

MISSION AUXILIARY

SERVING HEROES

SITUATION REPORT



2026-2027

M.A.S.H

ALA-FL



SUCCESS IS THE ONLY OPTION

SEPTEMBER - 2026

President's SITREP

Mission Auxiliary: A Team That Shows Up and Shines

Let me start by saying **WHAT A FANTASTIC TEAM we have this year!** From day one, you proved that success isn't just a theme — it's who we are.

We hit the ground running at Boot Camp, and your Chairs showed up ready to work, ready to lead, and ready to serve our members. That energy carried straight into Workshop, where it absolutely showed. Our Chairs were on point with their presentations, confident in their knowledge, and fully committed to helping our members understand the mission and the processes that keep us moving forward.



And our members? They were eager, engaged, and ready to learn. The room was filled with purpose, the kind that reminds us why we do what we do.

Thank you to each of you who spent your time, your talents, and your treasures to deepen your understanding of our mission and how we serve our heroes. Your dedication is the heartbeat of this organization, and it's what makes our Department strong.

This year is already off to an incredible start, and it's because of YOU, your commitment, your teamwork, and your willingness to show up with purpose.

Please remember to reach out directly to our Department Chairs if you have questions about specific programs. They are your best resource, and they are eager to support you. While our office staff is always willing to help, they are bombarded with calls throughout the day. We have knowledgeable Chairs in place for a reason; let's utilize them to the fullest and make sure our members receive accurate, timely guidance.

If a Unit issue arises, please contact our UD&R Chair as well as me. We will do our very best to help and make sure the Unit gets back on track quickly and confidently.

I will be starting my visits in September, and I truly look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Connecting with our members is one of the best parts of this role, and I'm excited to spend time with you in your Districts.

Last but certainly not least, I want to welcome **Patsy Sewell**

to her new position as Department Secretary. She is going to do an amazing job, and I know her dedication will shine through in everything she does. Let's support her fully as she transitions into this role and help make her start a smooth and successful one.

Let's keep the momentum going. Success is the only option, and with this team, success is inevitable.

Linda Knoblauch-Harkness

AMERICANISM

CHAIRMAN: MARY FISH • AMERICANISM@ALAFL.ORG

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Auxiliary year. My name is Mary Fish and I am delighted to be this year's Americanism Chair. I look forward to seeing how our units engage and inform their communities throughout the year about the history of our great nation and the importance of promoting the ideals of justice, freedom and democracy.

Start your year off promoting patriotism in ways that bring people together rather than putting others down. Some practical approaches:

- **Serve your community:** Volunteer, help neighbors, participate in local projects, or support community organizations.
- **Learn your country's history:** Understand both its achievements and its mistakes. A mature patriotism includes learning from the past.
- **Participate in civic life:** Vote when eligible, stay informed about issues, attend community meetings, and respectfully engage in discussions.
- **Support local communities and businesses:** Contributing to the well-being of people around you is a concrete form of caring about your country.
- **Respect national symbols and traditions:** Participate in events such as national holidays or ceremonies if they are meaningful to you.
- **Encourage unity:** Treat people from different backgrounds as fellow citizens and look for shared values rather than emphasizing divisions.
- **Set a good example:** Be honest, responsible, respectful, and willing to help others. Everyday behavior can communicate patriotism more effectively than slogans.
- **Promote constructive pride:** Celebrate what your country does well while encouraging peaceful efforts to address problems that need improvement

A simple principle is: **don't just say you love your country—do something that makes life better for the people who live in it.**



CHAPLAIN

CHAIRMAN: KAREN MARKS • CHAPLAIN@ALAFL.ORG



Hello Auxiliary Family,

As we look at today, it's amazing to see that another season in life is coming.

Fall is my favorite season. I can honestly say I miss my time living up north and watching the leaves change. The colors were always magnificent. As they change, they slowly fall to the ground and then in spring those bright green leaves return.

Fall is a time of reflection for me. I look at the seasons like life if you will. Spring, the season of beginnings, the buds on the trees, the flowers rising, the rain bringing life to all the wonderful things

God has created. Then comes summer, the warmth, the blooms, the beautiful days (except all the rainy ones here in Florida). Yes, there are storms, as there are troubles in life, but we weather them together. Then fall, the colors, the cooler weather, the days of walking on the beach and listening to the waves crashing on the shores bring peace to many. And next comes winter, the time when we hibernate so to speak and enjoy the holiday times with our families. The weather cools the air, and the blankets come out to keep us warm. We huddle together with our loved ones and hopefully share the good things in life.

As people of faith, we know that we begin as a seed planted by God. We grow and bloom throughout our lives. We weather storms, we enjoy family and friends. We share our happiness and sorrows with the colors of the flowers and leaves, and then we wither away like the fallen leaves.

My friends, enjoy your lives and the gifts God has given you. Cherish your days, your families and loved ones. Pray for those who need God in their lives. We can and do make a difference when we open our hearts and lives to our Heavenly Father.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 it says, **"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."** So, in closing, **what is your season?** I'd love for you to share your seasons with me on our Facebook page. ALAFL Chaplain. Remember, to join you must answer the questions!

Let's all keep our faithfully departed in prayers. To the right is a list of the most recent deceased members that I have received. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Member Name	District	Unit
DeAnna Durnal	5	233
Kimberly Aselton	5	129
Amy Vallie	7	3
Gloria Gembala	8	159
Joyce Ludington	8	309
Pamela Stadel	8	113
Kerrie Schrock	8	74
Judith Severson	9	162
Judith K Miller	12	394
Nancy A Kachenmeister	12	395
Kim Bowie	12	318
Joann Buck	13	136
Doreen Martel	13	303
Paula Jackson	13	351
Leslie Brailey-Ginn	16	14
Robin Sprow	16	173



MISSION AUXILIARY SERVING HEROES

CHILDREN & YOUTH

PENNY KANBARA • CHILDRENYOUTH@ALAFL.ORG

American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth: Building Brighter Futures

The American Legion Auxiliary's Children & Youth program continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people, military families, and communities across our nation.

Children of our nation's veterans often face unique challenges, especially when a parent is deployed, recovering from an injury, or adjusting to life after service. The Auxiliary remains committed to standing beside these families. By offering encouragement, practical assistance, and a caring community, we honor the sacrifices made by both our veterans and their children.

Youth programs also give young people a chance to become involved in service early in life. Volunteering at community events, participating in patriotic observances, helping with donation drives, and supporting local veterans are meaningful ways for children and teens to develop leadership, compassion, and respect for our country.

Our committee is excited for this coming year putting a focus on making a difference in Children's lives, from spotlighting charities that focus on overall child well being from Camp Boggy Creek to John's Hopkins All Children's to everything else in between, to promoting kindness and to stand up against bullying in our schools.

Together, we can help nurture confident, caring, and patriotic young people—our future leaders—and demonstrate that the American Legion Auxiliary is always there for veterans, military families, and the children who carry their legacy forward.

#MASH – we are mentoring tomorrow's leaders.

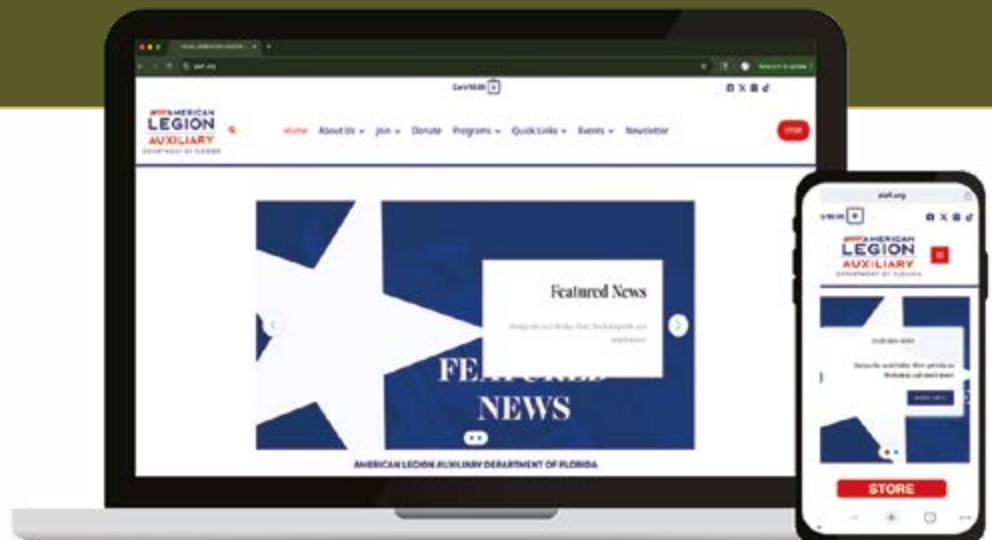


VISIT ALAFL.ORG

★ FORMS

★ INFO

★ EVENTS



EDUCATION

CHAIRMAN: DAWN DAVIS • EDUCATION@ALAFL.ORG



By now, most Units have attended their School of Instruction and received their Operation Knowledge Passport. This passport is this year's Education Chairman's Award and is designed to help Units work the Education Program throughout the year while learning more about what our program is really about.

