



# THE FLORIDA TOOLBOX

*Building The House Newsletter*  
2024-2025

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

## IN THIS ISSUE



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THE DEPARTMENT  
PRESIDENT**  
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Welcome to the 2024-2025 President. Together we will be #BuildingTheHouse with reports from various departments.



**UNITS &  
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Take a peak into the units and see what events are happening across Florida.



**MEMBERSHIP  
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Find membership reports covering all districts.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER

- 01 SUNDAY BRUNCH UNIT 233
- 01 LABOR DAY EVENT UNIT 333
- 02 **LABOR DAY**
- 02 LABOR DAY BBQ UNIT 333
- 08 UNIT 138 LUAU
- 14 COMM FLEA MKT UNIT 293
- 28 UNIT 293 GOLF TOURNEY

#### OCTOBER

- 5 POST 2 POST BIKE RIDE
- 14 COLUMBUS DAY
- 19 ABC SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

Events subject to change. For more details visit the calendar at:

**[alaf1.org/events](https://alaf1.org/events)**



Scan the code or visit  
**[alaf1.org/event-submission](https://alaf1.org/event-submission)**  
to submit your unit's events.



DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AT GIRLS STATE - JUNE 2024

### Greetings

I am looking forward to an awesome year. My theme is **"Securing Our Foundation to Build a Stronger Future"** together we will be **#BuildingTheHouse**. My color is **teal**. Teal represents calmness, serenity, strength, growth, and clarity. Teal is a revitalizing color that symbolizes open communication and creative thinking, all characteristics that we need to remember when we are working together to Secure our Foundation and Build our House. My Charity is Operation 300, located in Stuart, FL. 501(c)3 Op300

provides camp for any child who has lost a father as a result of military service, pairing each child father-aged, male mentor who spends the weekend doing things with the children that they might have done with their dad. Over the course of a camp weekend, attendees can expect to participate in a wide range from saltwater fishing, sailing, archery, shooting, camp competition and more. It was established in honor of SOC Seal Aaron Vaughn who was shot down in the Tangi River Valley of Afghanistan. Aaron left behind 2 children; a son not quite 2 years old and a daughter who was only 9 weeks old. Aaron's story, life

and legacy inspired the creation of Opp300. This camp is provided at no cost to the parent or child. For further information, please visit their website [op300.org](http://op300.org). So, my year has started off full steam. I was installed on June 16th and then headed to FSU on June 20th to Girls State for their Opening Session and administered their oath. Also, at the Opening Session, the Mayor of Tallahassee, John Dailey, issued a Girls State Proclamation. It is always exciting to go to Girls State and see the great group of young ladies attending. What can I say, "Girls State is Great!" On June 29th, I was asked to speak at the Legion Training, about my theme and charity. My next adventure was to visit Safety



Harbor to participate in the 4th of July Parade and also speak at their Ceremony. Thank you to District 16 President Cheryl Adams for the invite and Unit 238, Safety Harbor for their hospitality. July 4th was a busy day, right after the parade I went straight to Altamonte Springs for our Auxiliary Boot Camp. Where our Department Chairmen worked strong and hard developing the Program Engagement Plans for the current year. District Presidents also attended for instruction on how to make their year a successful one. The District Presidents were also given a task at Convention to start building a house out of a



limited supply of Legos and bring them to Boot Camp. They were then to explain what they would need regarding membership to complete their house. I loved the explanations. July 19th -21st was our Department Workshop. The workshop was very well attended, we had over 250 in attendance. Our Department Chairman did a wonderful job of presenting our programs and the same time making it fun. I will be attending the National Convention Aug 23rd -31st. I am excited to be able to work with you and **#BuildingTheHouse**. This is going to be a great year.



# SECRETARY'S DESK



**Mary Kelly-Perkins**  
**Secretary@alaf1.org**  
**(407) 451-0410**

**Congratulations** to all officers from the Unit, District and Department and welcome to our new Auxiliary year. I know it is going to be awesome if we just follow the procedures. The Department Secretary is the governess of the Auxiliary which means that I handle the questions you may have concerning our programs, delegate strength for Constitutional Conferences and Department Convention, letters of endorsement, new unit charters etc. The best way of contacting me is through email, Secretary@alaf1.org or by phone at 407-451-0410. You can contact me Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. For anything financial such as invoices for quotas, compliance you will contact our **Department Treasurer, Brandi, Treasurer@alaf1.org** For membership processing, anything ALAMIS, Recruit 10, Unit Officers and Chairmen list, officer

and chairmen changes you will contact **Patsy by emailing membership@alaf1.org** You can find many of the forms on our department website **alaf1.org** by clicking on **QUICKLINKS**. These forms are PDF fillable and very user friendly. You can also order merchandise from our Auxiliary Store from the website. I invite all members to utilize our department website as you will find a wealth of knowledge. Is your Unit going to endorsing a

candidate for District President? If so please remember, as per the Department Constitution and Bylaws Article VII, section 5, that the member must have served as the Unit President of your Unit before they can be endorsed as a District President candidate. I am looking forward to a great year in **#buildingthehouse** for President Charlotte, **#membershipisthekey** to keep our units strong.

