



THE FLORIDA TOOLBOX

Building The House Newsletter

2024-2025

JANUARY 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

1	NEW YEARS' DAY
12	UNIT 63 BUNCO
18	PRES BASS HOMECOMING
20	INAUGURATION DAY
20	MLK, JR BDAY HOLIDAY

FEBRUARY

1	DIS 15 SCHOOL OF REPORT
17	PRESIDENT'S DAY
22	UNIT 254 WIFFLE BALL GOLF

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

al afl.org/events



Scan the code or visit al afl.org/event-submission to submit your unit's events.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
PAGE 2

Read the updates from Pres. Bass and celebrate 2025!



UNITS & DISTRICTS
PAGE 12

Take a peak into the units as they show us their community involvement.



MEMBERSHIP REPORTS
PAGE 17

Find membership reports covering all districts.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Charlotte Bass
president@al afl.org

Greetings,

Welcome January. January starts a New Year, and we are halfway through our Auxiliary year. All of you are working hard on the programs and especially membership.

I love seeing your pictures of your houses promoting our Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Disaster Relief, and even Membership. You are most definitely #BuildingTheHouse and #SecuringOurFoundation with creativity and enthusiasm.

On November 30th, I had the pleasure of visiting the Hugh Gilber Strickland Post 138 Family for their Parking Lot "Postgate" Party Membership Drive and Fundraising Event to help rebuild their Post. They have a lot of fun activities enticing their members to participate in and support

their Post Family.. Department Membership Chairman, Jan Farrington also attended, we helped with renewing and recruiting new members. The "Renew Crew" did an awesome job with their endeavor. I had the month of December off from my District Visits but will start back strong in January. On January 2nd, I will start my visit to District 8 with the District President Theresa Walls and end my visit attending the Veteran's Expo at American Legion Post 69 Avon Park, on January 4th. Then I head to District 13th with District President Joanne Scales-Borrowy on January 9th. Then on to District 9 on January 29th with District President Dawn Krasnick. I am looking forward to all of my District visits that are scheduled. I enjoy seeing the great things that the Units and Districts are doing to #SecuringOurFoundation# and #BuildingTheHouse#. My Homecoming is January

18th at American Legion Post 80, St. Cloud. See the flyer in this newsletter. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

"January is a time of quiet and new beginnings-is the perfect time to refocus on your priorities and set goals"-




President Charlotte's Homecoming
January 18, 2025

Social Hour Begins 5pm-6pm with Hors d'Oeuvres
Buffet Dinner 6pm-7pm featuring : Chicken & Beef, Broccoli & Rice Casserole, Scalloped Potatoes, Salad, and Assorted Desserts
Business Casual Attire

Live 70's Rock with PEGGHEDD @ 7pm

Post 80 St Cloud
1019 Pennsylvania Avenue
Saint Cloud, FL 34769
Ticket info:\$25PP/\$40 Couple
Send Checks Payable ALA Unit 80 to:
Heather Cunningham (address above)



Hotel information: Hunter Arms Hotel (1029 New York Ave) 407-891-9855
Day-Zee Inn (1221 Carolina Ave) 407-957-0668
Polynesian Inn (2900 13th Street) 407-892-2858
Budget Inn (602 13th Street) 407-892-2858

FROM CHAPLAIN

Member	District	Unit
Gloria J Chase	1	75
Alfonso W Procopio	1	75
Yvette Murdough Moore	1	75
Bridget Rose Mills	1	75
Andrea J Pusateri	1	75
Jean Ann Murphy	2	84
JoAlice Hagle	4	284
Ellen F Pollock	4	58
Georgia Barnes	5	129
Beverly A Shaw	5	283
Doris King	6	286
Lorraine Adam	8	24
Alice Jacquemin-Cassidy	8	24
Dorothy Mills	11	199
Denise Thopson Holmes	11	199
Beverly Talbot	13	323
Patricia Smith	13	323
Judith Brill	13	323
Helen Prickett	13	323
Janice Jarvi	15	186

Dear Brothers and Sisters as we enter 2025, **Happy and Blessed New Year to Each of You.**

I hope your holidays were joyful and full of love and laughter. As we begin the new year, I want to thank those of you who attended the Chaplain Session at Fall Conference. I know it was over our lunch hour, but we had 30 people in attendance, and I was honored and blessed to share the time with all of you. Having our special guest, American Legion Department Chaplain Barry Roberts attend was an added treat. I felt the Lord's presence as Barry spoke with us and shared his faith.

During our session, we talked about many things, but one of the main topics was our year end reports. I

have revised those forms in hopes we can share compassion as well as the time we spend ministering, chatting, and caring for our military, our veterans, and our community. The link for the updated year-end reports has been posted at alafl.org under Programs, Member Outreach, Chaplains, then Plans and Reports.

If you have any questions or special needs, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. My email address is chaplain@alafl.org and my telephone number is 904-903-9552.

In reviewing the book, God's Glimpses from the Toolbox, I was reading about the Building Permit. There was a part where we are asked, **"What will I permit God to do in my life?"**

Wow, I found that to be a powerful question. As I continued reading, I smiled when I read about how a group of friends tried to put a barbecue grill together, I remember when my oldest son got one for a wedding gift and he and the groomsmen were attempting this task. It was a disaster. No one took the time to follow the instructions. We can make a mess of things sometimes when we don't follow what God is telling us in the Bible. By trying to do things on our own, sometimes we mess up. So today, as we move forward with the new year, let's take the time to stop, look, and listen for God's words. He has a plan for each of us and we just have to open the door to our hearts to let him in.

We have been gifted with a "Spiritual Toolbox". It is full of all the things we need to live a good life. By looking to God for direction and using our tools, we can accomplish many things. I feel that the most important tool God has given us is the gift of love.

