



# THE FLORIDA TOOLBOX

*Building The House Newsletter*

2024-2025

**FEBRUARY 2025**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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2	UNIT 138 BINGO BASH
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18	<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b>
22	UNIT 254 WIFFLE BALL GOLF
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22	POSTARILLA UNIT 138

#### MARCH

17	ST PATRICK'S DAY
20	<b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</b>

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.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Charlotte Bass**  
president@alafl.org

## *Greetings,*

It is hard to believe that we are already in February. January was a busy month for me. I started off visiting the 8th District with District President Theresa Walls and District 8 Secretary Shelby Taylor from Unit 254, North Port. I arrived in the District on January 2nd and started my visit on January 3rd at Unit 24 Bradenton. They hosted the visit with Units 309 Palmetto and 325

Ellenton. We made crafts, had a wonderful lunch but most importantly we were able to talk about what the units had accomplished. We shared ideas about fundraisers and events that were going on in their areas. They also showed a video from Operation 300. From there we headed to Unit 159 Venice with Units 312 Oneco, 30 Sarasota Bay, and 266 Fruitville. We were able to meet the members from those units. I was great to hear



what projects they were doing. The unit members got to meet other members from the units attending. I was also able to discuss the importance of having full access to ALAMIS.

January 4th my first stop was at Unit 113 Rotonda West and we were joined by Unit 254 North Port. We made houses one out of sticks and one out of paper. I was able to sit down with members answer questions and congratulate members on their membership numbers. We were

served a wonderful lunch. My next and last stop was to Unit 69 Avon Park, Unit 74 Sebring also joined us. It was also the Vet Expo. Jan Farrington, Department Membership Chairman was also there. We were able to discuss programs and ways to retain members and recruit new members. I was then able to view the different displays and activities at the Vet Expo. My next District visit began January 10th with District President Joanne Scales-Borowy and Department Membership Chairman Jan Farrington at Unit 303 Bonita Springs, joined by Unit 135 Naples. Department Sgt-At-Arms, Sherry Schupp also joined us and accompanied us for the entire visit to the 13th District. We had a nice lunch and talked to the members about our programs and the great things that





each of these units are doing. Bonita Springs had just reopened their Post from the damages of hurricane Ian but were still able to work the programs and not give up.

Our next visit was to Unit 90 Cape Coral and were joined by Units 123 Sanibel and 136 Saint James City. I love the idea of getting more than one unit together. Great conversations were had, and ideas were shared. Sanibel which still does not have a Post home is still working the programs and helping the community. They want the community to know that they are there and willing to help. Who we are, What we do, and Why we matter. Dinner was awesome. I then headed back to the hotel to get rest to start another day.

Saturday January 11th my first stop was to Unit 130 Labelle, where Past Department President Linda Teasley is President. Unit 323 Lehigh Acres joined us. We were served breakfast and had a nice round table discussion with both units. As always, our programs were discussed and their



plans for Girls State. President Linda Teasley has been attending Girls State for years and will be returning this year. Unit 336 North Ft. Myers was our next hosting unit, joined by Unit 38 Ft. Myers, Unit 351 Ft. Myers, and 415 Punta Gorda. We had lunch and then were entertained by "The Calendar Girls", a group of ladies that do dance routines. They were amazing. Proceeds from their performances



go to help purchase service dogs through Dogs Inc.. So far they have helped purchase 41 dogs and on their way to 42 dogs. The main topic of our discussion was AEF and Disaster Relief. Some of the members there had lost everything from Hurricanes Helene and Milton and were grateful for the help given and encouraged members to donate to AEF and Disaster Relief. My last stop for the day and the end of my visit to the 13th District was to Unit 103 Punta Gorda, Unit 110 Port Charlotte was also in attendance. We had dinner there and units got to tell what they have been doing for our programs. As always it is

great to see old friends and make new ones.

During my visit, Jan and I were able to present Unit 90 Cape Coral, Unit 103 Punta Gorda, and Unit 336 North Ft. Myers with 100% membership pins. I was amazed by the perseverance of both District 8 and District 13 with all that they have faced. District 8 was affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. While District 13 was still feeling the effects of Ian then to get hit by Helene and Milton. These

Districts/Units did not give up and are continuing to persevere.

I would also like to thank District President Joanne Scales-Borowy for a wonderful visit, Department Membership Chairman Jan Farrington and Department Sgt-At-Arms Sherry Schupp for accompanying us on my visit. Sherry helped me pass out my gifts and got me whatever I needed. Thanks again. I start my next District visit to District 9 on January 29th . This is just a brief recap of my visits. For full details and more pictures, please visit the Department President Facebook page.

"In February, let gratitude be the compass that guides us towards greater abundance and contentment." Oprah Winfrey.





# SECRETARY'S DESK

Happy Ground Hog Day and Valentine's Day. Hopefully this cold spell will be leaving us if that groundhog doesn't see their shadow. Just a few reminders, **do not send copies of the Units Constitution and Bylaws to the Secretary.** They need to go to CBylaws@al afl.org and you can copy membership@al afl.org. Also, each Unit received a Membership Dues form from Patsy and that must be returned no later than February 3, 2025. If you have changed your dues amount you must update your Standing Rules and send a copy to Department headquarters. If there is not enough time to update the Standing Rules by February 3rd then please send a copy of the Units meeting minutes that states that the dues were voted on for an increase.