## FROM LEADERSHIP

**Mary Kelly-Perkins**  
**leadership@alaf1.org**

**#mentoringdevelopsleaders** Workshop and Schools of Instruction are completed and the Auxiliary Basic Concept Classes are being scheduled. ABC Classes do not cover our programs! What we do cover but not limited to is the organization, duties of officers and chairmen, governing documents, nurturing goodwill, mentoring, exploring new ways for members to become involved, membership responsibilities and understanding Unit reporting and its importance. These are the classes that are scheduled for the month of September 2024. I will post October's classes in the next issue. District Presidents and Leadership Chairmen remember to invite all facets of the American Legion Family. Put flyers on your Unit/ District social media pages, invite surrounding districts to attend. Get your questions ready as we are here to mentor all American Legion Family members.

### SEPTEMBER ABC CLASSES



DIST 3 • UNIT 49, MONTICELLO  
 INSTRUCTORS:  
 JANE HARDACRE &  
 MICHELE DEGENNARO.



DIST 11 • UNIT 268, RIVIERA BEACH  
 INSTRUCTORS:  
 LINDA KNOBLACH-HARKNESS &  
 ROBIN BURK



DIST 17 • UNIT 6, DELAND  
 INSTRUCTORS:  
 MARY KELLY-PERKINS &  
 EILEEN WILSON

# FROM MEMBERSHIP

**Jan Farrington**  
**membership@alaf1.org**

**Welcome to 2024-2025 membership!** I am so excited to be your Department Membership Chairman. I love seeing all the various ways the units are using their assigned tools to help "Build the House." Always remember **MEMBERSHIP IS THE KEY**. Every single one of you is a key to reaching our membership goals. Workshop in August was a real success. It was great meeting and greeting so many of you and sharing lots of information on membership! Beginning September 1, every Unit can begin submitting their new members. It's been great seeing so many Units submitting 2025 renewals already. There have been many fun and creative ideas to encourage renewals from raffles, Early Bird

suppers and gift baskets to name a few. If you need any assistance, there are people to help! Begin by asking your own Unit membership chairman. Each District president has appointed a membership chairman. Each Area also has a designated Area chairman. Pam Pannasch represents the Western area Districts 1&2. Natalie Scott is Northern Area Districts 3, 4, 5, and 17. Amanda Sherman is Central Area Districts 7, 15 and 16. Sandy Swafford is Southern Area Districts 9, 11 and 14. Char Kinlen covers Districts 6 and 12 and Kathy Reed is Southwestern area chairman Districts 8 and 13. Our Department Goal Dates are listed in the box on page 5. Share these at your Auxiliary and District meetings. Awards will be based on membership entered into ALAMIS member database by the dates in the teal box. All this information and so much more can be found on **alaf1.org/membership**.

Under each folder labeled "Graphics and Brochures", "Membership," and "Links" click on the red + sign and that shows flyers, brochures, Membership Guides and the Program Engagement Plan just to name a few. Right under my picture is a link that will take you directly to Facebook. I urge you to join the ALAFL MEMBERSHIP page. To be accepted, answer 3 simple questions. Once on, there's lots of fun, educational postings and great ideas from everyone all over the state! In closing, I ask every one of you to work membership. When you post on your Auxiliary Facebook pages include the hashtag #membershipisthekey. Work those 3 R's. **RETAIN, REJOIN AND RECRUIT**. Let's continue to Secure our Foundation to Build a Stronger Future. The key to our success is through membership.



Jan Farrington, Department Membership Chairman (L) and Charlotte Bass, Department President (R)

## DEPARTMENT GOAL DATES



75% ONE BRICK AT A TIME



85% CONSTRUCT A DREAM



95% NO FOOLING AROUND



100% RAISE THE ROOF

# FROM PPP (PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY)



**Wanda Brandt**  
pastpresidentparley  
@al afl.org

Past Presidents Parley (PPP) at every level are encouraged to promote mentoring opportunities of unit members. Past Presidents at all levels continue their support of the organization by accepting responsibility that the knowledge and wisdom of a past leader can make a difference. They are acting ambassadors of the organization. All Past Presidents strive to strengthen each level of the organization and promote growth through positive actions. This helps ensure a strong leadership for the organization.

**Key Program Statements:**

- To raise awareness of ALA Unit development and training opportunities.
- To strengthen leadership within the Unit and District!
- To promote participation in the available member training on the national website ALA Academy; Senior and Junior

member Auxiliary Basic Leadership Course.

- To enhance knowledge about ALA history, programs, and organization.