One of the first things I would like each Unit to do is create its own Unit stamp for the passport. There are no rules for what your stamp needs to look like; it just needs to represent your Unit! Include your Unit number, your city, a symbol, mascot, or something completely different. Have fun with it and make it your own! You will use your stamp as you complete your Operation Knowledge missions throughout the year.

When I created Operation Knowledge, I wanted it to be more than just another award. I wanted to find a way to help our members understand the Education Program and, more importantly, give Units ideas for actually working the program in their communities.

Everything we do in Education connects back to our five key program statements:

- To promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults.
- To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms.
- To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education.
- To support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities.
- To support the Education Program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion.

These five statements are what will guide Operation Knowledge throughout the year.

Each month, I will share different missions that Units can complete to help fill their passports. The missions will give you ideas for supporting students, schools, teachers, veterans, scholarships, military children, and the Education Program. You may also use the different Education activities shared throughout the year as you work toward completing your passport.

As you complete your missions, take pictures and keep track of what your Unit is doing. Not only will you be working toward completing Operation Knowledge, but you will also be collecting the information you will need when it is time to write your narrative and complete your year-end report. Instead of trying to remember in the spring everything you did throughout the year, you will already have your activities, pictures, and accomplishments documented.

When your Unit has filled its passport, take a picture of it and send it in along with photos of your completed missions. All Units completing Operation Knowledge will be recognized, and the most creative passports in each membership grouping will be presented with an award.

So, pull out those passports, create your Unit stamp, and get ready for this month's missions!

Operation Knowledge is officially underway!

MISSION AUXILIARY SERVING HEROES

GIRLS STATE

CHAIRMAN: PATRICIA HALLIDAY • GIRLSSTATE@ALAFL.ORG

★ **ATTENTION DISTRICTS!** ★

★ HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE ★

DONATE A BASKET

★ FOR THE ★

GIRLS STATE

RAFFLE

AT FALL CONFERENCE!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We are asking each District to donate a raffle basket to help support the ALA Girls State Program.

UNITS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ARE ALSO WELCOME!

★ **BRING YOUR BASKET TO** ★

FALL CONFERENCE!

Every basket makes a difference and helps raise funds for our amazing Girls State Program.

A GIFT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE UNIT/INDIVIDUAL AND DISTRICT BASKET THAT IS MOST LUCRATIVE!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

★ YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS BUILD TOMORROW'S LEADERS! ★



GIRLS STATE

CHAIRMAN: PATRICIA HALLIDAY • GIRLSSTATE@ALAFL.ORG

GABBY THE GAVEL

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

YOUR DESIGN OUR LEGACY.

Show your creativity and spirit by designing the official Girl State t-shirt!

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

SUBMIT YOUR ORIGINAL DESIGN TO:
girlstate@alafl.org

HOW TO ENTER:

- WINNER WILL BE VOTED ON BY MEMBERS AT FALL CONFERENCE
- BE CREATIVE. BE BOLD. BE GABBY!

HONOR. LEADERSHIP. SERVICE.

HISTORIAN

CHAIRMAN: JULIE KAY • HISTORIAN@ALAFL.ORG

As summer winds down, it's the perfect time to make a plan for documenting the Auxiliary year ahead. This year's theme, **Memories, Archived, Shared and Honored**, reminds us that **history is made every day**.

M ~ Memories

Every Unit has memories worth preserving. Luncheons, ceremonies, scholarship presentations and quiet service moments all shape our story. Capture these memories while they are fresh with photos, dates, names and key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why).

A ~ Archived

Once those memories are collected, they need a place to live. Establish an organizational system now, whether binders or cloud storage. Save newsletters, photos, flyers, and awards and ensure digital files are safely backed up.

Remember: everyone can help submit photos and notes to support our Historians.

S ~ Shared

History isn't meant to sit quietly in a filing cabinet. Share stories through Unit communications, the [Situation Report newsletter](#), and our [ALAFL History Facebook page](#). Displays at meetings can also engage members and celebrate our shared achievements across Florida.

One Unit's story becomes part of the District story. The District stories become part of Department history. Together, they become the story of the American Legion Auxiliary in Florida.

H ~ Honored

Most importantly, we Honor the people behind our mission. Recognize the Veterans, families and dedicated volunteers behind our mission ~ including those making quiet contributions behind the scenes.

Every act of service is part of our history.

A September History Check-Up

Historians, start documenting now! Let's make sure we capture the people, service and dedication behind our reports as we fulfill our mission: **MASH ~ Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes.**

MEMORIES ~ Capture them. ARCHIVED ~ Preserve them. SHARED ~ Tell them. HONORED ~ Celebrate them.

Today is Tomorrow's History! Document it, preserve it, share it and honor it!

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."

- Albert Einstein



M.A.S.H.



JUNIORS

CHAIRMAN: ANDREA O'NEAL • JUNIORS@ALAFL.ORG



My name is Andrea O'Neal and I have the incredible honor of serving as your Department of Florida Junior Activities Chairperson this year. There is one thing you are going to learn about me very quickly: I am ridiculously, unapologetically FIRED UP about our Juniors. I came into this year with big ideas, bigger goals, a whole lot of camouflage, entirely too much caffeine, and absolutely ZERO intention of being quiet about these girls.

This year our Cadets are on a mission to SERVE, LEAD, strengthen their COMMUNITIES, and GROW, and I don't want them sitting on the sidelines watching the adults do all the work. Give them the microphone. Give them the project. Give them responsibility. Let them come up with the crazy idea. Let them try. Let them fail. Let them try again. Give them the opportunity to discover just how much they are capable of.

I wish I had known about the Junior Activities program when I was a Junior. I wish someone had introduced me to a place where I could

serve, lead, find my voice, make lifelong friendships and have strong women standing behind me saying, "You can do this." Now, as the mother of a Junior member myself, this is personal to me. When I look at these girls, I see my own daughter, and I want every single one of them to grow up knowing that her voice matters, her ideas matter, and she is capable of doing BIG things.

We're not just shaping the future leaders of the American Legion Auxiliary. We're shaping young women. Sitting among our Juniors today could be a future teacher, doctor, attorney, military officer, business owner, Department President, National President, Governor—or who knows, maybe even the first female President of the United States. We have absolutely no idea who these girls are going to become, and that's the incredible part. We get to be there at the beginning, before the degrees, careers and titles, telling them, "I see you. I believe in you. Your voice matters. Now go do something big."

So Florida, I'm challenging every single one of you: RECRUIT ONE. If your Unit only has one Junior, GREAT. Start with one. Invite her. Welcome her. Give her something meaningful to do. Make her feel like she belongs, and give her an experience so incredible that she brings a friend the next time. One Junior becomes two. Two become five. And before you know it, you've built something.

So I have one question for every member reading this: Have you recruited your Junior yet? If not, what are you waiting for?

Cadets, grab your gear and report for duty. It's time to put Camouflage into Action. Florida, LET'S GO BUILD THE FUTURE

#FLJrsOnAMission

MISSION AUXILIARY SERVING HEROES

LEADERSHIP

CHAIRMAN: JANET WOOD • LEADERSHIP@ALAFL.ORG

Keep Learning, Keep Leading – Success is the only option!
Attending your School of Instruction was a great start—now let's keep the momentum going by attending your District ABC School! If you're a District President, you can find the ABC School Request Form on ALAFL.org under Quick Links > Department Forms.



Knowledge is one of the greatest tools a leader can possess. Continued learning builds confidence, strengthens leadership, and prepares us to better serve our veterans,

their families, our communities, and one another. Remember, knowledge is not a secret—it is available to every member. Your leadership toolbox is essential to success.

These resources will help you make informed decisions, answer questions with confidence, strengthen your leadership skills, and guide your Unit to a successful year. The more you learn, the more you can inspire others. Keep learning, keep growing, and keep leading with confidence as we continue our Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes. Together, we make a difference.



