small kitchen appliances, a printer and

\$150 worth in kid clothes to a local needy family. The Unit teamed up with Love The Everglades (a local environmental non-profit) for the Tamiami Trail clean up effort on July 21, 2019. Volunteers picked up 1200lbs of trash. Most of the garbage was water bottles, we can really help our environment by saying no to the plastic and using reusable bottles for our water. They selected one delegate, Ms. Carolina Aguilar from Coral Gables High School, for Girls State. She is a wonderful student and is in the JROTC. At their meetings their members were encouraged to create a login at the www.alafl.org and www.alaforvets.org and take the time to explore the website. There are training courses and endless amounts of info there. They also print out copies of the newest guidebooks and have older copies available for members and officers to have and study. At their meetings they read articles from the Auxiliary's national magazine and department magazines to keep their members informed and engaged. They gave an honorary life membership to their oldest member Mercedes Zalazar who is 102 years old. The Unit donated \$250 to Operation Home Front. The money raised went to school supplies for military children in Panama City, FL at Tyndall Air Force Base. Speakers from the Concerned Veterans For America come and talk about their organization with members of our Post. Their Poppy Chairman is also the Second Vice President JoAnn Smith. Over the past year we've had 50/50 raffles and collected donations totaling \$193. She also purchased 500 new poppies and they've arrived at the Post ready to go. The Unit contributes to the Post's bi-monthly newsletter with information about the goings on at the Post which is made available online and is printed out and mailed to members. Their unit has a Facebook page. On February 17, 2020 US Representative Donna E. Shalala visited our post for a little informal gathering. She fielded questions about the Veterans Administration and services provided by the hospital, about the way services at Baptist Hospital are billed directly to veterans instead of the VA, and related healthcare issues. Treasurer Helga Laks was in communication with a VA rep about speaking at the post about depression and suicide among veterans. Unfortunately



it was cancelled due to the threat of the Corona Virus and our Post being shut down until further notice.



Unit 133 – Miami (Palmetto Bay)

This unit was lead by President Stacy Cusano. The unit was involved in the community with trash clean up and community events. They participated in National Night Out, celebrating with law enforcement and informing the community about the future Veterans Park. Our Chaplain Susie Sclernitzauer advocates for Prostate Cancer with "Zero". She has participated in lobbying for Bill HR 6029 for Standardized Clinical Pathway at Veterans Administration facilities for prostate cancer (Rep Neal Dunn). Participated in the USCG Station Opa Locka Community Outreach Event. They selected two delegates for Girls State. Member Maureen Peterson, who is 88 years young, bakes her famous key lime pies, cream puffs and eclairs for bake sales, which usually sell out before she even gets them in the door! Our Juniors Chairman, Michelle Ligeikis, helped one of our SAL Members earn 3 patches in the Patch Program. The Unit received a proclamation for the ALA 100th Birthday. The Post and the Unit are on the Village of Palmetto Bays Veterans Task Force, which helps identify veterans in the community who are in need, plan celebrations for veterans through out the year and who are planning the future Veterans Park in the Village. The Park will include a Gold Star Family Memorial Monument form the Hershel Woody William Medal of Honor Foundation. The unit distributed approximately 1500 poppies in May of 2019 and collected about \$2,000 in donations. The unit made donations to the Presidents Charity, Honor Flight and to the Fisher House and VAMC. Sent card to the sick and participated in the Four Chaplains at the Post. The unit made donations to local school for supplies and even made a donation to the local high school for their homeless students pantry. The high school has almost 90 homeless students that they try to feed and clothe. They held an annual Christmas party for children. Clipped over \$158,000 in coupons for the Troopons program. Sent boxes to troops overseas and worked with local JROTC units. Three members obtained the CPR/AED certification. One member volunteered to drive for the American Legion Baseball game. We held a "Welcome Home Party" for one of our members who returned from deployment. Some of our Riders members helped pass out over 400 Legion Halloween Coloring books and candy at a local trunk or treat.