**Grow:**

Have you heard about the ALA Academy? This is an incredible educational opportunity for you to learn about the Auxiliary and what we do. There are 8 main courses and many other live courses available to help mentor our newest members. I personally have completed all 8 of them and I was amazed at the history of our program and the amazing individuals that made it all happen. This is a great opportunity for our Junior members to learn about the Auxiliary as well. They are the future of our program. There are even some E-courses designed specifically with our juniors in mind. You can enroll in any of the self-paced courses. I encourage everyone to try them. You will not be disappointed! Find more details at **legion-aux.org**. Lastly, how can you get our Junior members involved in your units? In a recent Zoom meeting, we discussed the importance of mentoring our Junior members and involving them in our monthly meetings, fundraising events, preparing meals, and assisting in planning events and activities. Your juniors will amaze you with their use of technology and social media. Ask them to help with public relations and advertising your events. Juniors are our future, get them involved now. Get a few juniors excited to join our organization and they will reach out to others to help grow our membership.

Being a member in the Auxiliary Legion Auxiliary, mentoring is your responsibility.

- Introduce yourself to a new member.
  - Call and remind them of the meeting date.
  - Tell them about an event that is taking place within the Post.
  - Teach them about the "acronyms" we use within the Auxiliary and what they stand for.
  - Be Consists - Follow through.
- Mentoring moments are those times you take the opportunity to have a conversation that creates insight, explore options, or provides guidance, while you are doing something else. Please reach out to me if I can help in any way. Also, please read about the awards in the Program Engagement Plan. Start now, don't wait for April. Please schedule classes for mentoring within your unit and district levels. At your unit and district meetings, cover mentoring topics: these can be done through hand-outs, discussions, or chair reports.



# FROM CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Welcome to a new Auxiliary year! As we join President Charlotte this year on **"Securing Our Foundation To Build A Better Future"**, we need to review the Constitution & Bylaws.

**Terms:**

- C&B is an easy way to refer to your Constitution and Bylaws. They state your name, the leaders, and the purpose of your Unit.
- Bylaws: this defines the rules of your elections, duties of officers, and lists the Unit's committees.
- Standing Rules: they are specific to your Unit. It provides details about provisions listed in your Bylaws.

**Helpful Hints:**

- Make sure your Constitution & Bylaws are up-to-date.
- Make them accessible to EVERY member.
- Quote from them whenever possible so members become comfortable with the documents.
- Have your Unit's C&B Chairman present at a Unit meeting. They can pick something from the C&B to talk about or explain.
- Have FUN, don't be afraid of your governing documents.
- Informed members might be apt to sign up to be an Officer or Chairman. Start mentoring them NOW!



**Jane Hardacre**  
cbylaws@al afl.org

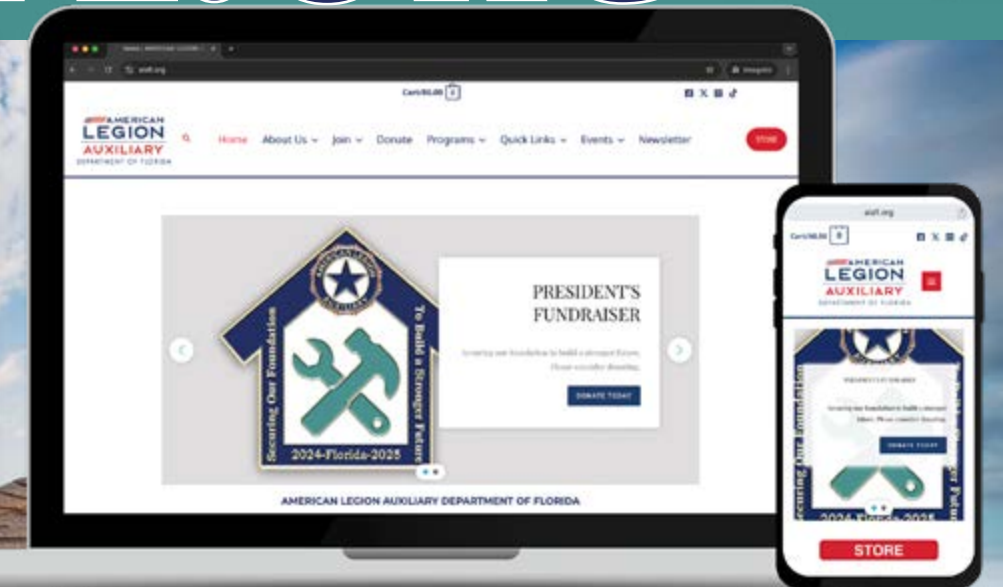
Please see the Program Engagement Plan on the Department website at:  
**al afl.org/constitution-by-laws/.**

# AL AFL.ORG



*New Year*  
**NEW WEBSITE!**

- ONLINE STORE
- FRIDAY REPORTS
- ABOUT THE PROGRAMS
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS



# FROM THE HISTORIAN



**Dara Oliver**  
historian@al afl.org

History, Legacy Project or Ancestral Documentation. Here are some questions to help you~

- What year did you join the ALA?
- Who did you gain your eligibility from and what was your relationship to them?
- What is your favorite ALA program or committee?
- What was the path that you took being in the ALA?
- Who was your mentor and what made them special?
- What was a favorite memory while working the Mission?