- ★ Department Unit Guide (available in print or on ALAFL.org)
- ★ National Unit Guide
- ★ Robert's Rules of Order
- ★ Committee Guides and Program Pamphlets
- ★ Your Unit Bylaws and Standing Rules
- ★ New Member Guide (ALAFL.org)
- ★ ALA Academy
- ★ Program Engagement Plans (ALAFL.org)
- ★ ALAFL Committee Facebook Groups (be sure to answer all membership questions)
- ★ District Facebook Groups
- ★ District/Unit Meetings
- ★ Books and resources on leadership, teamwork, and volunteer organizations

LEGISLATIVE

CHAIRMAN: YVETTE MOORE • LEGISLATIVE@ALAFL.ORG



My name is Yvette Moore, and I am honored to serve as the 2026–2027 Department Legislative Chairman for the American Legion Auxiliary. As we Plant the Seeds of Grassroots Advocacy this year, my focus will be on engagement—encouraging every member to stay informed, active, and involved in the legislative process.

Grassroots advocacy begins with each of us. Our voices matter, and when we stand together, our collective voice becomes a powerful force for change. We have a responsibility to understand the issues affecting our veterans, military families, and communities, and to ensure that those issues are heard by the people who have the power to make a difference. Because this is an election year, it is especially important that we exercise one of the most powerful rights we have as citizens—the right to vote. I also encourage every Unit and Post to invite candidates to visit and engage with our members. Let them hear firsthand, from the people who serve and advocate for our heroes, about the challenges facing veterans, military families, and our communities.

This year, let us plant the seeds of advocacy, nurture them through education and engagement, and watch them grow into

meaningful action. When we speak with one voice, build relationships, and take action, we can help create the change our veterans and their families deserve.

Together, let's make 2026–2027 a year of purpose, participation, and powerful grassroots advocacy. Zoom meetings to start up in October.



MEMBERSHIP CONT. FROM PAGE 13

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Brigade Challenge

HIGHEST MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE THIS YEAR!

1 USMC UH-1 HUEY	VS	12 SPACE FORCE MERCURY
2 USMC AH-1 COBRA	VS	14 ARMY M-26 PERSHING
3 NAVY F4U CORSAIR	VS	7 AIR FORCE F-4 PHANTOM II
4 NAVY USS ENTERPRISE	VS	8 COAST GUARD USCGC TANEY
5 NAVY AC-130 SPECTRE	VS	9 ARMY M-18 HELLCAT
6 SPACE FORCE APOLLO-11	VS	13 COAST GUARD USCGC EAGLE
11 ARMY M-48 PATTON	VS	15 AIR FORCE M-51 MUSTANG
16 AIR FORCE P-38 LIGHTNING	VS	17 NAVY P-47 THUNDERBOLT

★ Stronger Together. Serving Veterans. Honoring Sacrifice. ★

handful of Units that do not have a Post home. Whether it be because they are a new Unit within a new Post family that is still working on building a facility, or they are still rebuilding from hurricanes or other tragedies, or in a sadder circumstance, are having struggles with their Post for whatever reason, there are members out there that cannot and do not define their Unit by the confines of four walls. It is truly all about the mission for them! It is the example that they set, when there is no defined gathering spot or 'watering hole' yet these Units still strive to hit their goals in renewing and recruiting and working the mission, and that should be inspiration to all of us.

I will be on the MOVE again this month and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. At the time of this writing, I am scheduled to be in District 1 on the 12th, so I hope to see you there. And until the road brings me to you, #LetsMOVE!

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN: TAMMY ZELL • MEMBERSHIPCHAIRMAN@ALAFL.ORG

September greetings to all our Troops across this great Department of Florida! As we "MOVE" into September, now is the time to get not only those renewals, but also the new members processed in ALA MIS. We have our first goal date this month on September 15th for 35%. I can't wait to see how all your efforts in holding early bird renewal events over the past few months have paid off for your Platoons (Units)!! If you haven't already joined our Facebook group – ALAFL Membership – be sure to do so as I will be blasting out the announcement of all the Platoons that have hit that goal on there!

Now that we can truly start tracking our percentages (and all of us ALA MIS report junkies get our fix), I wanted to take this opportunity to announce the Brigade (District) challenges for the upcoming year. My predecessor, Dawn Davis, had done a really good job in matching everyone up last year with many having very tight races throughout the year, so I am not going to make any changes to those pairings. Those that didn't come out on top can have a 'revenge match' this year! Everyone has had time to reflect back on what they might have done differently or make changes to their processes, so here is your chance to put those thoughts and ideas into motion. From what I've been seeing online, many of you have already started new recruiting/renewing programs, so let's see how quickly that impacts our reports. Below is a graphic of the matchups for this year. This has been added to the PEP documents on alafl.org as well as in the files on our Facebook page. For a little added fun and competition, it is suggested to the Executive Officers (District Presidents), to consider challenging the other with a donation to President Linda's special project, Girls State, if they have the lower percentage by Department's close of books on May 26, 2027.

In August I had the opportunity to visit three of our Districts for their Schools of Instruction – 13th, 8th, and 16th. I truly appreciate the invitations to attend and loved seeing all the enthusiasm not just for membership, but for all of the programs this year. It is very apparent that our Troops at the grass roots level have already put a lot of thought and hard work into their local missions and will be making a great impact in the days, weeks and months ahead. During my visits, I had the opportunity to talk one on one with some of you and the conversations were so thoughtful on trying our hardest to make our Units be the best they can be. I had one person ask me, to paraphrase, that once we have been successful in recruiting, what do we do next to keep them? After asking a few questions, my suggestion was to make sure they kept in communication with their members. A newsletter, a quick email about upcoming events, or for smaller Units, maybe even a text blast to let everyone know what activities are coming up and how they can get involved goes a long way in showing that their membership matters. One chairman had even mentioned during their briefing that a great way of keeping the lines of communication open is to involve members that might be homebound and having them make phone calls to others in getting them to renew or volunteer for upcoming events. This not only gets the word out about events, but it also helps that person stay involved, as well...such a great idea!! If any of you have other ideas that have been successful in retaining the members and keeping them involved, I would love to hear your ideas. Feel free to send an email to membershipchairman@alafl.org or message me through our Facebook group.

In another conversation, which really spoke volumes about our member's dedication to the ALA, and it is a factor that I had not really thought about previously that really touched my heart. Here in the Department of Florida, we have a

(article continues)



NATIONAL SECURITY

CHAIRMAN: CHERYL ADAMS • NATIONALSECURITY@ALAFL.ORG



Welcome to a new year in the American Legion Auxiliary. It is an honor and to serve as your 2026-2027 National Security Chair. Our mission this year cannot be accomplished without the support and assistance of our National Security Squad members, and I am proud to introduce this dedicated team: Tammy Bradley and Terri Messersmith (Western Area), Sue Reynolds (Northern Area), Patty Delgado (Central & Eastern Area) and Sandy Swafford (Southern and Southwestern Area). These dedicated members are here to support, educate, and encourage our districts and units throughout the year as we work together to support our military, veterans, their families, and our communities.

August was a busy month! District Chairs presented the National Security Program at Schools of Instruction, while units and members supported military families by distributing school supplies through Operation Homefront and participating in Purple Heart Recognition Day events. What a great way to begin our year of service!

As you work the National Security Program throughout the year, remember to share your missions and hard work.

Take pictures with your district's

assigned military vehicle and use #SupportOnTheMove when posting on social media. Be sure to also share your activities and adventures on the ALAFL National Security Facebook page. Remember—the more National Security missions you complete and share, the more points you can earn toward the Department Chair Award!

September Dates to Remember:

- National Suicide Prevention Month – Month of September
- National Service Dog Mont – Month of September
- V-J (Victory over Japan) – Sept. 2
- Patriot Day – Sept. 11
- Air Force (USAF) Birthday – Sept. 18
- Air National Guard Birthday – Sept. 18
- National POW / MIA Recognition Day – Sept. 19
- Gold Star Mother's Day – Sept. 27
- VFW Day – Sept. 29



How Can You Support the National Security Program In September?

- Display the POW/MIA flag at your unit meeting or event.
- Host or attend a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony or Gold Star Family event.
- Conduct a Missing Man Table ceremony in remembrance of our POW/MIAs.
- Host a meal at your American Legion Post honoring families who have lost a servicemember.
- Offer assistance, such as running errands or providing respite and support to a Gold Star family member.
- Recognize military working and service dogs and the important roles they play in supporting servicemembers and veterans.
- Share your activities using #SupportOnTheMove so we can celebrate National Security in action throughout Florida!