To save time the Recruit 10 form can be sent directly to membership@al afl.org and not to the secretary. This is a National form and that is why it states that it goes to the secretary. Nominations for the 2025-26 Unit Officers are just around the corner. Please follow your governing documents as to how the nominations are done. Unit officers shall be elected annually not more than ninety (90) days nor less than fifteen (15) days prior to the Department Convention. Said officers shall be certified to the Department Headquarters not less than ten (10) days prior to the Department Convention, certification to be made on the form furnished by the Department Headquarters. If you have any question concerning reporting, please contact the program



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

## FROM LEADERSHIP

**Mary Kelly-Perkins**  
**leadership@al afl.org**

Do you know a unit member who goes above and beyond in everything they do, yet never asks for anything in return? For the Department of Florida it must be a member who did something for a program or special project. Perhaps they run poppy distribution, organize the annual holiday party. If this sounds like someone you know, we would love to hear from you. Every unit has at least one special someone who deserves to be recognized. All you have to do is write up why they are so special.

Nominees must be an adult American Legion Auxiliary unit member not in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than a unit president. A narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities must be submitted by a unit to its department Leadership chair. Winners will be recognized at a special luncheon during the American Legion Auxiliary's

National Convention. Application deadline is 30 days prior to Department Convention and must be emailed as an attachment to this leadership chairman at the following email address **Leadership@al afl.org.**

### FEBRUARY & MARCH ABC WORKSHOPS



DIST 13 • UNIT 130  
9AM AT LABELLE



DIST 4 • UNIT 16  
9AM AT GAINESVILLE



DIST 8 • UNIT 25  
9:30AM AT LAKE PLACID



DIST 4 • UNIT 77  
9AM AT INVERNESS



DIST 5 • UNIT 250  
9AM AT MIDDLEBURG



DIST 15 • UNIT 418  
9AM AT SPRING HILL

chairmen for information. Questions about Girls State are to be directed to the Girls State chairman and their information is listed in the Unit Guide and also on our Department website under Programs. All Department Awards are listed in the Unit Guide on pages 144 and 145.

If you are contemplating running for a Department Office, please remember that you will need to send your endorsement letter via certified mail return receipt requested. In order to be endorsed as a District President you would have had to serve as Unit President for your Unit. If not then you can be nominated at the District Constitutional Conference. There can be no campaigning for District President, by any member, if you are being nominated at the Constitutional Conference. If you have questions concerning the Auxiliary please do not hesitate to email me.

# FROM THE TREASURER

**Brandi Seeber**  
**treasurer@al afl.org**

I have some good news to share with you regarding BOI. **The requirement for units to file a BOI (Beneficial Ownership Information) is on HOLD.**

The filing requirement was suspended in early December then reinstated December 23, 2024 with a new deadline as of January 13, 2025, but is now back on hold as of December 26th.

At this time, units are not required to file a BOI report, and the BOI report is voluntary only. As of now, the government's official BOI filing portal at boiefiling.gov is accepting only voluntary reports from businesses that choose to file it.

Even though the filing requirement is on hold private companies are still

sending out solicitations on the BOI report. These companies charge a fee to file your BOI report. There is no charge to file a BOI report if you do it yourself.

If and when there is an update to the filing requirements, we will let you know.

Reminder units need to file with the Department of Corporations (SunBiz) between now and May 1st. Units must also file with the Department of Agriculture (FDACS) when they receive a reminder email.

The accepted 990, FDACS letter, and SunBiz report are to be emailed by the unit to [al aflhq@al afl.org](mailto:al aflhq@al afl.org). When the email is received and reviewed and acknowledgement email will be sent. **Samples of the**

**documents requested can be found on our [al afl.org](http://al afl.org) - Quick Links - Forms & Resources - Resource for Unit Treasurers.**

The District President Visit Form and Unit Compliance Form are to be emailed by the District President to [al aflhq@al afl.org](mailto:al aflhq@al afl.org). **All documents that are emailed to Department are to be as a pdf.** If the unit closes an account then the unit must update their banking information. This can be done through online submission at [al afl.org/unit-ach-form/](http://al afl.org/unit-ach-form/).