If you decide to write a History Project maybe about your Auxiliary Unit, Post Home or add to another History you could include the answers to these questions:

- What do you know about your Post Home?
- When and where did the Post home start?
- Have you always been in the same building?
- Did your Legion begin before your Auxiliary Unit or did they start together?
- What year was your Auxiliary Chartered?
- Do you have your documents framed, if so where are they?
- What kind of information is found on those forms?
- Do you have a photo of those documents?
- Do you know any of the names printed as Charter members?
- Can you write a history on any of them?
- Do you have a list of Officers that served from the beginning until now?

- Did any of your Past Officers serve as District or Department President or even higher?
- What information can you find and share about them?
- How far can you go back?

Other things to consider regarding the safe keeping of your Unit or Post home Histories, photo books etc... is Where are your important keepsakes kept?

- Are your books accessible to members so that they can see, read or go through them to share?
- Do you have a back-up of your History books or keepsakes?
- Have you ever thought about duplicating photos or other keepsakes digitally?

These are things to think about especially if a flood or natural disaster happens in your area. This way you can preserve those memories for years to come.

I'm sending out a challenge to **EVERYONE** - Can you find 1 important piece of History of your group, Unit or about your building. It will be interesting to find out the history of others! Does anyone else wonder who the oldest "Unit" in Florida is and are they still operating? You can post your History snippet, by using our **Social Media Facebook page - ALAFL History** or feel free to email it to Historian@al afl.org.



facebook.com/groups/flalahistory

# FROM GIRLS STATE

My name is Eileen Wilson and I'm honored to be this years Girls State chairman. If you have been involved with Girls state before then you know **GIRLS STATE IS GREAT.** I urge all Units that sent girls to Girls State last June to invite them back to attend one of your meetings or speak at a dinner or special event. Let them tell you first hand about their inspiring, life changing, experience. These girls are a great source for spreading the word about this amazing program at the ground level. School has already started so I encourage you to start spreading the word about this great program to your local High Schools. Try contacting the local School District, School Guidance Counselors, Government Advisors and even your Unit members. The date for this years Girls State is

**June 19-27, 2025.**

Remember to check out the new Department website for all the latest

Program Engagement plans. This document will give a month by month guide and all deadline dates for submitting your requests for sending girls. Great news is the cost is still \$400 per girl.

This year we are asking each Unit to donate a basket to be raffled off at Fall Conference, Nov 22-24, 2024. Just think of all the opporuntites for you to win. Of course you can also volunteer to help at the raffle table, just contact me.

This is a great way to Build our Foundation for a Stronger Future. And remember:

## GIRLS STATE IS GREAT!



**Eileen Wilson**  
girlsstate@al afl.org



Mayor of Tallahassee John Daily at Girls State



Department Leaders at Girls State

# FROM VA&R VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION



**Linda Knoblach-Harkness**  
veteransaffairs@al afl.org

I hope this message finds you well and brimming with anticipation. As we step into a fresh Auxiliary year, I can't help but share my excitement. Our Units have always been fueled by an unwavering passion for serving our Veterans, and this year promises to be no different.

Let's continue our tradition of compassion by **creating those essential "comfort articles."** Remember, these small gestures make a world of difference to our Veterans. Whether it's a cozy lap robe, a pair of knit or crochet booties, or a thoughtful cap, every stitch carries warmth and care.

For instructions, turn to page 92 of the Unit Guide. Let's channel our creativity and love into these items, knowing they'll bring comfort to those who've served.

While our headquarters doesn't have Name Tapes available, fear not! You can order them through Flag and Emblem Sales. Let's ensure our Veterans' belongings are personalized.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who has answered the call to serve in our VA Facilities across the state of Florida. Your selflessness and commitment make a profound impact on the lives of our veterans.

However, our mission is not yet complete. We still have a need for a few more volunteers. If you have the time and willingness to contribute, please consider joining our ranks. If you'd like to get involved, please reach out to me via email at veteransaffairs@al afl.org. We look forward to welcoming you to our dedicated team! I want to emphasize the importance of tracking a few key data points:

1. **Hours:** Keep a record of the hours you spend volunteering. Whether it's a few minutes or several hours, every moment contributes to our mission.
2. **Mileage:** If you travel to serve our veterans, note the miles driven. Your journeys matter, and this information helps us understand the scope of our impact.
3. **Expenses:** While we serve in the Spirit of Service, not Self, it's essential to track any out-of-pocket expenses. Whether it's gas, supplies, or other costs, these details provide a comprehensive picture of our efforts.
4. As you continue to serve our veterans, it's essential to understand how to accurately report your volunteer hours. Here's a crucial distinction:

If you are caring for a family member who is a veteran and lives with you, you can report 10 hours per week. Your dedication to their well-being matters, and this recognition ensures that your efforts are appropriately acknowledged.

If the family member veteran does not reside in your home, you can claim 5 hours per week. Even when physical proximity isn't possible, your commitment remains impactful. Why do we collect this data? Because it enables us to advocate effectively. The American Legion Auxiliary relies on these points to remind Congress just how vital our organization is. Your service matters, and these numbers tell a powerful story.