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time for the American Legion Family to strengthen our commitment to supporting servicemembers, veterans, first responders, and others who may be facing a crisis. Through Be the One, The American Legion works to reduce servicemember and veteran suicide through awareness, education, and action. American Legion Family members are encouraged to participate in The American Legion–Columbia University Be the

(article continues ➡)

PAST PRESIDENT PARLEY

CHAIRMAN: DEE BELL • PAST PRESIDENTPARLEY@ALAFL.ORG

Welcome to 2026-2027 Mission Auxiliary: Serving Heroes Past Presidents Parley program, 4 R's Respect, Recognize, Remember and Roses. My name is Dee Bell and I am thrilled to be the committee chair.

Who is considered a past president?

1. A member who has served as President for one full term.
2. A member who has served as President for part of a year and due to illness or circumstances beyond their control, had to resign.
3. A 1st. Vice President who acting as and assumed the duties and responsibilities of the President due to resignation or death of the President.
4. A two-term President is considered a past president at the end of their first term.



Thank You for your Service

Dee Bell

23-24 Past Department President

Past Presidents Parley Chair

727-804-2385

NATIONAL SECURITY CONT. FROM PAGE 14

One training to learn how to recognize warning signs, communicate effectively, and respond appropriately to someone in crisis. Training opportunities and resources are available at BeTheOne.org/training. If a servicemember or veteran is in crisis, dial 988, then press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

By Mobilizing Outstanding Volunteers Everywhere (#LetsMOVE), we look forward to seeing all that you accomplish this year as we carry out our Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes (#M.A.S.H.) campaign. Every project, every act of service, and every mission—large or small—helps demonstrate our commitment to those who serve our nation and the families who stand beside them.

As one anonymous quote reminds us: "They stand ready to defend our nation; we stand ready to support them and their families."

So, let's get those military vehicles moving, complete our missions, and show Florida what #SupportOnTheMove looks like!



POPPY

CHAIRMAN: VIRNA LUKE • POPPY@ALAFL.ORG



The Poppy Isn't a Season. It's a Promise.

September reminds us that honoring our Veterans isn't limited to Memorial Day. Every day we have the opportunity to **Remember.**

Honor. Inspire. Serve.

This month, we invite every American Legion Auxiliary member to make one simple commitment:

Wear Your Poppy Every Day

Your poppy is more than a flower—it is a visible reminder of our mission and an opportunity to start conversations about veterans, military families, and the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program. Whether you're attending a meeting, volunteering, shopping, or spending time in your community, wear it with purpose.

September Moments to Remember

September 11 – Patriot Day & National Day of Service and Remembrance

Honor the lives lost, thank our first responders, and perform one act of service in your community.

September 18 –

U.S. Air National Guard Birthday

Recognize the Air National Guard members who stand ready to protect our nation at home and abroad.

Third Friday in September – National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Take a moment to remember those who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action. Attend a local ceremony, display the POW/MIA flag, or share their stories so they are never forgotten.

September 26 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

Reach out to a Gold Star family in your community with a card, visit, or words of gratitude. Their sacrifice deserves our continued remembrance.

Your September Poppy Promise

Choose one action this month:

- Wear your poppy every day.
- Thank a veteran or service member.
- Send a card or make a phone call to someone who may need encouragement.
- Share the meaning of the poppy with a child, friend, or neighbor.
- Post a photo wearing your poppy and encourage others to do the same.

Small acts, repeated throughout the year, create lasting impact.

Together, let's continue showing our communities that **the poppy isn't a season—it's a promise.**

Remember. Honor. Inspire. Serve.

SEPTEMBER

POPPY CHALLENGE

Wear Your
Poppy
EVERY DAY!

Wear your poppy throughout September and share your photos on social media using **#PoppyPromise.**

Show others how you
WEAR IT WITH PURPOSE.

The Poppy Isn't a Season. It's a Promise.
REMEMBER. HONOR. INSPIRE. SERVE.

#PoppyPromise

Cheryl Coutermash • Unit 348, Cape Canaveral

PUBLIC RELATIONS

CHAIRMAN: EILEEN SCATES • PUBLICRELATIONS@ALAFL.ORG

Greetings, Department of Florida!

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your 2026–2027 Department Public Relations Chairperson. I am super excited for the year ahead! With my Amazing Team, Patricia Grayshaw and Trish Gardner, we have the opportunity to work alongside our members and Units as we share the incredible story of the American Legion Auxiliary throughout Florida.

Public Relations is more than making flyers, posting on Facebook, or sending information to the local newspaper. Public Relations is how we tell our story.

Every time an Auxiliary member serves a Veteran, supports a military family, awards a scholarship, teaches a child about patriotism, distributes a poppy, volunteers in the community, or simply makes someone smile — there is a story worth telling.

And if we don't tell our story, who will?

This year, through M.A.S.H. — Mission Auxiliary • Serving Heroes, our Public Relations mission is simple: Make The Mission Visible.

I encourage every Unit to make Public Relations part of every program, project, and event — not something we add at the end. Take the pictures. Share the stories. Celebrate your members. Show your community who we are, what we do, and why we do it!

Don't be scared! #ProgressOverPerfection!

You don't need to be a graphic designer, social media expert, or marketing professional to have a successful Public Relations program. Throughout the year, we will share simple tools, tips, ideas, graphics, and resources to help our Units Connect, Capture, Communicate, Celebrate, and Invite.

September's PR Mission Challenge!

This month, I challenge every Unit to:

- Tell Your Story: Share at least one photo or story showing your Unit's mission in action.
- Introduce Your Unit: Tell your community who you are, where you are located, and what the American Legion Auxiliary does.
- Make It Easy to Find You: For public events, always include the complete street address and city, along with the date and time.
- Celebrate the Mission: Recognize an August patriotic or military observance and explain why it matters.
- Spotlight a Member: Introduce someone who makes your Unit special and share why they serve.
- Invite Engagement: Give people a reason to comment, share, attend, volunteer, or learn more about the Auxiliary.

And don't forget to tag the Department of Florida so we can see, share, and celebrate what your Unit is doing!

Good Public Relations can inspire a volunteer, attract a new member, connect a Veteran with resources, bring someone to an event, or create a new community partnership.

We aren't promoting ourselves simply for recognition. We are promoting the mission.

Every photograph tells part of our story. Every post expands our reach. Every connection strengthens our mission.

So, this year, don't keep your great work a secret!

- Take the picture.
- Tell the story.
- Share the impact.
- Celebrate the mission.

Because when our communities understand who we are, what we do, and why we do it, we strengthen the American Legion Auxiliary for generations to come.

Mission Auxiliary • Serving Heroes
Make The Mission Visible



FALL CONFERENCE

250

AMERICA

1776 ★ 2026

HONORING OUR PAST
SERVING OUR FUTURE

President & Commander's DINNER

★ A Night to Honor, Celebrate & Serve! ★

Saturday
NOVEMBER
21ST,
2026

WE WANT
★ YOU! ★

COCKTAIL HOUR
6PM ★

DINNER & DJ
7PM - 9PM

PALMS

USO

★ ★ ★
SAVE
— THE —
DATE

AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY

More
information
coming soon!

★
Start planning
your MASH
outfit now!

DISTRICTS & UNITS

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida units are Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes! The next few pages highlight achievements, meetings, and donations throughout the community.

DISTRICT 1 UNIT 193



Honoring the Flag

We had a very special visitor at the Hanniton-Watts Post 193! Retired Military member Roger Mccarter stopped by to drop off an American flag for proper retirement. We were absolutely honored to accept it for processing and ensure it receives the respectful disposal it deserves. Thank you, Roger, for your service and for trusting Unit 193 with this important duty!

Community Outreach & Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R)

Pamela Croll has continued to return back to Gulf Coast Kids House with donations and they sent a heartfelt card giving thanks to her contributions.



Junior member Lauren was welcomed back from Girls State and with senior Karastin Collins provided a welcome back gift. Celebrating Lauren's return and the peer support from Karastin directly reinforces the Auxiliary's commitment to empowering young women, fostering leadership, and encouraging active participation among Junior members to sustain the future of the organization.

DISTRICT 8

Welcome everyone to the new 2026-2027 year. I am very excited to be able to be the District 8 President again. This year District 8 is going to focus on reporting. Some of the things you do almost daily, such as saying the Pledge of Allegiance, at meetings, at the ballpark, and events you attend can be counted as Americanism. So go to alafl.org and look at your YEAR END REPORTS to see what you need to track and START NOW.

I want to welcome and congratulate all of our officers and let them know I am proud of them for stepping up to accept these positions and looking forward to a Great District 8 year! Cause District 8 is Great!