Unit 154 – Marathon

The Unit was lead by President Dona Beckman. The members of this unit were very busy! From food distribution from Hurricane Dorian to food distribution due to COVID-19 and in between! They participated in 911 memorial at the local Fire Station, ribbon cutting, Bahama Relief donations, strides walk for cancer and much more! They sent Troop Boxes overseas which included coloring pages that were colored at the post and local schools. The held raffles, lotto boards, made meals and 50/50s to raise money for program funds. The do their Poppy distribution at Publix, WinnDixie and at the Post home. The held celebrations of life and draped their charter. They participated in a local 4th of July Parade. The got their local school children and staff to participate in RED shirt Fridays. Collected can tops for Ronald McDonald House and truck days. They assisted the VA officer in Marathon to spread the information of VA Benefits. Supported Boy Scouts with Flag Retirement Ceremonies. For Veterans Day they placed flags at the Big Pine Veterans Cemetery.

Then there was a show at the local school that included taps and a slide show of veterans. Member Jackie Moore has been busy working on issues with Veterans regarding Agent Orange. She helps them obtain their benefits and get more information. The held s POWMIA recognition ceremony.











Unit 168 – Key West

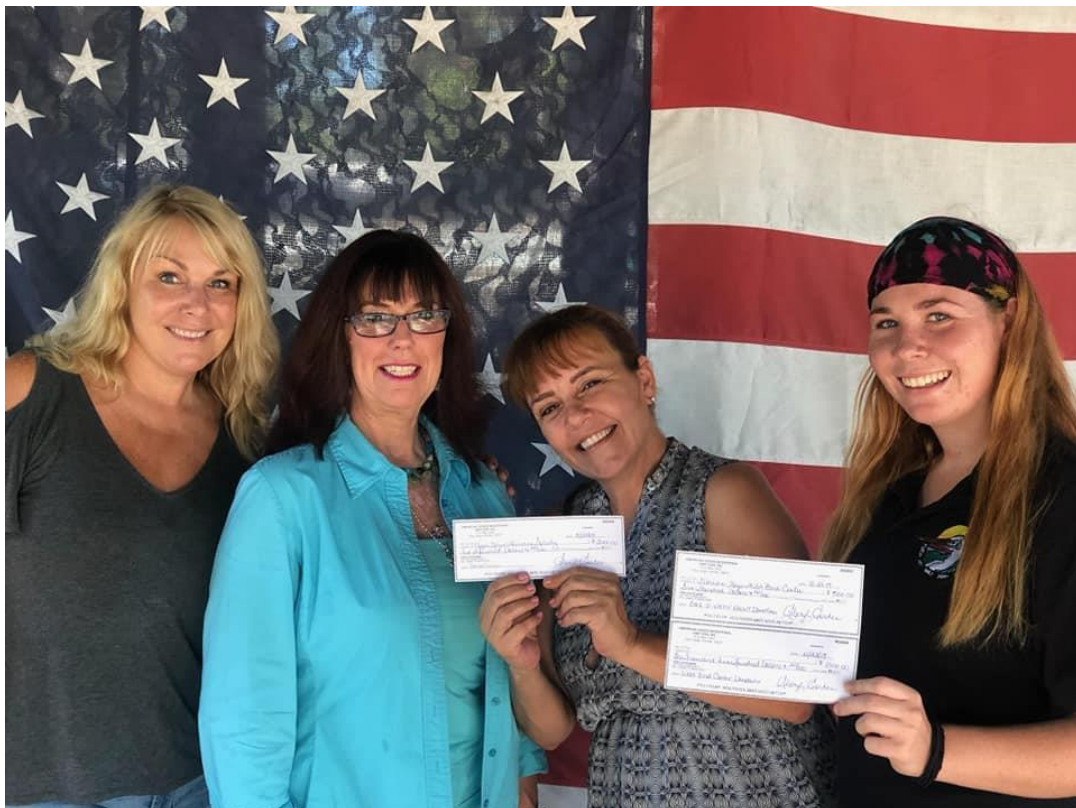
The Unit was lead by President Carla Tynes. Unfortunately I did not receive any reports from the unit. Their Post home has been under renovations as it is a historic building as well. Their held their grand reopening at the end of 2019. The were able to hold their Christmas party including Santa, bikes and a lot of gifts!





Unit 333 – Key Largo

This unit was lead by President Cherly Codes. Unfortunately I did not receive any reports from this unit. However, I know they were working our programs. They presented \$2,000 to the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center and to the Humane Society.





Unit 346 – Miami

This Unit was lead by President Mercy Iglesias. This unit hold a number of events at the VAMC. One in particular was their Harvest Hoedown! They brought Cuban treat and country line dancing. Mercy is also the Volunteer Coordinator for the Honor Flight South Florida. The Unit raised fund for the VA events, Big Bear PPEC and Honor Flight South Florida.