**Your firm commitment to our veterans** is truly commendable. Thank you for the compassion, time, and effort you invest in making a difference. I eagerly anticipate meeting many of you during my travels to VA Facilities across the state. Let's continue serving our heroes with passion and purpose!



# FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS

Welcome to the new year, securing our foundation to build a stronger future. We will use our tools: social media, newsletters, flyers, and press releases to share our mission, which is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

**September brings National Disaster Preparedness Month, Suicide Prevention Month, Service Dog Month, Patriot Day, 9/11 Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day, 4th Annual POW/MIA Seven Bridges Remembrance Day Ride and Ceremony (see flyer on page 12), and Gold Star Mother's Day.**

These are all great opportunities to bring awareness and volunteer. Visit the media templates page at **ALAFForVeterans.org**

At the recent Public Relations Pre-Convention meeting, it was advised that your social media reflects branding and your members working the mission - Children & Youth, serving our military and Veterans. National wants to see action photos - for example, you are handing a food basket to a military family, distributing Christmas cards to Veterans, knitting a blanket for Camp Boggy Creek, etc. When sharing on social media or writing a media release/letter to the editor include...Who? What? Where? When?, Why?, How?, tell your story. Again, as a reminder, keep original photos on a desktop folder, phone storage, and/or backup storage. This will make it easier for you to choose high resolution jpeg pictures for end of year reports, award submissions, and recognition by National. Since,

Facebook compresses, resizes, and formats photos to make pages load faster. This can make downloaded images appear lower quality when inspected closely.

Make sure that you have joined our **FB page - ALAFL Public Relations**, check out the featured section, and the files tab for documents. Also, follow us on **Instagram, X, and Tiktok, user @ALAuxFlorida**

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like more information on any subject. Patricia Grayshaw, Erin Hoffer, and I are here to help.

For God and Country



**Virna Luke**  
publicrelations@al afl.org

## ALAF.ORG/NEWSLETTER SHARE YOUR UNIT'S EVENTS!



Submit your articles and images (in separate files) by the 15th of the previous month.





SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

# FLORIDA'S 4TH ANNUAL SEVEN BRIDGES POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY RIDE & CEREMONY

Sponsored by: The American Legion Riders Department of Florida

Police Escorted Ride from Adamec HD Baymeadows, over the Seven Bridges, crossing the St. Johns River, and ending at the National POW/MIA Memorial (6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville FL 32221) for a POW/MIA Ceremony at 1:30 PM.

All Riders Welcome!

Scan QR for: Registration Hotel Info Event page...



limit to 250 motorcycles or trikes (no autocycles)

- Meet & Greet on Friday Night September 20 at American Legion Post 316 (1127 Atlantic Blvd, Atlantic Bch, FL 32233) at 5:00PM
- After Event Social following ceremony
- Registration 8:00AM-10:00AM at Adamec Harley-Davidson® 8909 Baymeadows Rd Jacksonville, FL 32256
- KSU 10:30AM
- Cost: \$20 Per Bike/\$5 passenger

POC: Denny Luke, POW/MIA Chair  
904-403-0181  
POWMIA@legionmail.org



# FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Karen Marks  
chaplain@alaf1.org

I wanted to share this simple quote with you in honor of our dearly departed, **"Your presence I miss, your memory I treasure, loving you always, forgetting you never!"**

Those who have passed on since our last newsletter are:

Member	District	Unit
Joyce McDaniel	2	241
Vyki Bon	3	291
Janice Tagariello	3	291
Amanda Ginn Pope	5	9
Carol Wise	5	283
Ruth Taromino	6	80
Jan Knapp	6	347
Carolee McReynolds	6	286
Violet Laviolette	6	286
Cecile Hersh	6	347
Constance Jean Reinke	6	219
Donna R Bigger	8	24
Loretta Wright	8	69
Mabel Davis	8	113
Diana Heim	8	113
Eva Nell Hamilton	9	287
Janet L Ferry	12	40
Dorothy Sauter	12	200
Marilyn Short	12	200
Barbara Fehsenfeld	14	154
Patricia Lyons	14	31
Jeanie Martinelli	14	154
Nancy Tokarz	15	108
Diane G Smith	15	418
Christine Anderson	16	14
Sue Wichman	16	173
Mary Carpenter	16	104
Linda Jones	16	158
Jean Vitelli	16	7
Sharon H Uhl	17	45

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida: This is my first communication to all of you as Department Chaplain. I am honored to be in this position, and I do know that I have some wonderful shoes to fill. I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me. **With God's guidance I am looking forward to serving each of you** as well as our entire Auxiliary Family for this year. As Chaplains, I pray that we all use all the wonderful tools God has given us to minister, pray, and visit with our Legion Family, Veterans, and Community members. I am available to all of you through email or telephone. I look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions or concerns. I will gladly receive emails containing the Deceased Member Forms and I will list those members in our monthly newsletter.