Shelby Taylor
District 8 President



DISTRICT 15 UNIT 418

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. I am Margaret (Peggy) Cannella, the new Public Relations and Leadership chair for Unit 418. I am the Daughter of a Vietnam Veteran, the Granddaughter is 2 WW II Veterans, the great niece of many veterans, the Ex-Wife of a former Marine, Army National Guardsman, the VERY proud Daughter of the former Auxiliary Secretary of Post 36 in Ft. Lauderdale, the niece/Goddaughter of a former Commander and current Boy's State chair of Post 36 in Ft. Lauderdale and the VERY proud Mother of an Army Solider. I will do my best to keep everyone updated of past, present and future activities and events.



July 10th was the installation of officers for 2026 at Unit 418. I want to send out a HUGE Congratulations to the officers of Unit 418. Our President Jody Koenig, 1st Vice Linda Allen, 2nd Vice Terry Revetta, Chaplin Gaye Hieb. I would also like to congratulate Laurie Michael and Unit 418 on our 100% Membership award. Great job!! Looking forward to a great year.



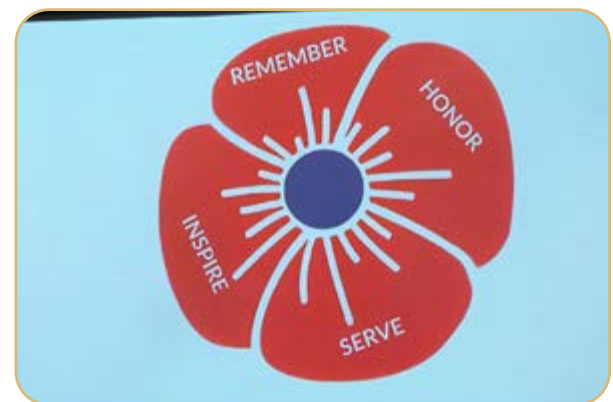
I would like to give a shout out to Unit 418 First Vice Linda Allen and the ALR for a fabulous Bike Night fundraiser for November 18th's Stand Down for our Veterans in need and their families. A great time was had by all.

DISTRICT 15 UNIT 418

The Unit 418 dessert, Bracelet and poppy table for Fish Fry Friday is always a hit. We could still use more volunteers. It's a great time. Don't forget to wear your red shirts to support our deployed.



Unit 418 President Jody Koenig and National Security Chair Marguerite Humet Attended the ALAFL Mission Auxiliary Serving Heroes (M.A.S.H.) conference. They came back with some very interesting information and valuable lessons. I personally learned a lot from the information I was given.



DISTRICT 15 UNIT 418

Spring Hill salute to our Veterans at the end of the night.



It's Back to School time!! There is a School Supply donation box in the Canteen for Children and Teacher in need of supplies. Let's make is a great school year for everyone. If you have any questions please contact me. Spread the word to family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, Etc.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Tools Today. Success Tomorrow.

Help local students start the school year with confidence by providing the supplies they need to learn, grow, and thrive! ♥

Small donations make a **BIG** difference!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

✓ Backpacks	✓ Notebooks
✓ Pencils	✓ Loose Leaf Paper
✓ Pens	✓ Folders
✓ Crayons	✓ Glue Sticks
✓ Markers	✓ Scissors
✓ Colored Pencils	✓ Rulers
✓ Highlighters	✓ Erasers

Thank you for helping our students shine! ♥

ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL STUDENTS. ♥

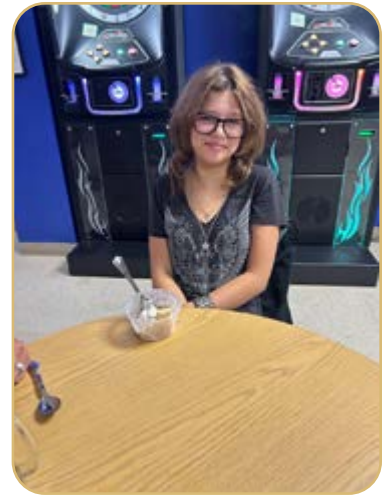
DROP OFF LOCATION:
American Legion Post 418
14736 Edward R Nolls Dr. ♥

♥ **QUESTIONS?**
✉ Peggy Cannella
tysmommie06@gmail.com
☎ (352) 773-6055

☆ **BE KIND. BE GENEROUS. BE THE REASON A STUDENT SMILES.** ♥

DISTRICT 15 UNIT 418

August 9th was the Sundae Sunday School Supplies event at the Post. A big thank you to Unit 418 Chaplin and VA & R Chair Gaye Hieb for putting organizing such a special program.



MISSION AUXILIARY SERVING HEROES

DISTRICT 11 UNIT 199

Greetings from ALA WPB Unit #199

Oh give thanks to our Lord for the provision of grace and mercy towards all people . He is why we are living!

Our 2nd Annual New Beginnings Retreat was a great success!! What a wonderful time we had training!! We rolled out our Patton M48 Tanks ready for Service!! We received our mission plans and effectively executed setting up our station at LaBamba Restaurant in North Palm Beach.

Our ALA WPB Unit #199 President Jeanna Smiley and the Leadership provided the materials we needed to update our auxiliary notebooks, shared the info on this year's budget, continued to express the importance of getting involved with our committee programs and the need to fill vacancies, and our Poppy Committee Chairperson Renee Cunningham gave us great news! Our Poppy Committee is in full effect to help many more veterans this year!!

We shared the updated New Department President's colors and shirts, hats and pins!! Army Bingo was a big hit!!! The winners received gifts and the Auxiliary sisters are looking forward to playing before our meetings and so much more!!

We honored our Past President Elizabeth Robinson-Dixon and presented her with a beautiful plaque and gifts for her

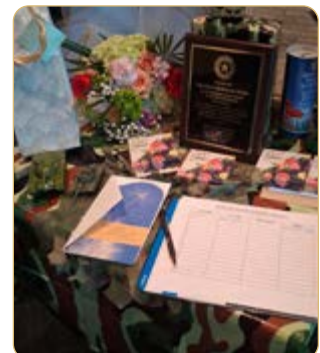


7 years of service to ALA WPB Unit #199. Congratulations on a job well done she is now currently our unit's 2nd Vice President.

Unit 199 love for God and Country shine brightly through our patriotic decorations. The American flag was present throughout and we represented proudly with our Patton M48 Army Tanks!! We understand the assignment of Mission Auxiliary Serving Heros and ALA WPB Unit #199 is reporting for duty!!

Thank you Ladies of ALA WPB Unit #199 you are appreciated!

#MASH #LetsMOVE #PassionForVets #HeartsAsOne #Unit199reports #District11reports



DISTRICT 15 UNIT 152

UNIT 152 REPORTING FOR DUTY

Unit 152 is officially off and running! As always, our members are actively working our programs, supporting our veterans, serving our community, and—most importantly—making a difference in the lives of others.

MISSION: EDUCATION — SUCCESS IS THE ONLY OPTION

We kicked off our year with our annual school supply collection, and we are incredibly proud to report that 137 backpacks filled with school necessities have been distributed to Hillsborough County children as they begin the new school year. That number represents more than backpacks. It represents children walking into their classrooms prepared, confident, and ready to learn. And none of this happens alone. We LOVE our village! The generosity and support of our members, families, friends, schools, businesses, and community partners made this mission possible. Once again, our village proved what can happen when we all pull together.

MISSION: SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Our next mission is already underway. We are collecting Christmas cards for our troops because, while many service members will receive cards from home, some may not have anyone waiting to send them a simple message of appreciation. We want to make sure they know they have not been forgotten. We have also reached out to several of our partner schools to see if their students would like to write letters to our service members. We are told that letters from children are especially treasured by our troops, and we can't wait to see the smiles those letters bring.

MISSION: GIRLS STATE

We may still be working on filling a few chairs, but that isn't going to stop Unit 152 from carrying out the mission! We are currently searching for outstanding young women to represent Unit 152 at Girls State. We are looking for students who are ready to learn, lead, participate, and discover what it means to be involved in our democratic process. And yes... we are still hoping that one day a Governor comes from Unit 152! You never know where tomorrow's leaders are going to come from. Why not here?

MISSION: LEGISLATION

Legislation may be one of our more challenging programs, but challenging has never stopped Unit 152.