In 1st Corinthians 13:4-8, it states "Love is patient, love is kind. It does



Karen Marks
chaplain@alafl.org
(904) 903-9552

not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." So, my friends, as we begin the new year, let's all use the tools God has given us so that we can continue to add to the cornerstone he has set in place as we build the house and secure the future for years to come. Wishing you all a very blessed, happy, prosperous and healthy new year. God Bless.

One final note: The Deceased Member form is available online and can be filled out online and mailed to me. Please remember to do this in a timely manner and always know I am here if you have any questions or concerns.

At the top left of this page is the most recent list of our deceased members. May they rest in God's loving arms.

FROM MEMBERSHIP



Jan Farrington
membership chairman
@alaf1.org

Happy New Year, all Members, Interior Designers, Foreman, Bricklayers and Wooden Pallets!

As we say goodbye to 2024, let's remember all those great things we accomplished as an Auxiliary and think of all those new opportunities that are yet to come! For many of us it was a very challenging year with weather. As hard as that has been, I applaud you for your efforts with membership. Just keep pushing your renewals, rejoins, and recruits. Thank you, Unit membership chairmen, for all you have been doing. Don't forget the 100% Unit Flag Ribbon that National presents to Units that reach 100% of their 2025 membership goal by January 31, 2025. Keep Building those Houses.

A big shout out to all our District Presidents and District membership chairmen for encouraging the Units in your District. Thank you to the staff at Department headquarters who have been processing

membership and posting the Friday reports. Drop them a note and tell them how much we appreciate their hard work. I also would like to thank our Area chairman for the many phone calls they have made: Southern - Sandy Swafford; Western- Pam Pannasch; Northern Natalie Scott; Central Andrea Sherman ; Eastern Char Kinlen; and Southwestern Kathy Reed. If your Unit is having problems with membership, these ladies are available.

Congratulations to all of the Units who met the 75% goal by December 7th! We had close to 50 units that met goal! We have some more units that have reached their 100% goals as well. **Our next Department of Florida goal is March 15th at 85%.** We already have many units that are at 85% or very close to it! I look forward to adding more. As always, check the ALA FL Membership page for Friday reports and shoutouts. Let's make sure that we contact every member that has not renewed. A personal call can make all the difference. Is your Unit thinking about raising the Unit yearly membership dues? If so, remember that this is a change in the Standing Rules and must be voted on by the members. A copy of the Standing Rules must also be sent to Department Headquarters. Every Unit will be receiving a form to complete which will verify what the 2025-2026 unit membership dues will be for both Junior and Senior members. Make sure you fill that out and return it to Department. If you are going to change your dues, please don't wait until the end of the year to do this. It is a very time-consuming job for Department and they

would appreciate the time needed to process every Unit.

A big thank you to all those Units who completed the ALAMIS form by December 1, 2024 that enables you to transmit membership.

In closing, my wish for you in this new year is that every day brings you sweet smiles, kind words and warm hugs. **May you realize how important you are in the lives of all who know you and care about you. May you take time each day to see the beauty and joy that's all around you.**

For God, Country and Kindness
Jan Farrington



FROM GIRLS STATE

Welcome to 2025. I hope everyone had a glorious and memorable Holiday and they are ready for a New Year. A year full of excitement, learning, volunteering, serving our Veterans and our community. I have received numerous emails with similar questions, so in response;

1. Where do I find the Girls State application form?

There is no (one size fits all) application form on the website for Girls State. Each unit finds their way to be introduced to applicants. Some Units ask for a short essay, where the girls write about their interests, accomplishments and goals. Other Units create an application (usually similar to the Boys State application).

2. Where are registration forms?

While all forms are on-line, Unit registration was due by the end of December. Beginning January 1, we will start taking Over-Quota forms/checks. This form is found at al afl.org/programs/g s-unit-registration-over-quota-2025/. Please use the fillable form so all information is legible. The last day for submitting Over-Quota forms is January 31, 2025.

3. When can I start interviewing?

The Girls State Director has started to email Units their Delegate and Alternate forms. Once received (please make yourself a copy of these forms) the Units can start interviewing and the selected Delegates and Alternates on-line registration should be available by January 6, 2025. It is important to make sure the applicants understand that they must be available to attend all days June 19-27, 2025.

4. I am interested in a Girls State staff position, how do I apply?

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, and she will contact you.

Have you checked your email? I have received many requests directly from students, parents or schools who don't know how to apply. While the Units should have contacted the schools, I have forwarded these emails to District Girls State chairs in hope of finding local units.

Once you have selected your delegates -alternates and presented them with their numbered registration form they must complete their registration by March 14, 2025.

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. See the box below for some dates already listed.

More details of location and times will be added and posted to the website, in the near future.

This year and always, help Build our Foundation for a Stronger Future.



Eileen Wilson
g irlsstate@al afl.org

GIRLS STATE IS GREAT!

ORIENTATION DATES			
District 1	TBD	District 9	April 6
District 2	May 3	District 11	May 18
District 3	TBD	District 12	April 26
District 4	TBD	District 13	April 6
District 5	TBD	District 14	TBD
District 6	TBD	District 15	TBD
District 7	TBD	District 16	Mar 29
District 8	TBD	District 17	TBD

AL AFL.ORG/STORE

FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS



Virna Luke
publicrelations@
al afl.org

Happy 2025! How exciting to start a new year with new goals and possibilities for your Public Relations program. Take the time to sit down with your members and openly discuss what are your unit's goals and plans for 2025. Give everyone an opportunity to shine and excel in 2025!

#BuildingTheHouse.

I want to start with a review of your unit's Facebook (FB) account, with groups and pages, FB provides free tools, under Insights. You can view this information if you're an admin or moderator. There are two sections - Growth and Engagement, you can select to review the last 7 days, 28 days, 60 days, or select custom (you can do a whole year from today).