# FROM CHILDREN & YOUTH



**Lisa Hoyland**  
childrenyouth@  
alaf1.org

Welcome to a new year in the American Legion Auxiliary. I am honored to serve as your 2024-2025 Department of Florida, Third Vice-President, Children & Youth Chairman. This year, we will be "Securing Our Foundation to Build a Stronger Future". The Children & Youth Program, a vital part of our mission, **emphasizes on protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth**, particularly those of veterans' and military families. Here are a few ways that you can promote this program. Honoring Military Children & Youth. Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) is an initiative honoring military children experiencing separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour, or on an extended temporary duty assignment. Coordinate with Family Readiness Groups for button distribution during family days. Work with the Post to possibly host

a military kids' celebration event. Supporting Veterans' Children in Need. Some of our homeless veterans also have children living on the streets with them. Contact your local churches, homeless shelters, and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Contact local schools to find out what is needed for homeless children, i.e., supplies and clothes. Ask what their specific needs are and offer them your services. Support the Children & Youth in the Community by recognizing and rewarding the positive actions of our children and youth and presenting a Youth Hero/Good Deed award. These awards, which can inspire and instill hope, recognize youth who have demonstrated good citizenship, either through a brave physical act or a good deed. How can you find youth in the community to award: watching social and local news media, contact local schools, and other youth organizations in your area like after school programs and religious organizations. Are you hosting a Halloween Children's party in October? You can download the Halloween coloring book from the National ALA website at legion-aux.org. Many low-cost coloring books are available that you could give to the children at events throughout the year. Support Children's Hospitals in Florida. The Auxiliary supports the John Hopkins All Children's in St. Petersburg. Please refer to your Unit Guide and the Donations Remittance Form on the Department website. Locate a Florida Children's Hospital in your area and see how you can assist. **Let us work together this year securing our future for our next generation** as we support them, encourage them and educate them. Your active participation is crucial in this endeavor. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

# ALAF1.ORG

# FROM EDUCATION

Thank you to all our Units that participated in Give 10 to Education, Operation Homefront's Back to School Brigade or any other school supply drive! Know that the students and teachers truly appreciate all of your hard work and dedication. They will put those items to good use. Now that school has started, **what else can you do to promote the ALA Education program?**

- Have your members download the Box Tops for Education app on their smart phone. They can scan their receipts and earn money for a local school. If you have members that are unsure how to do this, have them bring their receipts to a meeting and scan them for them (remember the receipt can't be older than 14 days).
- Tutoring! Tutoring is needed all throughout the school year. Both child and adults need tutoring. Reach out to your local school, libraries and churches. Sign up to tutor on tutor.com/military which is funded by the US Department of Defense and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance to provide on-demand online tutoring at no cost to eligible students.
- Starting thinking about the Veterans in Community Schools program. Reach out to some Legionaries to see if they would be willing to go talk to some students in the classroom. Then reach out to the schools to see if when the veteran can come by.
- Scholarship! It is never too early to promote scholarship. The American Legion Auxiliary has 3 wonderful scholarships at the Department Level. You can find flyers and tri-fold handouts in the Link section of the Education Program on alaf1.org.

The American Legion Department of Florida, the National American Legion Auxiliary and The National American Legion also have Scholarships that you can promote.

- November 18-22, 2024 is American Education Week. Plan something nice for the local educators. See if you can drop off breakfast or lunch. Make a Coffee Bar for them. Team up with their PTA or PTO so you both aren't planning something for the same day.
- Follow Us on Facebook to get updates and see what the other units in our Department are working on! **facebook.com/groups/alaf1education**

Don't forget to email your photos of your events to education@alaf1.org. You can send them all throughout the year. You do not need to wait until year end reports are due. As always, feel free to call me or email me if you have any questions.



**Stacy Cusano**  
education@alaf1.org

**#BuildingTheHouse**  
**#SecuringOurFoundation**  
**#ToolsForEducation**





# FROM MEMBERSHIP

**Patsy Sewell**  
**membership@**  
**al afl.org**  
**(407) 293-7411**

Greetings everyone! Welcome to the 2024-2025 Membership Year. Just a few tips and reminders to make membership processing go smoother:

- Please either mark 2024 or 2025 on your recap sheets (not 2024-2025). We need to know exactly what year to be processed.
- If you have requested ALAMIS access, please be sure to check your junk/email folders for the email from National and complete training following the link (if full access requested).
- Please number your recap transmittals sequentially, for example, 1, 2, 3; you can do, 1-2025, 2-2025, etc. If they are named identically, it makes it difficult to research if needed.
- Please double check that your amount due is the same as the amount on your check.
- A junior member becomes a senior member at the beginning of the year they will turn 18.

