



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

11	DISTRICT 1 ABC SCHOOL
18	DISTRICT 8 ABC SCHOOL
18	UNIT 285 VIETNAM WALL
31	HALLOWEEN



EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR
MORE DETAILS VISIT THE CALENDAR AT:

[ALAFL.ORG/EVENTS](https://alafl.org/events)

PASSIONATE POSTS

OCTOBER 2025



Shining Bright with a Star-Spangled Heart

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



ROBIN BURK
PRESIDENT@ALAFI.ORG

Fall is in the air, and it is that time of year where Units are in full swing with fundraising and events, especially with our children and youth. Just a reminder: With unit meetings happening only once per month, time between meetings goes quickly! So, meeting with your members and planning events takes more time: **START EARLY!** Being prepared makes for a successful



event. Your advertising will be your success. The earlier, the better! Make use of Facebook and other local new sites. And remember,



bringing non-members to events creates a perfect opportunity to recruit new members! I began my district visits starting in District #17 - Daytona Beach Area.



Judge was very patient with the Veterans. But, every veteran that was there for a court case has made great progress with the program dedicated to them, leaving their experience with the LAW behind them. It was so encouraging that the veterans did not see this as just a way out of their lawless past, but a hand up, not a handout. Many

success stories were told!

From there, we had lunch at #267, Ormond Beach. I had an opportunity to speak to members about a number of topics.

On to the VA nursing home to call the horse races. We had lots of fun with the residents. Before dinner, we visited a half-way house for veterans. This is a wonderful facility for veterans transitioning into their own home. Dinner was at Holly Hill Unit #120 for a fish fry! Wonderful food with a beautiful cake! Saturday, we visited the new Auxiliary home at Palatka #45. Breakfast was phenomenal - the best pancakes I ever had. Through the help of a benefactor, they now have their own



Toni Ellsworth did a bang-up job arranging events. We started out at the Courthouse in Daytona Beach and sat in the courtroom, listening to many cases in Veterans Court. The



home on the Legion property for meetings and events. I wanted to work, so they put me to work planting flowers outside the front door of the new building. I like getting my hands dirty! A spaghetti dinner with all the fixings was served at our next stop, Deland Unit #6 with wonderful music and hospitality.

Sunday morning, our visit ended at New Smyrna Beach #17, with a wonderful breakfast. What a wonderful way to end my time with great friends and volunteers! Thank you members of District 17. I had a great visit! On to District 1! Build on your passion for Veterans!

For God and Country,

Robin Burke



DISTRICT 17 VISIT PHOTOS BY ELEANOR AMATO



**CONGRATULATIONS to our new Red-Shirt Friday Contest winner:
Stacy Cusano Unit 133, Miami**

FROM THE SECRETARY

Welcome Autumn with the change in seasonal décor and the wonderful wafts of harvests, pumpkin spice and everything nice! I am sure our Units are preparing for the many upcoming activities and holiday events. Thank You to those who have submitted your Unit and District lists of Officers and Chairmen to Department. If you haven't, we appreciate your prompt attention to do so.

We are updating our Calendar with Department President Robin's District Visit dates. She will be traveling to the 3rd District Oct 9-12 and then the 2nd District Oct 30-Nov 2. Please be courteous and RSVP accordingly to the hostesses of these District visits. Speaking from experience, these visits are truly memories that last a life-time. Speaking of our Calendar – please keep checking for upcoming ABC Schools in your area. You are welcome to attend any school – no matter new or seasoned member-status. Just let the District President know. The More the Merrier!!!

Look to the previous page for our new red Friday shirts! Congrats to Stacy. We will be offering both long and short sleeved versions. These will be available for purchase at Fall Conference in our Store! As monitor of our ALA Logo, I am very pleased with the submittals to date = Great Job!! If your Unit or District would like to have 'custom' apparel or a fundraiser using the logo, you must complete

the Emblem Usage Form and include a "sample drawing" of your intended design. Email these to my attention for Department level approval and from there, I will submit to National for their 'final' approval. **Reminder: You do not need logo approval for use on business cards or letterhead.**

You will note the Call to Fall Conference is included with this mailing. I am sooo looking forward to seeing you! We have a Very Special Guest and our Department Chairmen will be presenting additional insights to their programs!