**"It always seems impossible until it's done" - Nelson Mandela.**



# FROM MEMBERSHIP



**Jan Farrington**  
**membership chairman**  
**@al afl.org**

Hello members! It seems that 2025 just happened and we're already into February. According to many surveys, 1 in 10 people (8%) said their resolutions lasted a month and only 1% said they

lasted for the year. Although I'm trying to read more books and eat healthier, I'm going to approach my 2025 resolutions from a different perspective. I invite you to consider this as well. My first resolution is to 'Secure Our Foundation.' **I'm planning on checking in with Auxiliary units and securing my friendships and being a better person to them.** I'm going to focus on kindness and encourage camaraderie in my interactions so people can feel secure in my circle. I want to "Build Houses" that are full of inclusion and strong foundations. I want people to know they can give suggestions, ideas, and improvements freely. I want to continue spreading information about membership and encourage people to share their ideas because so many units have great things happening in the houses they are building. I want to "Lead the Way" and have Florida

be number one in Membership. I'm going to communicate better to units that are having trouble renewing so we can all achieve 100% membership. I want to ask those Units that have already reached the 75% or higher goal to spread the word on how they lead the way in their Unit. I want to share the "Key to Membership." I am going to push and prod you all to continue to renew, rejoin and recruit. I admit that this sounds like an awfully huge New Years Resolutions list. My secret weapon to do this is YOU! Yes, YOU! I encourage you to adopt one sentence of these resolutions above to help you with your membership. In 2024, we already began Securing our Foundations, Building our Houses, Leading the Way and Sharing our Keys. **Imagine what we could all do TOGETHER!** I can't think of a better way for our Florida Auxiliaries to unite and show the country what Florida is made of! Who's with me?

**Here is the most recent list of our deceased members. May they rest in God's loving arms.**

# FROM CHAPLAIN

Member	District	Unit
Kimberly Jones	1	75
Beverly E Thompson	1	75
Andrea Pusateri	1	75
Carolyn Seeger	1	378
Joyce Marilyn Mabardy	2	100
Dora L Carter	5	283
Elizabeth Beck	5	137
Marie Bethune	5	137
Beth Dewire	6	286
Mildren Kelly	6	330
Rosemarie Miltner	8	24
Susan Daniels	9	142
Audrey Boyce	9	162
Pamela Sanetti	11	271
Dolores Rauch	11	164
Michele Trew	12	359
Ramona Degan	12	200
Jennifer Lesmeister	12	359
Sandra Moore	12	359
Joann Hartman	13	274
Claire Achey	13	110
Doris Davis	13	38
Karen Grant	13	38
Gloria St. Onge	13	38
Kristine Burns	13	38
Joan Housel	13	336
Gloria Killingsworth	14	31
Elma Kelly	15	139
Donna Beleele	15	139
Carol Radlein	15	148
Georgiann Bruno	15	148
Eleanor Moore	15	148
Elizabeth Buzzell	16	7
Joan Yonke	16	14
Tami Flanigan	16	125
Joan Pauwels	16	275
Donna Bonfiglio	17	259

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our wonderful auxiliary, It's hard to believe that we are in February already. Mid December to mid-January was a time with many members passing to be with the Lord, and I pray that those who are not feeling well, have healing from our Heavenly Father as we move forward in 2025

February is a month where we celebrate Love. Love is a deep feeling that is within us and as we share it, it grows. Have you ever walked through a store and simply shared a smile with someone? Smiles can be contagious in a good kind of way. This is the way that we can Be The One to spread kindness to others.

When we look inside God's Toolbox, we know that one of our most important tools he has given us is to LOVE. This intangible word is written in the bible over 500 times. A special verse I would like to share is from John 1: 4-19 "We love because he first loved us." What a beautiful gift God has given us.

This intangible gift from God has been the first seven words in our Mission Statement. It reads, "In the spirit of service, not self". How do we serve God? Are we caring for a loved one, reading a story to a child, feeding someone a meal, calling to check in on someone? By doing these things we are sharing love.

In reviewing the book, God's Glimpses from the Toolbox, I was reading about the Tape Measure. It is described as a temporary guide that we use when needed. It isn't always in front of us, but we know where it is when we need it. Just like God, we know he is always there for us when we need him. My question to you today is, "How do you measure up in God's eyes?" If God was to take out his tape measurer and wrap it around your heart, what will He find?

So, my friends, as we move forward in 2025, let's all use the tools God has given us so that we can continue to



**Karen Marks**  
**chaplain@al afl.org**  
**(904) 903-9552**

add to the cornerstone he has set in place as we build the house and secure the future for years to come. As we watch the news around the United States, I ask all of you to take a moment and ask God's mercy and grace on those who have been affected by the floods, fires and terrible weather throughout our great nation. I also pray that as our new president is sworn into office that he has the help of God guiding him through his term of office and ask God to continue to Bless America! One final note: The Deceased Member form is available online at ALAFL.org under Programs, Member Outreach, Chaplain and Member Forms. I have been receiving Member Data Forms and those will work, but I prefer to receive the Deceased Member Form. Please remember to do this in a timely manner. Always know I am here if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. May God Bless and Keep You today and always.

# FROM EDUCATION



**Stacy Cusano**  
education@al afl.org

**SCHOLARSHIPS!** Applications for Department and National Scholarships are both due by 11:59 PM on March 1, 2025.

**Department Scholarships can be found at [al afl.org/scholarships](http://al afl.org/scholarships).** The applications and supporting documentation can be emailed back to [education@al afl.org](mailto:education@al afl.org). I will confirm receipt upon receiving the email. Scholarship rules can be found starting on page 101 of the Department of Florida Unit Guide. There are 3 different scholarships at the Department Level:

- Department Scholarship
- Department Memorial Scholarship
- Norma Kerkow Female Veterans Scholarship (Two scholarship awarded)

All National scholarship applications are online this year. These can be found at **[legion-aux.org/scholarships](http://legion-aux.org/scholarships)**.