- No need to send these forms in if you have already completed the process:
  - Address changes
  - Membership applications (if you have entered into ALAMIS)
  - Receipt for paid dues (if you have paid dues through ALAMIS for your unit)

Regarding online renewals and MCR emails: The online renewals are emailed to the unit membership email we have on file twice a month (around the 1st and 15th) and the MCR email is mailed around the last day of the month or first day of the month (depending upon what day of the week these days fall on). Your ACH, if money is owed, will be deposited at that time as well. Please make sure to share this information with your treasurer for reconciliation purposes. The online renewals will have the member's name and the amount owed your unit for that renewal. The MCR just lists the total amount owed to your unit. You will need both emails to reconcile.

As always, feel free to email or call me with any questions or concerns you may have. Looking forward to another great year! #membershipisthekey

## ALWAYS DOUBLE CHECK

Below are the results of an internet search of the requirements for a male to join the American Legion Auxiliary. **This is FALSE information.** The only relationship that allows a male to join the Auxiliary is if the male is a spouse of a veteran (retired or active duty). **If you are in doubt, please call Department Headquarters or National for further verification.**

Showing results for can a man join the American Legion Auxiliary under his granddaughter who is active military  
 Search instead for can a man join the American Legion Auxiliary under his granddaughter who is active military

AI Overview Learn more

Yes, a man can join the American Legion Auxiliary if he has a direct personal connection to an active-duty service member, such as a granddaughter. Other eligible relatives include mothers, spouses, daughters, sisters, and grandmothers. However, step-relatives are not eligible, and the IRS only allows two degrees of a blood line, so great granddaughters and beyond are not eligible.

## ALAFI.ORG/NEWSLETTER SHARE YOUR UNIT'S EVENTS!



Submit your articles and images (in separate files) by the 15th of the previous month.



# DISTRICTS & UNITS

[ALAFI.ORG/JOIN/FIND-A-UNIT/](http://ALAFI.ORG/JOIN/FIND-A-UNIT/)

### Unit 45, District 17 Submitted by Esme Coward

District 17 President, Mary Bryan installed our new officers: Sgt-at-Arms Richard Bair, Members at Large Susie Stewart and June Landry, Treasurer Linda Sheppard, Chaplain Cathy Boyland, Historian Terry Cromer, Member at Large Marion James, Vice President Peggy Almodóvar, and President Esme Coward. One of our dual members, Air Force Veteran Dianne Perritt, had her brick installed at the Post Memorial Garden. Historian Terry Cromer and Chaplain Cathy Boyland delivered our collection of donated school supplies to Radio station 91.3 HopeFM. We donated more than 500 items for our local school children. At Unit 45 we have started something new. Because we are always baking for fundraisers and for gifts, we have formed a "Bakers and Makers" group. The makers recently met to work on Cool Ties for troops that are deployed from our local National Guard Unit and for a unit of one of our Blue Star Mothers. Cool ties are soaked in water and the crystals swell up, when placed around the neck, they help keep the wearer cool. The makers also began signing Christmas Cards for the troops as well as area nursing homes. We are ready! Bert Hodge Post 45 is a Centennial Post. Our Unit President, Esme



Coward, is digitizing the archives and has created this Centennial Wall. It features the Official American Legion Centennial poster which she framed and flanked with branch challenge coins. There is a ceremonial flag that was used at the post from 1920 to 1940 and a photo of Bert Hodge, the namesake of the post who was killed in action during "The Great War." Notebooks housing important post history are on display.



**SAVE THE DATE: FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024**



At the regular monthly meeting on August 10, 3 of the 4 girls state delegates that went to Tallahassee on behalf of unit 62 joined our meeting to give a summary of the experience they had while working with state representatives. They did such a great job! One of them has a bill in the works that will assist foster care children as they transition into adulthood.

Girls State Committee chair Rebecca Baruffi presented each of the girls with a scholarship check for \$2,000 each to assist in their college journey. We cannot wait to see these young women rise!

At the conference in Orlando in June we represented the ALA Florida department as the Bicycle Bells. We were recognized for our membership efforts and our very own district President was given the honor as being chosen as the district president of the year! Well done unit 62 and dist 11 and congratulations to you Sandy Swafford.



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Members of the Auxiliary took a trip to Camp Valor/Operation 300 and donated \$600 worth of snacks to support the children that attended the July camp session. The camp is provided to children of fallen soldiers and it is the Department president's charity of choice this year. Unit president Shirley Rearick also presented a \$15,000 check to camp director Amanda Gorny. The funds were raised in a combined effort of the Legionnaires, Riders, Sons and Auxiliary members of Post 62 to complete a new cottage at the camp to be used as retreats for parents who lost a child in service.