Growth: Provides the data of how many people posted & commented in your group and how many people viewed your group. Use this to test different types of content: images, videos, polls, fill in the blank, and questions.

Engagement: This provides you the engagement of your posts popular days and popular times, use

this to plan out your scheduled posts, to maximize your reach. While I recommend that you do post consistently on Facebook, make sure that you're creating quality and valuable content for your followers. "Understand your members, listen to them and then create a post that you feel will spark conversation" - Anne, read her great article Writing engaging posts.

Moving on to the other sections on Facebook, are you using the Featured tab - this is content you can pin or unpin by clicking on the meatballs (...), on your posts - check the graphic - for announcements, events tab, newsletter, special events, group rules etc. Keep your featured area updated and informative. Unpin items that are no longer relevant. I hope you are taking advantage of the Events tab, this should be filled with your unit's happenings - upcoming dinners, MLK Day of Service projects, etc. Create recurring events for your monthly meetings, Taco Tuesdays, Wednesday Dinners...to invite your members, and they will invite their family and friends. FB will send automatic reminders to your members about these upcoming events. Use the Files section, to upload PDF and Word documents, as your post/unit newsletters, agenda for your upcoming meeting, approved meeting minutes, training documents, etc. For the People section, did you know that you can give a person or page preapproval on their posts, next to their name, click the meatballs and select Preapprove posts. You know your members and those that contribute, this is a great way to lessen your load of having to approve often.

Back to the graphic and meatballs - check out Know your Menu.

- Hamburger: Open navigation menu options
- Doner: A fancier form of the hamburger
- Bento: There is an array of options (grid format)
- Kebab: Reveals a list of options
- Meatballs: Reveals a list of options

If you need specific help or guides about FB, check out the various educational videos on YouTube. I follow Done by Lunch Entrepreneurs - Jerry Potter and LYFE Marketing, they are both awesome channels.

As of January 1, you have 90 days to prepare for your unit's end of year reports, make sure that part of your planning for 2025 is delegating who will complete the reports for: AEF, Americanism, Chaplain, Children & Youth, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws, Education, Girls State, History, Leadership, Legislative, National Security, Past Presidents Parley, Poppy, Public Relations, Veterans Affairs. I highly recommend that you read the unit end of year report form for each program. This will help to prepare the information required for the form and if a narrative is to be included - most programs require this to be considered for Department awards, similar for National awards. If you did not start in 2024, now is the time to start collecting those high-resolution jpeg Mission-in-Action photos. Create an album on your desktop, save on a flash drive, the cloud, or Google photos, etc. Remember to save them by their original size.

We have more great articles in the Florida PR newsletter "Currents," check out the December 15 issue - they will also inspire you to start fresh in 2025. The next issue will be released on January 15. You will find the previous pdf downloads in the ALAFL Public Relations group, under the section Files. Do you have topics or questions you want us to discuss? Send an email to

publicrelations@al afl.org.



FROM COMMUNITY SERVICE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I truly hope you all had an amazing holiday season. The holidays are a very invigorating time of year that leaves everyone filled with hope and exhaustion. At least that is usually how I feel after the hustle and bustle of the season. Now that we have bridged over into a new year, let's take a look at how we can build bridges to our Legion Family, our communities and to our Auxiliary programs.

One great way to build that bridge is by hosting an American Legion Family Day. **On 2022 The American Legion passed resolution number 7 establishing the last Saturday in April as American Legion Family Day and encourage every Post and Family to open their doors to the community to share what we do and why we do it.** That said, I would encourage you to not feel obligated to use just that day to host that event. If you are in a District that has multiple Posts that are in near proximity to each other, you may want to reach out to them to either plan together to do an event or plan your events on separate days so as not to compete with each other. This way you can plan to attend other Family Days at your neighboring Post Family Homes. Remember the key is to build bridges. Get the whole family involved. Ask the Legion, S.A.L. and Riders to participate in specific rolls. Establish a committee to determine the plan for the day. Invite local community leaders, youth groups, and other non-profit groups to participate. Set up membership tables to take those ever-important applications. Consider having food available and setting up a kid's zone. What a great way to show parents that we are invested in making the kids feel they are a part of the mission and that we welcome those Junior members. Have as many of the Units program chairs available

to explain what each program is about and how they benefit the community and our Veterans. Finally, do not forget to take pictures and share them on the Departments Community Service Facebook page. Let's talk about reporting for a minute. As mentioned in the Community Service break out session in November, I have taken the approach that almost every other program in The Auxiliary can be tied to Community Service. **The key to successful reporting is determining what part of your events can be reported to which program.** Let's take a look at those American Legion Family Days that you are planning. As we all know this is a Community Service Program event, but is it really? Are you having a kid's zone that your Juniors will be helping with? Report that in your Juniors report. Each program chair that is in attendance should report their participation in that program report. Are you inviting other local Veterans Service Organizations? Report that in VA&R. Have your Education and Americanism chairs collaborate to teach your guests proper flag etiquette and about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Please keep in mind that while these can all be reported to the individual programs, they can't be reported in both, so please be sure to subtract those hours and money spent from the Community Service report. Finally, have you heard about that bridge I challenged all of the units to help me build an amazing bridge that will be unveiled at Convention when I report on all your Units successes? I am sure there will be many. Using the popsicle sticks I handed out at Workshop and Fall Conference, write the name and date of your event on one side of the stick and on the other side your Unit name and number. I do



Robin Watros
communityservice
@al afl.org

still have sticks that I would be happy to mail to any Unit that still needs them, just let me know. **I ask that you have these to me no later than April First . This will give me plenty of time to assemble our bridge.**



**FORMS
REPORTS
EVENTS
...and more!**

ALAFL.ORG

FROM HISTORIAN



Dara Carter
historian@alafll.org

as the Veterans History project and Both the ALA Junior written history and pictorial history book. Now is the time to get our juniors involved and their projects will be highlighted at Department Convention as well as go onto National for award (if applicable.) History is important to all of us as it's happening every day, but once it's written down, it is archived for our future.