There are 4 different scholarships at the National Level:

- Children of Warriors National

- Presidents' Scholarship
  - Spirit of Youth Scholarship
  - Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
  - Member Loyalty Scholarship
- National has published a new course in ALA Academy called "Navigating National Scholarship". This is a self paced course about 45 minutes long. You can find it by navigating to [legion-aux.org](http://legion-aux.org), signing into the member only section, navigating to training, then to [ala academy](http://ala academy). Right now, it is at the top of the training as a new one, but you may need to search for it by name in the future.

Remember to continue to promote and reach out to your units to promote our Department and National Scholarships. We would love to give as many scholarships as possible!

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The American Legion Auxiliary offers several scholarships aimed at supporting students from diverse backgrounds who demonstrate commitment, leadership, and resilience. Don't miss the chance to apply for these incredible opportunities!

### • **Children of Warriors Scholarship**

- Eligibility: Children of veterans
- Purpose: Honor and support the children of those who served our nation.

### • **Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship**

- Eligibility: Students transitioning from Junior to Senior membership
- Note: This recognizes outstanding dedication, hard work, and loyalty.

### • **Spirit of Youth Scholarship**

- Eligibility: Junior members with at least three years of membership
- Award: \$1,000 for each department winner
- Urgent Opportunity: No applications were submitted last year!

### • **Non-Traditional Student Scholarship**

- Eligibility: Individuals returning to college after an interruption
- Goal: Provide support for those pursuing a fresh educational path.

### • **Department of Tennessee, Vara Gray Scholarship**

- Award: \$500 for one student in each division of the state
- Critical Need: No one applied last year—apply now to represent your division!

**Juniors and Unit Members:** Identify qualifying candidates within your units.

**Visit Local High Schools:** Share scholarship opportunities with students and counselors.

Scholarship Forms:

Download and complete applications online for national scholarships.

Vara Gray Scholarship applications are not submitted online—details available through your local unit.

Important Details

- All National Scholarships must be submitted online to the National website.
- Visit the National website for complete information on each scholarship
- Contact AEF Department Chairman, Kathy Helmly for assistance.

Let's make this year a success by encouraging all eligible students to apply! Together, we can support their educational journeys and reward their dedication.



# FROM GIRLS STATE

Hopefully warm weather is coming soon. Most Units should have received their delegate and alternate forms (via email) and be ready to interview. If you haven't received the email containing those documents, please check your spam folders or contact the Girls State Director at [fgsdirector@al afl.org](mailto:fgsdirector@al afl.org). The Department is currently processing the Over-Quota requests they have received, so hopefully all 300 openings for Girls State will be filled.

If you need help with possible interview questions contact your District chairman or myself. Once you have selected your delegates -alternates and presented them with their numbered registration form they must complete all their registration documents by March 15, 2025. Inform the girls NOT to complete this information on a phone, they are to use a computer.

It is important to make sure the applicants understand that they must be available to attend all days of the Girls State session, June 19-27, 2025. Are you interested in a Girls State staff position? There are many opportunities. If you are interested in a senior Staff position or know someone interested in a junior staff

position, please send your name and email address to [FGSDIRECTOR@al afl.org](mailto:FGSDIRECTOR@al afl.org) , or check for the on-line application, on the Girls State page at [al afl.org](http://al afl.org).

Orientation classes are being scheduled and ALL girls (delegates and alternates) must attend one with a Parent or guardian to be fully qualified to attend Girls State. More details with location and times will be added and posted to the website, in the near future. See the box below for full list of Districts and dates.



**Eileen Wilson**  
[girlsstate@al afl.org](mailto:girlsstate@al afl.org)

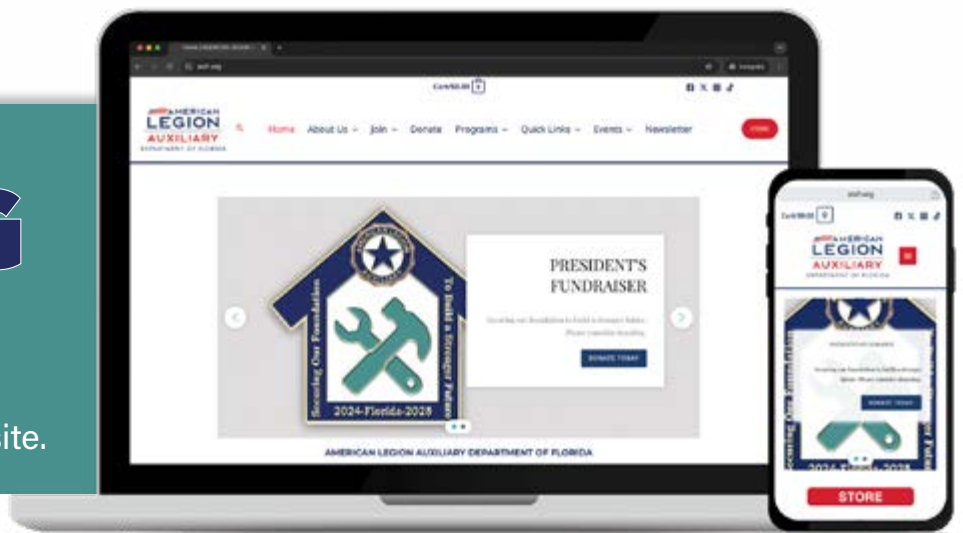
## GIRLS STATE IS GREAT!