On July 20 all of the new officers for unit 62 were installed for the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year. One of the 4 girls state delegates that attended on behalf of unit 62 joined us to share her experiences at the state capital. Meet our board members for Unit 62.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

REPORTS CURRENT AS OF 30 AUG 2024

DISTRICT 1						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	222	0	35	35	15.77%
0078	Milton	12	0	0	0	0.00%
0193	Pensacola	79	0	6	6	7.59%
0221	Niceville	155	0	23	23	14.84%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	147	0	8	8	5.44%
0240	Pensacola	242	1	18	19	7.85%
0296	Destin	90	0	21	21	23.33%
0340	Pensacola	332	6	109	115	34.64%
0356	Lynn Haven	142	0	1	1	0.70%
0378	Gulf Breeze	58	0	3	3	5.17%
0382	Navarre	182	0	44	44	24.18%
0392	Panama City	196	0	21	21	10.71%
0402	Panama City Beach	47	1	10	11	23.40%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1904</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>16.12%</b>

DISTRICT 2						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	72	1	16	17	23.61%
0082	Lanark	78	0	1	1	1.28%
0084	Havana	28	2	4	6	21.43%
0100	Marianna	34	3	7	10	29.41%
0217	Quincy	46	2	21	23	50.00%
0241	Sneads	70	11	30	41	58.57%
<b>Total</b>		<b>328</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>29.88%</b>

DISTRICT 3						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	35	0	7	7	20.00%
0057	Lake City	244	1	45	46	18.85%
0083	Macclenny	51	0	2	2	3.92%
0107	Live Oak	69	0	1	1	1.45%

DISTRICT 3 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0215	Jasper	36	0	0	0	0.00%
0224	Madison	55	0	9	9	16.36%
0291	Steinhatchee	219	0	6	6	2.74%
0383	Old Town	151	0	3	3	1.99%
<b>Total</b>		<b>860</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>8.60%</b>

DISTRICT 4						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	35	0	5	5	14.29%
0027	Ocala	19	1	7	8	42.11%
0058	Dunnellon	28	0	4	4	14.29%
0077	Inverness	77	1	23	24	31.17%
0149	Newberry	34	0	2	2	5.88%
0155	Crystal River	411	1	93	94	22.87%
0166	Homosassa Springs	170	0	50	50	29.41%
0230	Hawthorne	35	2	20	22	62.86%
0236	Bronson	42	0	18	18	42.86%
0237	Beverly Hills	209	0	15	15	7.18%
0284	Bellevue	81	0	6	6	7.41%
0354	Ocala	24	0	1	1	4.17%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1165</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>21.37%</b>

DISTRICT 5						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	67	0	9	9	13.43%
0054	Fernandina Beach	227	3	57	60	26.43%
0088	Jacksonville	86	0	12	12	13.95%
0129	J'Ville Beach	391	3	85	88	22.51%
0137	Jacksonville	472	2	55	57	12.08%
0194	St Augustine	61	0	1	1	1.64%
0197	Jacksonville	56	0	1	1	1.79%



## ALAFL.ORG/STORE



DISTRICT 14 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0346	Miami	18	0	1	1	5.56%
0374	Key Biscayne	36	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>704</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>11.79%</b>

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	29	1	8	9	31.03%
0099	Brooksville	23	0	2	2	8.70%
0108	Land O' Lakes	19	0	0	0	0.00%
0111	Tampa	54	0	7	7	12.96%
0138	Tampa	570	7	170	177	31.05%
0139	Tampa	96	0	17	17	17.71%
0147	Odessa	47	0	1	1	2.13%
0148	Riverview	211	3	38	41	19.43%
0152	Tampa	266	0	29	29	10.90%
0186	Brooksville	338	0	57	57	16.86%
0248	West Tampa	15	0	0	0	0.00%
0418	Spring Hill	43	0	3	3	6.98%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1711</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>20.05%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1711</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>18.94%</b>

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	266	0	12	12	4.51%
0014	St Petersburg	119	0	32	32	26.89%
0079	New Port Richey	487	0	23	23	4.72%
0104	Pinellas Park	293	6	121	127	43.34%
0119	Largo	365	3	39	42	11.51%
0125	St Petersburg	282	23	44	67	23.76%
0158	Treasure Island	338	0	20	20	5.92%
0173	Holiday	269	1	22	23	8.55%
0238	Safety Harbor	355	0	7	7	1.97%
0252	Seminole	1211	3	219	222	18.33%
0273	Madeira Beach	3986	0	181	181	4.54%
0275	Dunedin	1084	1	101	102	9.41%
0305	St Pete Beach	158	0	12	12	7.59%
0335	Hudson	104	0	14	14	13.46%
<b>Total</b>		<b>9317</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>9.49%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>9317</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>8.37%</b>

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	137	0	6	6	4.38%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	207	0	16	16	7.73%
0045	Palatka	43	0	9	9	20.93%
0115	Palm Coast	47	0	4	4	8.51%
0120	Holly Hill	221	0	3	3	1.36%
0127	Lake Helen	20	0	0	0	0.00%
0255	Deltona	33	6	8	14	42.42%
0259	Debary	33	2	19	21	63.64%
0267	Ormond Beach	230	0	19	19	8.26%
0270	Port Orange	192	0	29	29	15.10%
0285	Edgewater	150	0	22	22	14.67%
0293	Interlachen	12	0	11	11	91.67%
0361	S Daytona	244	0	11	11	4.51%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1569</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>10.52%</b>

DISTRICT 99						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0400	Orlando	456	1	40	41	8.99%
<b>Total</b>		<b>456</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8.99%</b>