If you have questions or would need any assistance in writing a Veteran history project, Women's in history project, Female Veteran history project, Senior written history of your unit or district, as well as the Voorhis award submission, which is our new pictorial history book award, please reach out to me at: historian@alafll.org I am looking forward to reading your histories, as well as all of your award submissions.

Happy New Year to everyone -
Dara Oliver
ALA FL Historian 2023-2025

Here's a great New Year's resolution for Historians -
Write a story about someone that made an impact on you or your Unit! Maybe select a Past Department or District President that is from your area. It can be submitted as a "Members Remember" project and can be sent anytime during the year!
For those of you who missed the Historian Zoom Call in December, feel free to find us on Facebook at ALA FL History and search for the recording. There is some great information about writing a Written History, filling out the Unit and District report forms, writing a narrative versus submitting a written history award and following the guidelines while completing the award submissions with deadlines. This year, National has emphasized encouraging more junior submissions and allowing them to work on the History Patch Program as well

ZOOM MEETING
Dara Oliver
ALA FL Historian
Sheryle Hackman
Unit Historian 219



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

Submit your articles and images by the 15th of the previous month.



SECRETARY'S DESK

Happy New Year to all! What will 2025 bring forth? Did your Unit make a New Years Resolution? If not, may I suggest that each Unit makes a resolution to create a Unit email address for membership chairman and the treasurer and perhaps with a back up for the Unit President. Do you remember Y2K, that was 25 years ago and we have come a long way since then; iPhone, androids, texting, facetime, Zoom etc. and everyday something new comes into existence. Our membership coordinator, Patsy, has emailed the 2025 Dues Information Form to be completed so that we can verify any changes in the Unit dues. This form is due back to Patsy by February 1, 2025, so that we can verify that the dues the

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

Unit is charging matches the Unit Standing Rules. Please remember that any changes in the Unit C&B and Standing Rules must be approved by the general membership. If you are ordering merchandise from our Auxiliary Store and wish to pick it up in person, please notify Patsy via email at membership@alaf1.org The hours of operation for our Department Headquarters are from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. There will be times when we are on the phone with



other members and when this is the case you can leave a message. Listen to the prompts from the recording when you call. As the Department Secretary I do not handle any questions concerning finances, membership processing or Girls State registration and girls state delegate numbers. Before you realize it End of the Year Reporting will be due to District Chairmen no later than April 1, 2025. My suggestion would be to start compiling this information to make your reporting run smoother and not be stressed. District Presidents don't forget to advise the office as to when the District Constitutional Conference will be held. Should you have questions for the Secretary it is best to ask in an email and I will respond as quickly as possible. Again I wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year of 2025. I thank you all for your work and dedication to our wonderful organization.

FROM LEADERSHIP

Mary Kelly-Perkins
leadership@alaf1.org

JANUARY & FEBRUARY ABC CLASSES

Here is the schedule for the ABC classes for the months of January and February. If there are any changes, they will be posted on ALAFL Leadership Facebook Group. If your District has not scheduled a class, please contact me via email as soon as possible so that we may get a date scheduled.

Thank you to all who attended the Fall Conference Breakout session. We are working on a date and location to have an Instructor Orientation for all that may be interested. This will be an all-day class held in Orlando and hopefully at Department Headquarters. Hotel accommodations are being checked into however the expense will be on the attendees and there will be no mileage reimbursement.

As soon as I have more information it will be emailed to those who signed the information sheet at Fall Conference.



DIST 12
UNIT 1
9AM



DIST 1
UNIT 382
9AM



DIST 04
UNIT 16
9AM



DIST 6
UNIT 55
9AM



DIST 16
UNIT 273
9AM



DIST 8
UNIT 25
9:30AM

alaf1.org/store

FROM CHILDREN & YOUTH



Lisa Hoyland
childrenyouth
@al afl.org

Welcome to 2025! Thank you to all our members who have held children's and youth events in the past few months. We have made a difference in our communities. Some exciting things have happened and are upcoming under the Children and Youth program. American Legion Child Welfare has a New Name. **Formally announced on October 23, 2024, the Child Welfare Foundation changed its name and is now doing business as the Child Well-Being Foundation.** The mission remains the same, and the acronym CWF will still be used.

The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation was established in 1954 "as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children and youth in this country." The Foundation does this by awarding grants to programs that disseminate information about research, studies, surveys, and

projects or by supporting programs and activities benefiting our children and youth.

How can the American Legion Auxiliary assist the Foundation in its mission as a member of the Legion Family? Simply raising dollars! In its lifetime, the Foundation has granted over \$16.4 million to non-profit youth-oriented organizations. Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary is asked to participate and support the Foundation with monetary donations. One idea is to collect one dollar for each member and submit it through the ALA Department of Florida remittance form.

Special Olympics Zoom Call.

Mark Your Calendars and join us for a Children and Youth Zoom call on January 29 at 7 pm. Our guest speaker will be Denise Breneman, Civic Organizations and Events for Special Olympics Florida. She will share ideas on how units can assist and volunteer opportunities. Just email or message me on Facebook, ALA FL Children & Youth, and I will send you the link.

Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards.

National Children and Youth Chairman Lisa Chaplin has challenged all Departments to have at least one Good Deed and Youth Hero award presented this year.