### ORIENTATION DATES

District 1	April 26	District 9	April 27
District 2	May 3	District 11	May 18
District 3	April 5	District 12	April 26
District 4	May 18	District 13	April 5
District 5	May 3	District 14	TBD
District 6	April 12/May 4	District 15	April 27
District 7	April 12	District 16	March 29
District 8	April 5	District 17	April 26

## ALAFL.ORG

Looking for a form? We have them!  
Looking for events? Check out the calendar! Many answers to your questions can be found on the website.



# FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS



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

following:  
*The American Legion Auxiliary, founded in 1919, is a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families. ALA members assist veterans in hospitals, advocate for veteran issues, support therapeutic creative arts festivals, distribute poppies for remembrance, and much more. In addition to serving the military community, the American Legion Auxiliary hosts ALA Girls Nation and the ALA Girls State programs that teach future leaders about government and civic responsibility. Learn more at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) and @ALAforVeterans on Instagram and Facebook.*

Another great moment to celebrate and honor is the selfless act in the military, the story of The Four Chaplains (Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish, Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic, and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed), who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II. Learn more here. If your unit or post is having a service, please take photos and write your story for social and news media.

On FB, there was a request from National, to submit your photos and snippets (stories) about your post, unit, squadron, or chapter assisting others in your community in this term 2024-2025. Please upload to [legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org) or email to Steve at [sbrooks@legion.org](mailto:sbrooks@legion.org).

## **The 2025 Media & Communications Contest is open to all - yes - ALL!**

It has seven categories for submissions: websites, publications, visual media, social media campaigns, editorial/news writing, editorial/informational writing and public relations/community outreach (All entries must have been published during the 2024 calendar year).

Visit [legion.org/information-center/media-communications-contest](http://legion.org/information-center/media-communications-contest) to get started. **Deadline for submissions is April 15.**

Reminder, we are quickly approaching April 1, be proactive, and meet with your program chairmen and committees to plan for end of year reports. Visit [al afl.org/public-relations](http://al afl.org/public-relations) and find the section Programs for the complete Program Engagement Plan (PEP) for Public Relations and other programs.

**February 2025 is here, it's Americanism and Black History month.** Make sure when posting on social media, that you're using #PopAmericanism and share your photos and stories on Facebook (FB) groups ALAFL Americanism and American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program - on FB National check out the You're a Grand Old Flag Challenge. If you need further information or help, visit [al afl.org/americanism](http://al afl.org/americanism), or contact Chairman Dawn Davis at [americanism@al afl.org](mailto:americanism@al afl.org). Use #BlackHistoryMonth on social media to honor and celebrate African American servicemembers past and present. Interview your Veterans and share it with local news media. When writing a letter to the editor or press release, make sure to let the audience know who we are, what we do, and why we matter. In closing use the

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST -  
DEADLINE APRIL 15**

All American Legion Family members can submit entries into the seven categories that show the great work done at the post, district and department level to promote the good of the organization.

**ALL ENTRIES MUST HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED DURING THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR.**

**[legion.org/information-center/media-communications-contest](http://legion.org/information-center/media-communications-contest)**

# DISTRICTS AND UNITS

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

## DISTRICT 13

On January 11 and 12, District 13 was honored and pleased to host Department President Charlotte Bass for her formal visit. District President Joanne Scales Borowy and her entourage visited 3 Units a day. At each stop, other Units joined in and all were able to meet and greet and brag about the wonderful programs they are working. We took attendance and wrote down highlights in an index card file we made for Charlotte to take home with her. Many units contributed to her charity, Operation 300 and had special gifts as well. It was a great visit.



## UNIT 100 AND 241



On Nov. 8th Units 100 and 241 participated in the 10th Annual Veteran's Fair sponsored by Marianna Woman's Club. Items given out to veterans were homemade snacks, hand sanitizer, mini flags and patriotic stickers, and bottled water donated by McDaniel Piggly Wiggly in Sneads.



## UNIT 270

Unit 270 Port Orange delivered lunch to Fire Station #75 PO in appreciation of their service to the community. Unit members pictured left to right President Sharon Sir, Chaplain Helen Klenk, First Vice President Kelly Schneider and Treasurer Sue Pierce.



## UNIT 285



Unit 285 Edgewater distributed Christmas baskets to the military. DoraLee Dawson and Jean Johnson are pictured with Aaron Issac. Dora Lee is pictured with Mrs Hunt

**ALAFL.ORG/NEWSLETTER**  
SHARE YOUR UNIT'S EVENTS!



Submit your articles and images by the 15th of the previous month. Articles should include a brief write-up and photos to tell the story.