Unit 374 – Key Biscayne

The Unit was lead by President, Barbara (Dawn) Cromartie. The officers, chairman and members were quite busy. Each month they provide a fun lively bingo game for 35-45 veterans and have

\$250 to spread among the bingo winners at each game. Sometimes they have tee shirts and caps as prizes as well. As of January 2020, no games were held due to a change of director at the medical center and then COVID-19. They also visited the VA Spinal Injury Cord unit which has 30 beds. They brought homemade goodies and special patriotic blankets made by their members and the community that so to the new patients at the time of the visit. This is the most emotional and wonderful visit they are allowed to do at the center. For Memorial Day 2019, they distributed 2,000 poppies. They give 400 poppies to St. Agnes Academy and they give one to each student for a \$1. Donation to get a free day to not wear their uniform. Their services are with the Legion and have been on the island for over 25 years. It is their tradition to name all that have passed away at the ceremony and ring a bell in respect of their time as a veteran. They have their local police department present to present their colors. Their local pastors and priests and mayor speak and they sing several patriotic songs. For July 4th, they had 2 golf carts decorated and participated in the City of Key Biscayne Parade. In October they held their annual veterans picnic at Bill Baggs State Park. They hosted 100 veterans and their therapists and 10 community volunteers. Served food, drinks and helped the veterans fish.

Celebrated the 100th Birthday with a cake. The fire rescue department men and women helped by donating and served the refreshments. The Christmas bingo was very special, in addition to spending \$250 for the winners, they were also able to put a \$5 bill in a Christmas card for each of the players there. In January they held a PTSD lunch for 7 veterans and 3 aids at the beach club. They worked with 6 grade schools and one high school to make valentines for the veterans at the Miami VA. Also, found out that on Valentines Day the VA invites special guests from the Heat and Marlins teams and Legionaries from different posts to come to cheer the veterans. Unfortunately due to COVID-19, all visits to the VA have been canceled.

Respectfully Submitted by Stacy Cusano

14th District President

District 15



No Report Submitted

District 16



American Legion Auxiliary District 16

Year End Report

District 16 is moving forward for 2019-2020 promoting our programs and having fundraisers to support our Veterans, Children & Youth and our Communities. All our units have our Deuce Motorcycle Revving It Up For Membership, which helps our units with our programs and unit costs.

Unit 335 Hudson had a surprise Bingo to support our veterans and also donated to River Ridge High School for the girl's band.

Unit 252 Seminole adopted a new charity Operation Military Matters, this was started by a little girl from Seminole to ship boxes to our troops, shipping 100 boxes every month this shows what our children can do.

Unit 7 Clearwater is supporting National Security by sending coupons in excess of \$31,000 to our military families overseas, A Auxiliary cookbook is being printed with the profits towards Girls State.

Unit 305 St. Pete Beach, is working hard to support Bay Pines Pantry, School Supplies to Operation Home Front and Mr. Strong Foundation which provides assistance for therapy to service families with children with special needs all monetary donations.

Safety Harbor Unit 238 sponsored their 4th of July parade, handing out over 1000 American Flags to children. Safety Harbor joining with the Harbor Bar will be hosting a big event with the profit to Honor Flight.

Treasure Island Unit 158, supporting National Security mailing over \$12,463
Coupons and supporting Bay Pines and back to school drive with over \$700
In donations. Their Halloween Party with the witches dancing collected \$250 for the
Mr. Strong Children's Foundation.

Unit 125 Gulfport, had a Sock Hop raising \$550 plus items for the homeless Women
Veterans. They have an ongoing food drive to stock the pantry of Gulfport Senior Center,
Then a children's Halloween Party enjoyed by all, Steakem game raising money for
Wreaths Across America..

Dunedin Unit 275 joined Pinellas Trail Adopt a mile, volunteering over 196 hours
cleaning the trail. Every month a meat raffle raising money for their USF Nursing
Scholarship Attended 4 Honor Flights and a Bowl a Thon donating \$400
to Honor Flight. Also put on a dinner and breakfast once a month with the
profits towards charities.

Holiday Unit 173 collected donations for homeless female veterans, and in progress
Collected for 5 Thanksgiving Baskets for veteran families in needs, planning their
Children's wish list.