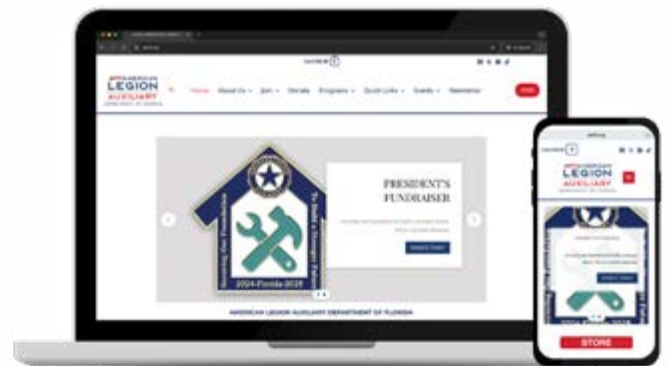
This is a great way to recognize the youth in your community who are making a difference. National has recently added a new ALA Academy webinar, "Children and Youth: ALA Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards," which is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the differences between the "Good Deed Award" and the "Youth Hero Award." Watch your local news, Facebook, and even your

schools for these kids doing amazing things in their communities, and then let's recognize them. Members, I know that we can meet her challenge!

Month of the Military Child. April will be here before you know it. Now is a great time to start planning what the unit will do for the Month of the Military Child—some ideas: Host a Military Child Table Ceremony. Maybe you can include military children from the community. Ask residents to display purple ribbons in their businesses and homes. Obtain a Children and Youth Proclamation from your local officials naming April 15, 2025, as "Purple Up Day. (A sample is available on alaforveterans.org under Children and Youth.) and wear purple to your April meeting and on April 15.

The Children's and Youth Picnic is scheduled for April 5, 2025, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Post 117, Palm Bay. Units, if you want to donate a basket, please contact me directly.

I look forward to hearing about all the great things you are doing in the Children and Youth program. Please remember to share on our ALAFL Children & Youth Facebook page.



ALAFL.ORG

FROM JUNIORS

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fabulous holiday season! I don't know about the apprentices who attended the Fall Conference, but I had a great time with them! **Our apprentices filled the toolbox representing their Districts in the Membership Parade, even our littlest Juniors!**

One of the wonderful things about this organization is its dedication to getting Junior members involved and empowering them, often the children or grandchildren of veterans. Their active participation helps them develop leadership skills and gives them a strong sense of service and a connection to the Auxiliary's mission. By engaging in ALA activities, Junior members can build their confidence and leadership abilities while bringing fresh ideas and perspectives. Their involvement in community service, fundraising, and educational programs encourages their personal growth and nurtures a sense of responsibility.

Through their participation, Junior members come to appreciate the legacy of our veterans and learn the important values of service and patriotism. This connection gives us all confidence that the next generation will stand ready to support veterans and their families. Involving these bright young members strengthens the bonds within the ALA. It allows them to learn from Senior members while also sharing their innovative ideas. This collaboration ensures that everyone feels valued and part of our shared mission.

Junior members also bring a spark of enthusiasm and creativity to our events, enhancing our community engagement and showcasing the Auxiliary's commitment to making a

positive impact.

Their energy plays a key role in engaging the local community and promoting the ALA as a true family affair.

Ultimately, getting Junior members involved is crucial for the ALA's future. When they feel included, they're more likely to stay engaged, which helps ensure that our organization continues to thrive with the new leaders ready to support our veterans.

Junior members' involvement is essential for nurturing leadership, building connections, and keeping the organization's spirit alive. Their participation truly is a cornerstone of the ALA's success!

As a reminder, please share what your unit and district are doing to include your Junior members in our Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/alafjuniors](https://www.facebook.com/groups/alafjuniors). Remember, BrickByBrickJrByJr, we are Securing Our Foundation To Build a Stronger Future!



Tara Harris
juniors@alaf.org



DISTRICTS & UNITS

ALAFL.ORG/JOIN/FIND-A-UNIT/

UNIT 270

Unit 270 members Eleanor Amato, Helen Klenk, and Kelly Schneider await the first family to pick up the basket.

Helen Klenk gives our veterans his thanksgiving basket along with a gift certificate to Publix.



2nd Vice President Linda Knobloch Harkness and Unit 270 Cheryl Readett prepare the display of gifts for the Christmas Shopping veterans partly at Emory Bennett Nursing Home.



After picking up toys from Dollar Tree in Port Orange, Kimberly Vallenty, member of Unit 270, delivered to Sugar Mill Elementary School.



Unit 270 Port Orange members prepared thanksgiving baskets for the military through Operation Homefront



DISTRICT 17

District 17 Christmas Shopping Party at Emory Bennett was a huge success. Eleanor Amato Unit 270 helping a veteran with his chosen through while Unit 285 Edgewater man the gift wrapping table and Unit 267 Ormond, Unit 120 and Unit 270 assisted the veterans with their choices.



UNIT 16

Unit 16 had a very successful 2024 Blessing Buckets. With the help of the Post 16 family, We were able to help 25 homeless Veterans.



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 a local grocery store.



UNIT 138

The #RisingRosies of Unit 138 were busy again fundraising and supporting our programs. We have really had to think outside of the box, and it has been nothing short of amazing!

First up was our "138 Legion Family Day" on Saturday December 14th. The Mammogram Bus was in the parking lot, and over 30 appointments and walk ins were able to receive this vital screening. Regular screenings and early detection can save lives!!

Our 2nd Saturday Brunch made a grand return, with Unit President Dawn Davis grilling up her delicious "Winstons Bagels" complete with an amazing toppings bar. After we digested, our "Little Chili Cookoff That Could" kicked off with 9 amazing entries!! Over 40 people enjoyed sampling the incredible chilis offered, and our judges had a tough job determining our winners! We also had 5 raffle baskets and a 50/50 raffle going. At the end of the evening, we yielded a fine profit to ensure we can continue to support our projects during our Post rebuild.