Unit 336 Deck Party, 1/4/2025 for ARC. Wonderful Afternoon. #buildingthehouse, #membershipisthekey



## UNIT 138

Unit 138 closed out 2024 with two fun events. First up was our Unit Christmas Party. A big thank you to Post/Unit 139 for allowing us to use your hall for our party. We had 16 members attend. Everyone who attended brought a dish to share and a wrapped gift. As we enjoyed the delicious food, we played a fun White Elephant game. Many laughs were shared as the gifts were swapped around, and we all enjoyed the gifts we ended up with. The fun and games did not end there! We split into two teams and had a candy race with spoons to fill our stockings. We then "decorated" our Human Christmas Trees using wrapping paper, bows, gift tags, and even Christmas lights! It was such a great way to end our year after so much trauma with 3 hurricanes.

Next up was our NYE Party sponsored by the Auxiliary! We arranged a food truck, karaoke and had raffle baskets and a 50/50. While it was a bit cold outside on our deck, we bundled up and enjoyed each other's company. As the clock struck into 2025, we toasted to joy and happiness, and most importantly, NO MORE HURRICANES.

2024 will be a year we will never forget. From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank each and every member of the Legion Family who has supported us, donated to us, prayed for us, or simply been there to hug us and lift us up. We look forward to sharing good news soon on the full re-opening of our Post Home.



## UNIT 219



## UNIT 45

Unit 45 Fundraising chair Doreen Freeman gave our Post 45 Commander, Lester Sheppard, a print of a praying soldier for display in the Legion hall. Doreen is currently working on a big fundraising project for our new building which should be ready for us by the end of February.



## UNIT 219

ALA Unit 219 of Fruitland Park recently hosted a Country Hoe-down to benefit the Children and Youth Committee, specifically the Department President's Project: Operation 300. The committee consisting of chairman: Beverly Peppins, Sonja Wilcock, Kaye Miller, Barb Manley & Sheryle Hackman raised over \$1100. The Unit will

be splitting the funds with another C&Y program located in Fruitland Park. They sold 100 tickets and all the Cowboys & Cowgirls had a great time dancing to their favorite Country & Western songs. The evening was MC'd by our National Historian: Dara Oliver and there was a Photo Booth, Saloon Girls, a cake made with an edible lasso, several raffles as well as prizes for the Best Dressed and the Coolest Country Couple. Unit 219's next event will be their 50's and 60's dance to benefit Boys and Girls State transportation on February 8th.



# MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

REPORTS CURRENT AS OF 17 JANUARY 2025

## DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	222	2	184	186	83.78%
0078	Milton	12	0	6	6	50.00%
0193	Pensacola	79	9	43	52	65.82%
0221	Niceville	155	2	187	189	121.94%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	147	1	128	129	87.76%
0240	Pensacola	242	3	190	193	79.75%
0296	Destin	90	0	74	74	82.22%
0340	Pensacola	332	9	287	296	89.16%
0356	Lynn Haven	142	2	120	122	85.92%
0378	Gulf Breeze	58	0	52	52	89.66%
0382	Navarre	182	2	153	155	85.16%
0392	Panama City	196	1	162	163	83.16%
0402	Panama City Beach	47	1	42	43	91.49%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1904</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1628</b>	<b>1660</b>	<b>87.18%</b>

## DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	72	3	52	55	76.39%
0082	Lanark	78	1	48	49	62.82%
0084	Havana	28	9	7	16	57.14%
0100	Marianna	34	5	31	36	105.88%
0217	Quincy	46	2	25	27	58.70%
0241	Sneads	70	16	44	60	85.71%
<b>Total</b>		<b>328</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>74.09%</b>

## DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	35	0	26	26	74.29%
0057	Lake City	244	5	221	226	92.62%
0083	Macclenny	51	0	41	41	80.39%
0107	Live Oak	69	1	48	49	71.01%

## DISTRICT 3 (CONT.)

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0215	Jasper	36	1	34	35	97.22%
0224	Madison	55	0	43	43	78.18%
0291	Steinhatchee	219	2	157	159	72.60%
0383	Old Town	151	4	117	121	80.13%
<b>Total</b>		<b>860</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>81.40%</b>

## DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	35	0	27	27	77.14%
0027	Ocala	19	1	12	13	68.42%
0058	Dunnellon	28	0	21	21	75.00%
0077	Inverness	77	1	84	85	110.39%
0149	Newberry	34	3	19	22	64.71%
0155	Crystal River	411	3	351	354	86.13%
0166	Homosassa Springs	170	2	169	171	100.59%
0230	Hawthorne	35	3	39	42	120.00%
0236	Bronson	42	0	51	51	121.43%
0237	Beverly Hills	209	0	126	126	60.29%
0284	Bellevue	81	3	63	66	81.48%
0354	Ocala	24	0	1	1	4.17%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1165</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>84.03%</b>

## DISTRICT 5

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	67	2	60	62	92.54%
0054	Fernandina Beach	227	6	250	256	112.78%
0088	Jacksonville	86	2	62	64	74.42%
0129	J'Ville Beach	391	12	355	367	93.86%
0137	Jacksonville	472	8	364	372	78.81%
0194	St Augustine	61	3	31	34	55.74%
0197	Jacksonville	56	1	44	45	80.36%