New Port Richey Unit 79, started off with school supplies in excess of \$1000 for
Richey elementary, then onto the OCN Stand Down, have two members a core Leaders,
serving over 362 veterans for 3 days. Donated \$100 for the Homeless Female Veterans,
Halloween Party great success profit towards their third Girls Stater. Members attended
The Honor Flight in house where our veterans could not go on the Honor Flight but

Was simulated like they went. Adopting 90 Christmas Angels from 3 elementary schools
And 10 from the VA clinic, also 18 Thanksgiving baskets going to needy veteran families

As the year continued on from December till April 2020, we have been in a pandemic
Covid 19 which has stopped many of our auxiliary programs, projects. But even with all this
going
on our units did continue promoting our programs, helping our veterans, community, military
and community.

Holiday Auxiliary Unit 173 continued with veterans and families supporting Steps to Recovery
with holiday
meals and a pillow and pillow case drive. Also supported 25 disabled/challenged children
afflicted with
autism, living within families experiencing substance abuse and mental health issues.

Auxiliary Unit 7 Clearwater replenished school supplies needed to Eisenhower Elementary and
Sandy Lane Elementary which were either abused, discarded or lost. These were much
appreciated.
They donated food items and toiletry items to Bay Pines VA Hospital.

Auxiliary Unit 119 Largo once a month throughout the year goes to their adopted ALF,
The House That Faith Built, and have BINGO. The residents enjoy us every month. .December
They had their children's Christmas party with Santa and Mrs. Clause handing out gifts to all the
children

Auxiliary Unit 238 Safety Harbor, December they held a big fund raiser BINGO BASH raised
\$2326.50 for Department Presidents charity Honor Flight.

Auxiliary Unit 158 Treasure Island supported National Security by clipping \$37.481 in coupons

To be sent to our military overseas. One of their projects is Pinellas Hope Angel Tree for the children for Christmas. Past President Diane was interviewed by Channel 9 news for donation drive. This auxiliary

at every meeting a time is devoted to the program of the month from our auxiliary programs.

Unit 275 Dunedin collected \$2084 in donations for Operation Toy Soldier, active military families

in Pinellas County. Continuing on they sent 29 care packages to to Afghanistan to our military and held the annual picnic at Bay Pines serving 100 veterans and staff... They donated \$1000 to the Toy Run, which proceeds go to Pinellas County Foster Kids.

Auxiliary Unit 79 New Port Richey held their annual Christmas party supporting 6w children from elementary schools, with Santa handing out gifts. Also in December they supported 90 children

With their angels, 30 of which were children from veteran families. Then continued on to the highlight of the year The Luminary Service where 336 Fallen Heroes were honored in a ceremony

placing 336 luminary bags with their picture and date are displayed. The Save The TaTa's the 10th year

raised \$2700 for Breast Cancer research in the state of Florida. Can not forget to mentioned our new junior Ashley, who has helped in many projects but when the call came for the need of masks, she jumped in and made masks for John Hopkins Children's Hospital, James A Haley Vet. Hospital, Lopez Veteran Nursing home, Fisher House in Tampa. Auxiliary is very lucky and proud to have her as one of our juniors.

Unit 305 St. Pete Beach donated money to the following: Operation Home Front, Bay Pines Pantry,

Strong Foundation for baskets to homeless female veterans. They did coupons for the first time this year \$1338.75

Auxiliary Unit 305 Hudson, it is hard being a widow unit, but they did their best. Donated money to the OCN Stand Down for homeless veterans. Also donated money and food baskets to veterans homeless shelter for Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter.

Madeira Beach Unit 273 hosted the women Veterans from Bay Pines from the rehab and Domiciliary for a Christmas Luncheon, did 40 angels from the 74th St. Elementary School for Christmas. Then moving on packed 300 boxes with our You Are Loved packet (a card with an expression of hope and love included a worry stone, this was a special project by our own

Carol Williams) for our deployed military. Supported Bay Pine when the call came for A need for their pantry over \$4500 in goods delivered.

With the recent events due to the Corona virus, many events had to be canceled, but District 16 had a great year and made some good memories and have been honored to serve as American Legion Auxiliary 16th District President.

Yours in Service

Sue Craft

16th District President

District 17



No Report Submitted