Then on Sunday, December 15th, Santa and Mrs. Claus came to town! Our Children and Youth committee put on a fabulous Christmas Party! Almost 20 kids enjoyed breakfast, crafts, story time, presents and stockings! Even the "big" kids AKA the adults couldn't resist the magic of Santa. We were then able to donate the leftover toys to a local elementary school.

We also highlighted our Community Service program by finished up our Christmas Bags with the help of Unit 5, enabling 10 families to enjoy a holiday meal.

As we continue to "Re" Build our House, we are so thankful for all of our volunteers who help make this possible. We will continue to support our programs and our veterans, and look forward to a new year full of hope and endless possibilities!!



As we close out the year, we have had a wonderful Christmas time together. Auxiliary Unit 45 member and past president Pat Andries presented Celeste Bass with 30 crocheted stocking hats to be delivered to hurricane Helene victims in Burnsville, NC. These are arriving in time to help residents and children bear the cold weather a little better. Dual member Sandi Barrett and her husband Jeff (SAL member) volunteered for two weeks at Snowball Express in Orlando. Lots of patches were on display for the kids to choose from. They are always looking for donations of patches for military and first responders' children of our fallen heroes. Patriot Guard Riders collect and sew the patches the children's vests. Please let us know if you can donate.

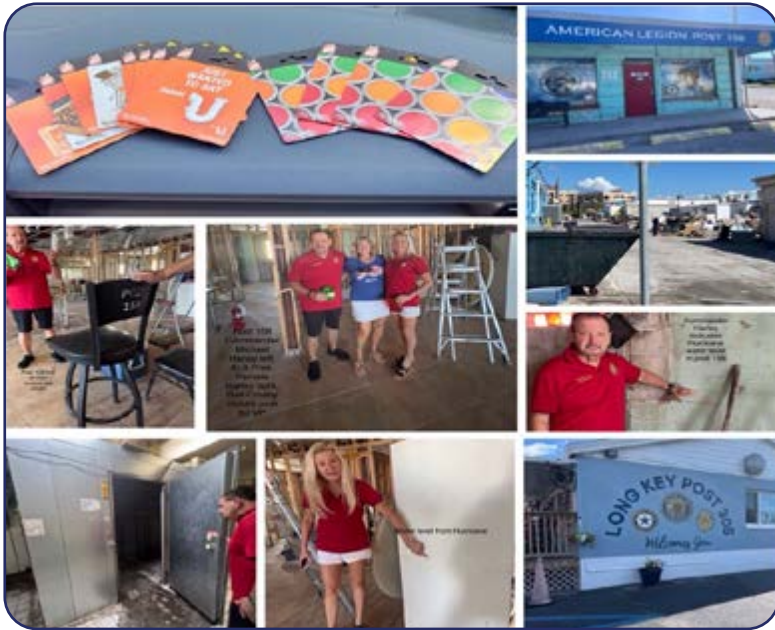
For Christmas we signed and took Christmas cards to all of the senior living homes in Putnam County and organized a Christmas Party for our adopted veterans at Barry Apartments. We invited our Legion members and gave our vets lunch and a bag full of household goods along with a nice flannel shirt. Pictured are VP Peggy Almodóvar, Member at Large and VAR co-chair Marion James, and fundraiser Doreen Freeman.

We finished our December with a hearty meal for our post and a visit from the Grinch and Santa. You can see them here with our volunteer, Addy.

Lori Plair, Cathy Boyland, and Peggy Almodóvar decorated our post 45 tree. Good news! We won our Christmas tree that was featured at Beck Chrysler in Palatka. (Pictured in last month's issue) Our winning tree will adorn our new Auxiliary building next Christmas. We expect to move in March.



UNIT 62 DISTRICT 11



Unit 62 District 11 is sending 2024 out with a bang. Our Vice President and Legion Vice Commander delivered gift cards to American Legion Posts on the Gulf that were hit by recent hurricanes. Some of the gift cards were given to members of the posts that needed assistance as well. On December 14 ALA Unit 62 Dist 11 partook in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Fernhill Cemetery in Stuart. We had the help of Legion Riders, local restaurants and the Jeep Brigade. Martin County Sherrif Snyder gave a wonderful speech as well as his son Representative John Snyder and Representative Gayle Harrell. Nearly 1,500 wreaths were placed and there are almost 2,000 veterans buried in this cemetery. According to Cemetery Admin this is the only cemetery adorned with crosses to hold the wreaths. Crosses are made and set up by Legion 62 members.

The Auxiliary unit 62 hosted breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus on December 15. Members of the Sons, Riders and Legionnaires helped out with pancake breakfasts and making sure ALL of Santa's gifts were ready for him to hand out to all the good little boys and girls.

Martin County Dance League performed a beautiful Nutcracker Suite ballet for everyone.

We hope everyone had a wonderful 2024 and we look forward to working with and seeing everyone in 2025.



[ALAFL.ORG/NEWSLETTER](https://www.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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

REPORTS CURRENT AS OF 16 DECEMBER 2024

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	222	0	117	117	52.70%
0078	Milton	12	0	2	2	16.67%
0193	Pensacola	79	9	33	42	53.16%
0221	Niceville	155	2	161	163	105.16%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	147	1	105	106	72.11%
0240	Pensacola	242	3	151	154	63.64%
0296	Destin	90	0	65	65	72.22%
0340	Pensacola	332	9	252	261	78.61%
0356	Lynn Haven	142	0	80	80	56.34%
0378	Gulf Breeze	58	0	33	33	56.90%
0382	Navarre	182	1	125	126	69.23%
0392	Panama City	196	0	123	123	62.76%
0402	Panama City Beach	47	1	36	37	78.72%
Total		1904	26	1283	1309	68.75%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	72	3	44	47	65.28%
0082	Lanark	78	0	42	42	53.85%
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	40	56	80.00%
Total		328	35	189	224	68.29%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	35	0	26	26	74.29%
0057	Lake City	244	3	154	157	64.34%
0083	Macclenny	51	0	24	24	47.06%
0107	Live Oak	69	1	35	36	52.17%

DISTRICT 3 (CONT.)