DISTRICT 5 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0202	Keystone Heights	93	1	88	89	95.70%
0233	Ponte Vedra Bch	170	21	149	170	100.00%
0244	Jacksonville	43	0	20	20	46.51%
0250	Middleburg	333	19	226	245	73.57%
0283	Arlington	498	6	386	392	78.71%
0316	Atlantic Beach	371	34	270	304	81.94%
0372	Mandarin	33	0	37	37	112.12%
0373	Orange Park	33	0	9	9	27.27%
0401	Hilliard	43	1	11	12	27.91%
<b>Total</b>		<b>2977</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>2362</b>	<b>2478</b>	<b>83.24%</b>

DISTRICT 6						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	199	0	159	159	79.90%
0018	Wildwood	22	0	16	16	72.73%
0019	Orlando	102	3	67	70	68.63%
0035	Mount Dora	137	1	126	127	92.70%
0055	Clermont	270	4	236	240	88.89%
0063	Winter Garden	26	0	15	15	57.69%
0080	Saint Cloud	299	17	242	259	86.62%
0101	Bushnell	117	1	89	90	76.92%
0112	Winter Park	29	3	29	32	110.34%
0183	Fern Park	126	1	82	83	65.87%
0219	Fruitland Park	243	1	200	201	82.72%
0239	Groveland	15	0	11	11	73.33%
0242	Orlando	111	9	94	103	92.79%
0286	Orlando	164	9	163	172	104.88%
0330	Leesburg	67	2	36	38	56.72%
0331	Orlando	28	0	21	21	75.00%
0347	Lady Lake	2605	10	2458	2468	94.74%
0412	Orlando	15	2	7	9	60.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>4575</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4051</b>	<b>4114</b>	<b>89.92%</b>

DISTRICT 7						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	80	1	76	77	96.25%
0004	Lakeland	49	4	47	51	104.08%
0008	Winter Haven	663	8	593	601	90.65%

DISTRICT 7 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0015	Dade City	29	0	24	24	82.76%
0034	Haines City	95	0	74	74	77.89%
0071	Lake Wales	44	1	16	17	38.64%
0072	Mulberry	149	2	107	109	73.15%
0201	Florence Villa	24	1	18	19	79.17%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1133</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>85.79%</b>

DISTRICT 8						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	47	5	28	33	70.21%
0024	Bradenton	323	0	274	274	84.83%
0025	Lake Placid	471	0	357	357	75.80%
0030	Sarasota	84	4	40	44	52.38%
0069	Avon Park	747	15	643	658	88.09%
0074	Sebring	133	0	112	112	84.21%
0113	Rotonda West	334	2	313	315	94.31%
0159	Venice	712	3	456	459	64.47%
0254	North Port	151	0	170	170	112.58%
0266	Fruitville	173	1	159	160	92.49%
0309	Palmetto	191	0	175	175	91.62%
0312	Oneco	184	0	113	113	61.41%
0325	Ellenton	215	0	158	158	73.49%
<b>Total</b>		<b>3765</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2998</b>	<b>3028</b>	<b>80.42%</b>

DISTRICT 9						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	32	3	24	27	84.38%
0092	Hollywood	89	1	55	56	62.92%
0142	Pompano Bch	190	7	126	133	70.00%
0157	Margate	177	5	139	144	81.36%
0162	Deerfield Beach	179	13	133	146	81.56%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	90	0	77	77	85.56%
0209	Dania Beach	15	0	14	14	93.33%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	29	7	16	23	79.31%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	47	0	36	36	76.60%
0287	Deerfield Beach	17	0	20	20	117.65%
0304	Dania	66	4	60	64	96.97%
0310	Hallandale	33	2	27	29	87.88%
0321	Cooper City	233	19	181	200	85.84%



DISTRICT 9 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0365	Sunrise	19	1	13	14	73.68%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1216</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>80.84%</b>

DISTRICT 11						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	52	2	33	35	67.31%
0047	Lake Worth	100	3	62	65	65.00%
0062	Stuart	616	9	754	763	123.86%
0064	Okeechobee	122	0	53	53	43.44%
0065	Delray Beach	61	4	37	41	67.21%
0141	West Palm Bch	79	3	43	46	58.23%
0164	Boynton Beach	154	9	169	178	115.58%
0199	W Palm Beach	47	0	47	47	100.00%
0268	Riviera Beach	62	0	58	58	93.55%
0271	Tequesta	184	3	169	172	93.48%
0277	Boca Raton	113	0	52	52	46.02%
0288	Boynton Beach	17	3	12	15	88.24%
0367	Royal Palm Bch	36	4	32	36	100.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1643</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1521</b>	<b>1561</b>	<b>95.01%</b>