Unit President Sheryl Kinsler recently sent a letter to Governor DeSantis requesting consideration of a second tax holiday in December or January, when Florida families are preparing for children to return to school for the second semester. The request highlights the financial challenges many families are facing and the difference an additional tax holiday could make when purchasing those much-needed school supplies, clothing, and other necessities. But we aren't stopping with one letter. A generic letter template has been made available for members who would like to contact their state senators and encourage support for creating an additional tax holiday. And what's next? Our retailers. The goal is to reach out to retailers and invite them to become champions of this effort and help us advocate for Florida families. Because legislation isn't just about knowing the process. It's about using our voices to make a difference.

UNIT 152 — STILL ON MISSION

This is only a brief snapshot of what Unit 152 is accomplishing as we begin another year of service.

We may not have every chair filled yet. We may not have every mission completed. But we have members who are willing to show up, step up, and get the job done.

So, Madam President... Unit 152 is requesting permission to carry on. And somehow, I have a feeling the answer is going to be:

PERMISSION GRANTED.



Honoring a Lifetime of Service

The Inaugural Carol McAteer Service, Not Self Award

On Saturday, July 11, 2026, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 271 celebrated the installation of its new officers and honored those who embody the ideals of the Auxiliary: Service, Not Self. This year, the celebration also marked the beginning of a special new tradition—the Carol McAteer Service, Not Self Award.

The award was created to honor an individual whose lifetime of dedication, leadership, sacrifice, and quiet service reflects the highest ideals of the American Legion Auxiliary. It will not be presented every year, but reserved for those rare occasions when a member's extraordinary service deserves to be remembered for generations. There could be no more fitting inaugural recipient than the woman whose example inspired the award itself: Carol McAteer.

A Lifetime of Service

Carol began her Auxiliary journey in New York, joining because of her deep love for our military, veterans, and nation. After transferring her membership to Florida, she brought that same commitment to Unit 271.

Over the years, Carol became one of the steady forces behind the unit's strength and success. Her leadership record includes:

Secretary: 2010–2011

President: Four consecutive terms, 2012–2016

Secretary: 2017–2018

Chaplain: 2018–2021

Secretary: 2021–2026

Sergeant-at-Arms: Continuing today

Yet Carol's contribution cannot be measured by titles alone. She never sought recognition; she simply stepped forward whenever her unit needed her. She has shared her knowledge, mentored new leaders, supported fellow members, and remained dedicated to serving veterans and their families.

The Meaning Behind the Award

The Carol McAteer Service, Not Self Award represents more than an achievement—it represents a standard.

Carol has shown that true leadership is not about titles or recognition. It is about showing up, lifting others, and serving faithfully and consistently, even when no one is watching. Her legacy lives on in the members she has mentored, the veterans she has served, and the example she has set for future generations.

The decision to create an award bearing Carol's name was kept secret until the day it was presented. Unit members quietly gathered her remarkable history of service and prepared a tribute worthy of her dedication.

When the surprise was revealed, Carol became the first recipient of the award that will forever connect her name with the ideals she has spent more than a decade demonstrating.

Shirley Rearick, who presented the inaugural award, expressed what so many members of Unit 271 feel:

"It is my absolute privilege and greatest honor to present the very first Carol McAteer Service, Not Self Award to the woman whose lifetime of service inspired it, Carol McAteer. Carol, please accept this award as a lasting expression of our deepest gratitude, admiration, and love."

A Legacy of Service

Carol McAteer has shown us that a lifetime of service does not always happen in the spotlight. Sometimes it happens quietly—in a meeting, at an event, while helping a fellow member, supporting a veteran, mentoring a new officer, or simply stepping forward when someone is needed.

That is Service, Not Self.

May everyone who receives this award in the years ahead understand what its name represents: not perfection, position, or prestige, but a lifetime of putting others first.

Congratulations, Carol, on being the first recipient of the Carol McAteer Service, Not Self Award. Your service has made a difference, your leadership has made a difference, and your example will continue to make a difference for generations to come.

Unit 271 is proud to honor you—and even prouder to call you one of our own.



DISTRICT 15 UNIT 186

Once again, ALA Unit 186 in District 15, with a 3 day window this year was successful in being able to congratulate the 20 homeless graduates in Hernando County, FL while partnering with "Students and Families in Transition". This group works with the McKinney Vento program; a Government program which enables students to receive their High School Diplomas, despite the obstacles they have to overcome. Previously, the unit had supplied backpacks filled with personal care items, snacks, a cozy blanket and a Graduation memento commemorating their Special day. The 3 day window posed a problem. This special project was too important and "Failure was not an option". Walmart Gift cards were suggested. Gift cards and special bags were purchased. Inside of each was a gift card, a hand-written notice of congratulations, a dated Graduation water bottle, and even a little snack bag w/ juice. The date was scheduled so personal deliveries by the Director could be made prior to each school's Graduation. The members truly hope these graduates will MOVE ON to brighter futures with their Diplomas.

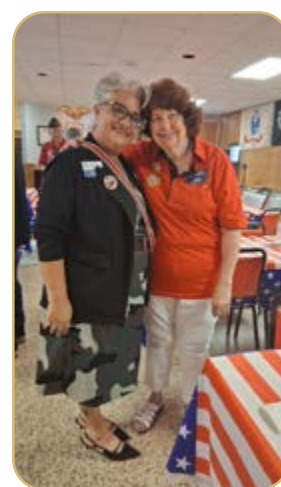
DISTRICT 15

WOW – Where has time gone? It is just over a month ago that we gathered at Department Bootcamp with some amazing Department Officers and Program Chairs. This was truly a fabulous turn out, and we all are looking forward to sMASHing great year, as SUCCESS IS THE ONLY OPTION. As a previous District President I gathered a group of seasoned District program chairs, with the request to recruit another member to mentor their program. I also selected some members with little experience to be chairman and asked them to be mentored. The Units are following suit with both new and seasoned chairs. I was so proud to hand out 11 100% membership ribbons, as this District really came together. This group of Air Force Mustangs have hit the ground running. Almost every Unit has been busy collecting, organizing, packing and delivering school supplies, many in conjunction with Operation Homefront. I know these school supplies will be put to good use, in helping educate tomorrow's leaders. We are busy preparing for the next order of business, our School of Instruction. I can't wait to show how we complete this mission. The District and Units already have lots of activities either underway or planned from Membership drives with early bird ideas, to fundraising and social gatherings. Like District meetings, District Picnic to support Boys and Girls transportation, a dinner dance for Veteran Suicide Prevention, designing District t-shirts for sale with funds raised for the Presidents Special Project – GIRLS STATE. Another Unit, has a Friday night dessert table, with not only dessert, but has poppys available too. Have you ever heard of Adopt-A-Precinct? With Americanism and Legislative in mind this unit has many members who work the election with their pay going directly to their Unit as a donation. And don't think the Units weren't active after April reporting. Be sure to check out the articles submitted by Unit 152 and Unit 186 as they sounds their call to revelry.



DISTRICT 14

District 14 encompasses Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. With the help of Past District President Kathleen Cassin and Past District President Linda Barichak, District 14 President Nancy Casquarelli were able to install: Unit 333 Key Largo and Unit 154 Marathon in the Florida Keys, and Unit 31 South Miami, Unit 43 Homestead, Unit 144 Miami Lakes, Unit 98 Coral Gables, Unit 133 Palmetto Bay and Unit 67 North Miami. Highlights of this summer for District 14 was Unit 43 earning Membership awards at the 2026 ALA FL Department Convention and welcomed our newest Unit 144 Miami Lakes Unit. 98 Coral Gables submitted a nomination for Girl Scout Cassandra Seldin for ALA National Children and Youth Good Deed Award and she won! Unit 333 Key Largo has been working tirelessly on their food pantry at the Key Largo VA Clinic and have set up a pantry at their Post. For a very long time District 14 hasn't had many Juniors, but that all changed when Unit 144's Juniors started working the mission! Out of the gate these Juniors are doing beautiful things like visiting the Community Living Center at the Miami VA Medical Center to read poetry and present gifts to the residents.



DISTRICT 5 UNIT 233

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 233 in Ponte Vedra Beach has been busy this summer putting "Service, Not Self" into action through our National Security, Education, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) programs.

Supporting Military Families Unit members collected school supplies for Operation Homefront's Back-to-School Brigade®. The supplies were delivered to the USO in Jacksonville, where they were packed into backpacks and distributed to military children at local naval bases. This program helps military families with the cost of getting their children ready for a new school year. Members also brought ice cream treats to Naval Station Mayport during a back-to-school supply giveaway. We were happy to add a little sweetness to an event supporting military families.

Supporting Young Leaders

Unit 233 also provided ice cream treats to a local NJROTC Unit as the cadets completed their Basic Cadet Training week. It was a fun way to recognize their hard work, dedication and commitment to learning about leadership and service.