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0215	Jasper	36	1	34	35	97.22%
0224	Madison	55	0	28	28	50.91%
0291	Steinhatchee	219	1	107	108	49.32%
0383	Old Town	151	3	92	95	62.91%
Total		860	9	500	509	59.19%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	35	0	20	20	57.14%
0027	Ocala	19	1	12	13	68.42%
0058	Dunnellon	28	0	15	15	53.57%
0077	Inverness	77	1	76	77	100.00%
0149	Newberry	34	3	17	20	58.82%
0155	Crystal River	411	3	299	302	73.48%
0166	Homosassa Springs	170	2	141	143	84.12%
0230	Hawthorne	35	3	38	41	117.14%
0236	Bronson	42	0	44	44	104.76%
0237	Beverly Hills	209	0	100	100	47.85%
0284	Bellevue	81	2	61	63	77.78%
0354	Ocala	24	0	1	1	4.17%
Total		1165	15	824	839	72.02%

DISTRICT 5

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	67	2	46	48	71.64%
0054	Fernandina Beach	227	3	201	204	89.87%
0088	Jacksonville	86	2	55	57	66.28%
0129	J'Ville Beach	391	11	267	278	71.10%
0137	Jacksonville	472	3	284	287	60.81%
0194	St Augustine	61	1	21	22	36.07%
0197	Jacksonville	56	1	20	21	37.50%

DISTRICT 5 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0202	Keystone Heights	93	1	73	74	79.57%
0233	Ponte Vedra Bch	170	21	126	147	86.47%
0244	Jacksonville	43	0	14	14	32.56%
0250	Middleburg	333	3	191	194	58.26%
0283	Arlington	498	6	299	305	61.24%
0316	Atlantic Beach	371	34	202	236	63.61%
0372	Mandarin	33	0	36	36	109.09%
0373	Orange Park	33	0	9	9	27.27%
0401	Hilliard	43	1	9	10	23.26%
Total		2977	89	1853	1942	65.23%

DISTRICT 6						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	199	0	119	119	59.80%
0018	Wildwood	22	0	14	14	63.64%
0019	Orlando	102	3	53	56	54.90%
0035	Mount Dora	137	0	87	87	63.50%
0055	Clermont	270	1	168	169	62.59%
0063	Winter Garden	26	0	12	12	46.15%
0080	Saint Cloud	299	17	192	209	69.90%
0101	Bushnell	117	1	71	72	61.54%
0112	Winter Park	29	3	28	31	106.90%
0183	Fern Park	126	1	68	69	54.76%
0219	Fruitland Park	243	1	174	175	72.02%
0239	Groveland	15	0	11	11	73.33%
0242	Orlando	111	9	70	79	71.17%
0286	Orlando	164	8	141	149	90.85%
0330	Leesburg	67	2	35	37	55.22%
0331	Orlando	28	0	12	12	42.86%
0347	Lady Lake	2605	10	2147	2157	82.80%
0412	Orlando	15	2	5	7	46.67%
Total		4575	58	3407	3465	75.74%

DISTRICT 7						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	80	0	62	62	77.50%
0004	Lakeland	49	3	39	42	85.71%
0008	Winter Haven	663	8	520	528	79.64%

DISTRICT 7 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0015	Dade City	29	0	22	22	75.86%
0034	Haines City	95	0	35	35	36.84%
0071	Lake Wales	44	0	13	13	29.55%
0072	Mulberry	149	1	77	78	52.35%
0201	Florence Villa	24	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		1133	12	768	780	68.84%

DISTRICT 8						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	47	0	2	2	4.26%
0024	Bradenton	323	0	219	219	67.80%
0025	Lake Placid	471	0	287	287	60.93%
0030	Sarasota	84	4	38	42	50.00%
0069	Avon Park	747	15	538	553	74.03%
0074	Sebring	133	0	98	98	73.68%
0113	Rotonda West	334	2	271	273	81.74%
0159	Venice	712	3	387	390	54.78%
0254	North Port	151	0	138	138	91.39%
0266	Fruitville	173	1	118	119	68.79%
0309	Palmetto	191	0	130	130	68.06%
0312	Oneco	184	0	76	76	41.30%
0325	Ellenton	215	0	131	131	60.93%
Total		3765	25	2433	2458	65.29%

DISTRICT 9						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	32	3	23	26	81.25%
0092	Hollywood	89	1	52	53	59.55%
0142	Pompano Bch	190	7	110	117	61.58%
0157	Margate	177	5	98	103	58.19%
0162	Deerfield Beach	179	12	109	121	67.60%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	90	0	64	64	71.11%
0209	Dania Beach	15	0	6	6	40.00%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	29	7	14	21	72.41%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	47	0	34	34	72.34%
0287	Deerfield Beach	17	0	14	14	82.35%
0304	Dania	66	2	57	59	89.39%
0310	Hallandale	33	2	21	23	69.70%
0321	Cooper City	233	2	161	163	69.96%

DISTRICT 9 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0365	Sunrise	19	1	13	14	73.68%
Total		1216	42	776	818	67.27%