DISTRICT 12						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	255	6	169	175	68.63%
0022	Cocoa	110	2	112	114	103.64%
0039	Vero Beach	229	6	183	189	82.53%
0040	Fort Pierce	205	2	199	201	98.05%
0081	Melbourne	207	4	212	216	104.35%
0117	Palm Bay	563	14	552	566	100.53%
0126	Jensen Beach	179	0	46	46	25.70%
0163	Eau Gallie	237	7	223	230	97.05%
0189	Sebastian	197	0	151	151	76.65%
0191	Melbourne	73	3	33	36	49.32%
0200	Satellite Beach	181	7	125	132	72.93%
0318	Port St Lucie	1385	1	1377	1378	99.49%
0344	Merritt Island	43	2	20	22	51.16%
0348	Cape Canaveral	239	3	236	239	100.00%
0358	White City	71	0	64	64	90.14%
0359	Port St John	371	11	267	278	74.93%

DISTRICT 12 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0366	Barefoot Bay	63	3	35	38	60.32%
0394	Palm Bay	238	1	243	244	102.52%
<b>Total</b>		<b>4846</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>4247</b>	<b>4319</b>	<b>89.13%</b>

DISTRICT 13						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	43	0	27	27	62.79%
0090	Cape Coral	322	6	317	323	100.31%
0103	Punta Gorda	759	4	795	799	105.27%
0110	Port Charlotte	590	5	429	434	73.56%
0123	Sanibel	70	1	64	65	92.86%
0130	Labelle	169	0	124	124	73.37%
0135	Naples	389	0	363	363	93.32%
0136	Saint James City	635	4	457	461	72.60%
0192	Fort Myers	21	1	17	18	85.71%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	647	0	238	238	36.79%
0303	Bonita Springs	498	15	454	469	94.18%
0323	Lehigh Acres	437	28	384	412	94.28%
0336	N Ft Myers	513	1	526	527	102.73%
0351	Fort Myers	92	2	83	85	92.39%
0415	Punta Gorda	13	0	34	34	261.54%
<b>Total</b>		<b>5198</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>4312</b>	<b>4379</b>	<b>84.24%</b>

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	59	0	41	41	69.49%
0031	South Miami	173	5	103	108	62.43%
0043	Homestead	39	1	35	36	92.31%
0067	North Miami	41	2	27	29	70.73%
0098	Coral Gables	18	0	12	12	66.67%
0133	Miami	70	3	42	45	64.29%
0154	Marathon	158	0	110	110	69.62%
0168	Key West	21	0	19	19	90.48%
0333	Key Largo	71	0	70	70	98.59%
0346	Miami	18	0	15	15	83.33%
0374	Key Biscayne	36	0	31	31	86.11%
<b>Total</b>		<b>704</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>73.30%</b>

**DISTRICT 15**

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	29	1	22	23	79.31%
0099	Brooksville	23	1	26	27	117.39%
0108	Land O' Lakes	19	1	15	16	84.21%
0111	Tampa	54	0	44	44	81.48%
0138	Tampa	570	13	543	556	97.54%
0139	Tampa	96	0	88	88	91.67%
0147	Odessa	47	0	17	17	36.17%
0148	Riverview	211	3	193	196	92.89%
0152	Tampa	266	6	229	235	88.35%
0186	Brooksville	338	0	361	361	106.80%
0248	West Tampa	15	0	1	1	6.67%
0418	Spring Hill	43	5	28	33	76.74%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1711</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1567</b>	<b>1597</b>	<b>93.34%</b>

**DISTRICT 16**

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	266	0	232	232	87.22%
0014	St Petersburg	119	2	119	121	101.68%
0079	New Port Richey	487	14	328	342	70.23%
0104	Pinellas Park	293	10	314	324	110.58%
0119	Largo	365	4	258	262	71.78%
0125	St Petersburg	282	23	229	252	89.36%
0158	Treasure Island	338	0	272	272	80.47%
0173	Holiday	269	4	268	272	101.12%
0238	Safety Harbor	355	9	353	362	101.97%
0252	Seminole	1211	8	1079	1087	89.76%
0273	Madeira Beach	3986	5	2666	2671	67.01%
0275	Dunedin	1084	4	1133	1137	104.89%
0305	St Pete Beach	158	0	144	144	91.14%
0335	Hudson	104	6	88	94	90.38%
<b>Total</b>		<b>9317</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>7483</b>	<b>7572</b>	<b>81.27%</b>

**DISTRICT 17**

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	137	0	87	87	63.50%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	207	0	150	150	72.46%
0045	Palatka	43	0	30	30	69.77%
0115	Palm Coast	47	0	36	36	76.60%

**DISTRICT 17 (CONT.)**

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0120	Holly Hill	221	2	171	173	78.28%
0127	Lake Helen	20	1	8	9	45.00%
0255	Deltona	33	7	20	27	81.82%
0259	Debary	33	3	34	37	112.12%
0267	Ormond Beach	230	1	205	206	89.57%
0270	Port Orange	192	2	204	206	107.29%
0285	Edgewater	150	0	139	139	92.67%
0293	Interlachen	12	0	34	34	283.33%
0361	S Daytona	244	4	241	245	100.41%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1569</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1379</b>	<b>87.89%</b>

**DISTRICT 99**

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0400	Orlando	456	3	246	249	64.91%
<b>Total</b>		<b>456</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>64.91%</b>

GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
43,367	8,717	36,085	36,802	84.86%