Helping Local Schools

Through the ALA's Give 10 to Education program, members collected school supplies for schools in need throughout St. Johns County. Providing basic classroom supplies helps ensure students and teachers are fully equipped for a successful school year.

Supporting Our Veterans

Our VA&R efforts continued with a donation to HorsePlay Therapy Center in St. Augustine to support its Rise Up for Veterans program. HorsePlay uses equine-assisted therapy along with professional mental health services to help veterans build confidence, resilience and connections as they work toward healing.

From military children and cadets to local students and veterans, Unit 233 members are proud to make a difference in our community. Service, Not Self ~ making a difference one project at a time.



DISTRICT 16 UNIT 252

This week Unit 252 served sixty veterans, on Tuesday we served 25 Veterans, I GOT IT with coffee and apple pie at the CLC, on Wednesday we served 10 Veterans lunch from our Bay Pines Mental Health Department, today, Friday we served 25 female Veterans lunch, what a great honor it is to serve our VETERANS!!! We also donated a basket to the Female Veterans at Bay Pines for an upcoming event. We Also had the opportunity to meet and help a woman whose husband was a veteran and who recently passed, she needed some financial help, and we were able to help, it's a blessing to be able to do what we do and we love doing it.

DISTRICT 16 UNIT 252

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DISTRICT 15 UNIT 138

Hugh Gilbert Strickland Unit 138 Tampa was so very excited to be part of our very first Membership Wednesday Nights. This event occurs every Wednesday night from 6-8pm and is open to our entire Legion family. We are able to renew and recruit new members and answer any questions our members may have. It's been a great success in our Early Bird Membership renewals; members get their card laminated and raffle tickets for monthly raffles and our NYE raffle. In addition, anyone who renews or becomes a new member by October 1st will receive a surf n turf dinner in October. Membership is on the MOVE Unit 138!

M.A.S.H.

MISSION AUXILIARY SERVING HEROES

DISTRICT 16 UNIT 238

The Unit held its first blood drive of the fiscal year in July which yielded 14 pints of blood. 71 breakfasts were served. 8 Vets and a Boy Named Adam is our ongoing Veterans' outreach program. When it was discovered that 8-year-old Adam did not have a bike, a gently used BMX bicycle and helmet were donated. A new inner tube and bike lock were purchased to make the donation complete. The impact of this gift was immediate and heartfelt when Adam gave larger-than-life hugs. We have also initiated a partnership with Clearwater Good Neighbors and Food Resources to establish a volunteer-led process for delivering donated food to the 8 Vets complex. Delivery and coordination efforts are underway with a schedule of twice monthly Wednesday food pickups, starting August 5th. This is a joint family effort between the Auxiliary and the Riders.

We assembled and delivered teacher and student supplies to 7 area schools, including the FL National Guard in Bradenton and the FL Sheriff's Youth Ranch with over 3000 items in total provided. We also delivered a specially assembled backpack for Adam with the 8 Vets Family.

VA&R Chair JJ Brenelli and Legislative Chair led efforts to assemble bookmarks and a commemorative moment for the 2 upcoming Honor Flights with 17 volunteers from both the Aux and the community. These items will be included in each Vets' Mail Call bag.

We held our first Juniors meeting led by Junior Chair Dede Walker where the girls learned about the Auxiliary mission, engaged in some fun activities and started planning for the events they were going to participate in and lead this year special guests stop by including Department Commander Bob Matheson and Andrea O'Neill, Department Juniors Chair. Juniors have been helping out with all of our events, including our back-to-school drives. Officers were elected and will be formally installed on Saturday, August 15.



BLOOD DRIVE

BY ONEBLOOD

SAVE LIVES: ONE DONATION CAN SAVE UP TO THREE LIVES!

**DATE: SATURDAY
JULY 11TH**

TIME: 8-1 PM

DONARS RECEIVE:
T-SHIRT
\$20 GIFT CARD
BREAKFAST

American Legion Post 238-Safety Harbor

FREE Breakfast with Blood Donation!

Hosted by ALA Unit 238 & OneBlood





AMERICAN LEGION BE **THE** ONE



COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY

TRAINING
PROTOCOL

As part of The American Legion
Be the One mission to end veteran suicide,
we have joined forces with Columbia University
to develop training for those who want to
learn more about interacting and responding
with veterans who may be in crisis.

*Come find out more on
how you can help*
PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE.



**TOGETHER,
WE CAN **MAKE A DIFFERENCE.****

— DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA FALL CONFERENCE —



SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2026
MORNING GENERAL SESSION

— GUEST SPEAKER —

WENDY LAKSO

Columbia Lighthouse Project

Columbia University/
New York State Psychiatric Institute



TRAINING IS OPEN TO ALL LEGION FAMILY



— Your knowledge. Your care. —

Their life.



MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES FIND THE MEMBERSHIP REPORTS BY
DISTRICT AND UNIT.
REPORTS CURRENT AS OF 14 AUGUST 2026

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
75	Crestview	235	1	245	246	104.68%
78	Milton	13	2	25	27	207.69%
193	Pensacola	69	8	59	67	97.10%
221	Niceville	245	2	252	254	103.67%
235	Ft Walton Bch	148	0	159	159	107.43%
240	Pensacola	246	1	247	248	100.81%
296	Destin	98	1	109	110	112.24%
340	Pensacola	344	8	343	351	102.03%
356	Lynn Haven	146	2	155	157	107.53%
378	Gulf Breeze	68	0	79	79	116.18%
382	Navarre	210	3	230	233	110.95%
392	Panama City	204	5	206	211	103.43%
402	PC Beach	63	1	78	79	125.40%
Total		2089	34	2187	2221	106.32%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
13	Tallahassee	71	6	67	73	102.82%
82	Lanark	75	2	78	80	106.67%
84	Havana	22	10	10	20	90.91%
100	Marianna	37	6	32	38	102.70%
114	Crawfordville	0	1	14	15	0.00%
116	Port Saint Joe	28	0	34	34	121.43%
217	Quincy	29	2	22	24	82.76%
241	Sneads	63	16	45	61	96.83%
Total		325	43	302	345	106.15%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
49	Monticello	30	0	31	31	103.33%
57	Lake City	294	9	339	348	118.37%

83	Macclenny	74	0	91	91	122.97%
107	Live Oak	57	1	49	50	87.72%
215	Jasper	37	3	37	40	108.11%
224	Madison	58	0	55	55	94.83%
291	Steinhatchee	207	1	237	238	114.98%
383	Old Town	156	6	152	158	101.28%
422	Lee	0	2	14	16	0.00%
423	Lake City	0	4	23	27	0.00%
Total		913	26	1028	1054	115.44%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
16	Gainesville	35	0	24	24	68.57%
27	Ocala	14	1	14	15	107.14%
58	Dunnellon	29	1	32	33	113.79%
77	Inverness	103	1	112	113	109.71%
149	Newberry	28	3	24	27	96.43%
155	Crystal River	435	6	435	441	101.38%
166	Homosassa Spgs	192	2	206	208	108.33%
230	Hawthorne	48	4	45	49	102.08%
236	Bronson	66	1	81	82	124.24%
237	Beverly Hills	154	1	160	161	104.55%
284	Bellevue	85	6	74	80	94.12%
Total		1189	26	1207	1233	103.70%

DISTRICT 5

UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
9	Jacksonville	83	3	89	92	110.84%
54	Fernandina Beach	309	5	329	334	108.09%
88	Jacksonville	89	1	78	79	88.76%
129	Jacksonville Beach	437	14	456	470	107.55%

137	Jacksonville	477	22	454	476	99.79%
194	St Augustine	44	3	57	60	136.36%
197	Jacksonville	62	1	62	63	101.61%
202	Keystone Heights	113	1	134	135	119.47%
233	Ponte Vedra Beach	193	24	174	198	102.59%
244	Jacksonville	28	0	25	25	89.29%
250	Middleburg	316	20	304	324	102.53%
283	Arlington	466	8	463	471	101.07%
316	Atlantic Beach	382	37	318	355	92.93%
372	Mandarin	45	0	38	38	84.44%
401	Hilliard	40	3	33	36	90.00%
Total		3084	142	3014	3156	102.33%