DISTRICT 11						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	52	2	29	31	59.62%
0047	Lake Worth	100	3	56	59	59.00%
0062	Stuart	616	6	655	661	107.31%
0064	Okeechobee	122	0	47	47	38.52%
0065	Delray Beach	61	4	36	40	65.57%
0141	West Palm Bch	79	3	42	45	56.96%
0164	Boynton Beach	154	5	141	146	94.81%
0199	W Palm Beach	47	0	30	30	63.83%
0268	Riviera Beach	62	0	52	52	83.87%
0271	Tequesta	184	3	153	156	84.78%
0277	Boca Raton	113	0	45	45	39.82%
0288	Boynton Beach	17	3	12	15	88.24%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	36	3	28	31	86.11%
Total		1643	32	1326	1358	82.65%

DISTRICT 12						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	255	5	139	144	56.47%
0022	Cocoa	110	2	84	86	78.18%
0039	Vero Beach	229	3	131	134	58.52%
0040	Fort Pierce	205	2	164	166	80.98%
0081	Melbourne	207	4	185	189	91.30%
0117	Palm Bay	563	6	373	379	67.32%
0126	Jensen Beach	179	0	37	37	20.67%
0163	Eau Gallie	237	4	171	175	73.84%
0189	Sebastian	197	0	137	137	69.54%
0191	Melbourne	73	3	22	25	34.25%
0200	Satellite Beach	181	7	87	94	51.93%
0318	Port St Lucie	1385	1	1137	1138	82.17%
0344	Merritt Island	43	1	15	16	37.21%
0348	Cape Canaveral	239	3	199	202	84.52%
0358	White City	71	0	43	43	60.56%
0359	Port St John	371	6	208	214	57.68%

DISTRICT 12 (CONT.)						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0366	Barefoot Bay	63	3	32	35	55.56%
0394	Palm Bay	238	1	200	201	84.45%
Total		4846	51	3364	3415	70.47%

DISTRICT 13						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	43	0	22	22	51.16%
0090	Cape Coral	322	6	259	265	82.30%
0103	Punta Gorda	759	3	608	611	80.50%
0110	Port Charlotte	590	2	367	369	62.54%
0123	Sanibel	70	1	54	55	78.57%
0130	Labelle	169	0	71	71	42.01%
0135	Naples	389	0	285	285	73.26%
0136	Saint James City	635	3	354	357	56.22%
0192	Fort Myers	21	1	17	18	85.71%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	647	0	210	210	32.46%
0303	Bonita Springs	498	15	364	379	76.10%
0323	Lehigh Acres	437	28	265	293	67.05%
0336	N Ft Myers	513	0	386	386	75.24%
0351	Fort Myers	92	1	59	60	65.22%
0415	Punta Gorda	13	0	32	32	246.15%
Total		5198	60	3353	3413	65.66%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	59	0	27	27	45.76%
0031	South Miami	173	4	90	94	54.34%
0043	Homestead	39	1	34	35	89.74%
0067	North Miami	41	0	13	13	31.71%
0098	Coral Gables	18	0	10	10	55.56%
0133	Miami	70	3	40	43	61.43%
0154	Marathon	158	0	99	99	62.66%
0168	Key West	21	0	19	19	90.48%
0333	Key Largo	71	0	49	49	69.01%
0346	Miami	18	0	12	12	66.67%
0374	Key Biscayne	36	0	31	31	86.11%
Total		704	8	424	432	61.36%

DISTRICT 15

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	29	1	17	18	62.07%
0099	Brooksville	23	0	12	12	52.17%
0108	Land O' Lakes	19	1	10	11	57.89%
0111	Tampa	54	0	27	27	50.00%
0138	Tampa	570	10	465	475	83.33%
0139	Tampa	96	0	73	73	76.04%
0147	Odessa	47	0	4	4	8.51%
0148	Riverview	211	3	167	170	80.57%
0152	Tampa	266	3	188	191	71.80%
0186	Brooksville	338	0	292	292	86.39%
0248	West Tampa	15	0	1	1	6.67%
0418	Spring Hill	43	1	13	14	32.56%
Total		1711	19	1269	1288	75.28%

DISTRICT 16

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	266	0	160	160	60.15%
0014	St Petersburg	119	2	101	103	86.55%
0079	New Port Richey	487	13	243	256	52.57%
0104	Pinellas Park	293	8	263	271	92.49%
0119	Largo	365	4	201	205	56.16%
0125	St Petersburg	282	23	181	204	72.34%
0158	Treasure Island	338	0	225	225	66.57%
0173	Holiday	269	4	202	206	76.58%
0238	Safety Harbor	355	6	280	286	80.56%
0252	Seminole	1211	8	913	921	76.05%
0273	Madeira Beach	3986	3	1779	1782	44.71%
0275	Dunedin	1084	4	893	897	82.75%
0305	St Pete Beach	158	0	113	113	71.52%
0335	Hudson	104	6	80	86	82.69%
Total		9317	81	5634	5715	61.34%

DISTRICT 17

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	137	0	74	74	54.01%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	207	0	131	131	63.29%
0045	Palatka	43	0	28	28	65.12%
0115	Palm Coast	47	0	31	31	65.96%

DISTRICT 17 (CONT.)

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0120	Holly Hill	221	2	133	135	61.09%
0127	Lake Helen	20	1	8	9	45.00%
0255	Deltona	33	7	18	25	75.76%
0259	Debary	33	3	30	33	100.00%
0267	Ormond Beach	230	1	149	150	65.22%
0270	Port Orange	192	2	171	173	90.10%
0285	Edgewater	150	0	124	124	82.67%
0293	Interlachen	12	0	33	33	275.00%
0361	S Daytona	244	0	186	186	76.23%
Total		1569	16	1116	1132	72.15%

DISTRICT 99						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0400	Orlando	456	3	246	249	54.61%
Total		456	3	246	249	54.61%