DISTRICT 6						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
10	Kissimmee	202	4	232	236	116.83%
18	Wildwood	23	0	21	21	91.30%
19	Orlando	74	3	61	64	86.49%
35	Mount Dora	153	1	174	175	114.38%
55	Clermont	299	1	273	274	91.64%
80	Saint Cloud	310	18	328	346	111.61%
101	Bushnell	108	0	87	87	80.56%
112	Winter Park	35	4	32	36	102.86%
183	Fern Park	124	1	100	101	81.45%
219	Fruitland Park	251	4	273	277	110.36%
239	Groveland	22	0	21	21	95.45%
242	Orlando	134	10	126	136	101.49%
286	Orlando	191	9	196	205	107.33%
330	Leesburg	45	2	44	46	102.22%
331	Orlando	27	0	31	31	114.81%
347	Lady Lake	2823	9	2954	2963	104.96%
412	Orlando	11	2	6	8	72.73%
Total		4832	68	4959	5027	104.04%

DISTRICT 7						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
3	Bartow	100	2	100	102	102.00%
4	Lakeland	61	2	53	55	90.16%

8	Winter Haven	714	8	744	752	105.32%
15	Dade City	29	1	32	33	113.79%
34	Haines City	100	0	111	111	111.00%
71	Lake Wales	29	3	22	25	86.21%
72	Mulberry	140	5	179	184	131.43%
118	Zephyrhills	0	0	40	40	0.00%
201	Florence Villa	20	1	18	19	95.00%
Total		1193	22	1299	1321	110.73%

DISTRICT 8						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
11	Arcadia	53	12	52	64	120.75%
24	Bradenton	343	1	355	356	103.79%
25	Lake Placid	463	0	510	510	110.15%
30	Sarasota	57	8	51	59	103.51%
69	Avon Park	824	15	842	857	104.00%
74	Sebring	142	2	145	147	103.52%
113	Rotonda West	383	2	456	458	119.58%
159	Venice	616	6	632	638	103.57%
254	North Port	199	1	214	215	108.04%
266	Fruitville	188	1	194	195	103.72%
309	Palmetto	214	0	195	195	91.12%
312	Oneco	166	0	174	174	104.82%
325	Ellenton	205	1	214	215	104.88%
Total		3853	49	4034	4083	105.97%

DISTRICT 9						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
36	Ft Lauderdale	38	1	37	38	100.00%
92	Hollywood	73	0	77	77	105.48%
142	Pompano Beach	159	5	137	142	89.31%
157	Margate	185	7	179	186	100.54%
162	Deerfield Beach	187	11	161	172	91.98%
180	Fort Lauderdale	94	0	88	88	93.62%
209	Dania Beach	21	0	15	15	71.43%
220	Ft Lauderdale	26	7	19	26	100.00%
222	Fort Lauderdale	58	0	60	60	103.45%
287	Deerfield Beach	22	3	25	28	127.27%

304	Dania	78	8	75	83	106.41%
310	Hallandale	37	3	34	37	100.00%
321	Cooper City	247	28	259	287	116.19%
365	Sunrise	16	0	15	15	93.75%
Total		1241	73	1181	1254	101.05%

DISTRICT 11						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
20	Belle Glade	50	2	51	53	106.00%
47	Lake Worth	79	2	79	81	102.53%
62	Stuart	909	9	1029	1038	114.19%
64	Okeechobee	73	0	50	50	68.49%
65	Delray Beach	51	4	56	60	117.65%
141	West Palm Beach	68	3	75	78	114.71%
164	Boynton Beach	219	16	283	299	136.53%
199	W Palm Beach	48	0	49	49	102.08%
268	Riviera Beach	74	0	79	79	106.76%
271	Tequesta	198	3	198	201	101.52%
277	Boca Raton	62	1	60	61	98.39%
367	Royal Palm Beach	38	4	34	38	100.00%
Total		1869	44	2043	2087	111.66%

DISTRICT 12						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
1	Titusville	231	7	254	261	112.99%
22	Cocoa	147	2	158	160	108.84%
39	Vero Beach	243	6	243	249	102.47%
40	Fort Pierce	238	5	272	277	116.39%
81	Melbourne	251	8	231	239	95.22%
117	Palm Bay	651	24	630	654	100.46%
126	Jensen Beach	209	0	207	207	99.04%
163	Eau Gallie	263	6	243	249	94.68%
189	Sebastian	187	0	193	193	103.21%
191	Melbourne	67	3	62	65	97.01%
200	Satellite Beach	154	6	149	155	100.65%
318	Port St Lucie	1622	7	1755	1762	108.63%
344	Merritt Island	24	4	21	25	104.17%
348	Cape Canaveral	290	6	317	323	111.38%

358	White City	77	0	83	83	107.79%
359	Port St John	389	14	377	391	100.51%
366	Barefoot Bay	46	4	39	43	93.48%
394	Palm Bay	303	3	341	344	113.53%
420	Suntree	0	0	10	10	0.00%
Total		5392	105	5585	5690	105.53%

DISTRICT 13						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
38	Fort Myers	37	0	31	31	83.78%
90	Cape Coral	408	5	439	444	108.82%
103	Punta Gorda	955	9	1114	1123	117.59%
110	Port Charlotte	573	8	584	592	103.32%
123	Sanibel	79	1	91	92	116.46%
130	Labelle	178	0	181	181	101.69%
135	Naples	454	1	499	500	110.13%
136	Saint James City	579	6	592	598	103.28%
192	Fort Myers	23	2	20	22	95.65%
274	Fort Myers Beach	405	2	423	425	104.94%
303	Bonita Springs	584	16	654	670	114.73%
323	Lehigh Acres	472	24	451	475	100.64%
336	N Ft Myers	599	3	616	619	103.34%
351	Fort Myers	104	4	101	105	100.96%
415	Punta Gorda	40	4	45	49	122.50%
Total		5490	85	5841	5926	107.94%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
28	Key West	53	0	85	85	160.38%
31	South Miami	140	5	134	139	99.29%
43	Homestead	58	3	79	82	141.38%
67	North Miami	36	2	29	31	86.11%
98	Coral Gables	19	0	19	19	100.00%
133	Miami	61	3	46	49	80.33%
144	Miami Lakes	0	2	16	18	0.00%
154	Marathon	165	1	164	165	100.00%
168	Key West	20	0	14	14	70.00%
333	Key Largo	90	0	94	94	104.44%

346	Miami	21	0	16	16	76.19%
374	Key Biscayne	32	0	29	29	90.63%
Total		695	16	725	741	106.62%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
5	Tampa	25	2	29	31	124.00%
26	Plant City	0	0	26	26	0.00%
99	Brooksville	24	3	35	38	158.33%
108	Land O' Lakes	25	0	21	21	84.00%
111	Tampa	58	0	63	63	108.62%
138	Tampa	682	15	765	780	114.37%
139	Tampa	114	0	124	124	108.77%
147	Odessa	28	0	31	31	110.71%
148	Riverview	236	6	241	247	104.66%
152	Tampa	287	9	304	313	109.06%
186	Brooksville	423	0	439	439	103.78%
418	Spring Hill	38	6	45	51	134.21%
Total		1940	41	2123	2164	111.55%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
7	Clearwater	259	0	242	242	93.44%
14	St Petersburg	155	5	172	177	114.19%
79	New Port Richey	501	27	503	530	105.79%
104	Pinellas Park	366	9	384	393	107.38%
119	Largo	368	14	373	387	105.16%
125	St Petersburg	295	21	287	308	104.41%
158	Treasure Island	362	2	361	363	100.28%
173	Holiday	366	4	406	410	112.02%
238	Safety Harbor	448	14	504	518	115.63%
252	Seminole	1316	7	1338	1345	102.20%
273	Madeira Beach	3683	8	3952	3960	107.52%
275	Dunedin	1384	5	1501	1506	108.82%
305	St Pete Beach	180	0	208	208	115.56%
335	Hudson	120	7	127	134	111.67%
Total		9803	123	10358	10481	106.92%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	OBJ	JR	SR	TOT	%
6	Deland	114	1	125	126	110.53%
17	New Smyrna Beach	188	1	182	183	97.34%
45	Palatka	46	2	53	55	119.57%
115	Palm Coast	42	0	37	37	88.10%
120	Holly Hill	196	3	197	200	102.04%
127	Lake Helen	16	1	16	17	106.25%
255	Deltona	29	6	21	27	93.10%
259	Debary	43	2	33	35	81.40%
267	Ormond Beach	257	1	260	261	101.56%
270	Port Orange	235	2	248	250	106.38%
285	Edgewater	176	1	217	218	123.86%
293	Interlachen	36	0	36	36	100.00%
361	S Daytona	290	3	293	296	102.07%
Total		1668	23	1718	1741	104.38%

Total	45968	923	48046	48969	106.53%
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