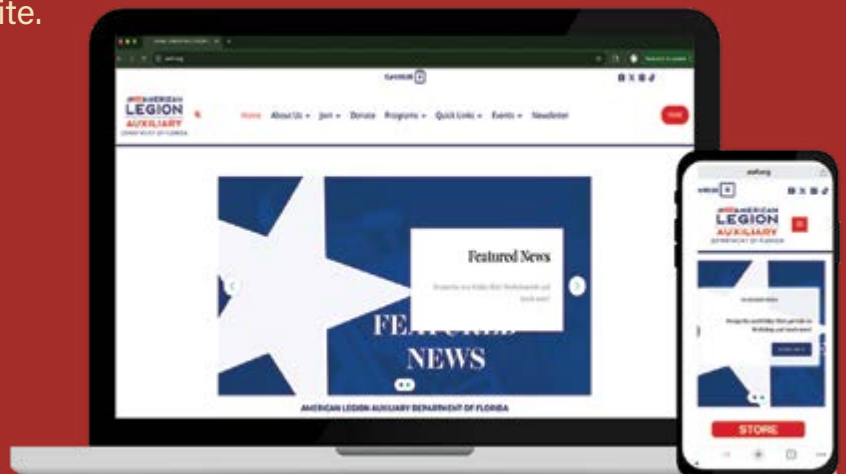


TK WILDRICK
SECRETARY@ALAFL.ORG

ALAFL.ORG

Looking for a form?
We have them!
Looking for events?
Check out the calendar!

Many answers to your questions can be found on the website.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



KAREN MARKS
CHAPLAIN@ALAFL.ORG

I began writing this article after I returned home from our National Convention in Tampa. Putting things together and trying not to forget anything is always a challenge, but I was so excited to share my passion as I met new friends and connected with those I have met at past conventions. I am excited to move forward and continue to be here as your spiritual guide as Department Chaplain.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. Fall is upon us, with leaves changing colors, weather getting cooler and many of us preparing for the upcoming holidays. It is a season of change.

Change is good in many cases. Sometimes we change jobs, locations, eating habits, friendships, and perspectives. What will you change this fall? Are you looking forward to something or looking back at something with regret or sadness? Being Chaplains, we give spiritual guidance, but we also share God's grace. As we move forward in this

season of change, let's continue to Be the One who will take time to reach out in ministry and love. Sharing our passion with others and allowing them to share a little piece of their lives with us is truly a gift from God! Sharing our passion is easy when we believe in something. Being a proud member of my family with five generations of Veterans has shown me the honor and dedication they have undergone. I am thankful every day for my freedom and my family members who took that oath to protect and defend our great nation. I know they all did it with love in their Hearts!

Have you ever thought about asking one of your older relatives if they'd like to share their story of their military service? I am not a historian by any means, but I do love to sit and visit with my family and friends. I share my passion with them by taking the time to just be there.

Sometimes they may even open up about something from their past. They all have stories to tell, but may never have been asked, so take the time, it is truly worth it!

We are blessed to be an amazing organization full of service for our military families and more. As I close this message, I'd like you all to take a moment to reflect on what your passion is.

We all serve in different ways and right now I ask that you lift up those who are departed in prayer. This past month there has been a lot of hate shown in our country, including the anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11. Our nation needs God now more than ever. Today I pray for all who have left us, may they all rest in everlasting peace. Amen.

Please keep the families of the following members in your prayers. This is the most recent list of members I have received.

Name	District	Unit
Julie C Long	3	83
Brenda Howard	5	137
Ruth Napier	5	137
Linda J Cacia	6	347
Janet Bucknell	6	347
Gussie Clark	7	201
Jeanette Richardson	7	201
Ora H Green	7	201
Donna Montgomery	8	24
Lorraine Thomas	12	359
Peggy Cefalo	12	359
Sandra Timko	13	336
Karren Sjursen	13	103
Patricia Abrams	13	336
Evelyn Bartoni	13	110
Lottie M Smith	13	336
Opal Hendrick	13	336
Donna Beverlin	13	110
Jan Bertoch	15	139
Barbara Woodring	16	275



FROM MEMBERSHIP

Happy October! We are going into my favorite time of the year. Our Department membership theme this year is "Tell Your Story." Each member has a reason why they joined, and those stories are an important part of who we are and why we serve. Sharing them not only strengthens our connection to one another but also inspires new members to join. I encourage you to share your story on the ALAFL Membership Facebook page so others across the state can see the passion and purpose behind why you belong. There have been some beautiful stories already told this year, and I can't wait to hear yours.

How is your Unit promoting membership? Please share! Take pictures and send them to me or add them on Facebook. The more we can share with one another, the more we help promote membership. There have been some really great ideas such as Early Bird dinners, Raffle Baskets (one unit even raffles off a membership!), Early Bird discounts, and more. I am putting a list together, so I would love to hear from you!

Recruitment is important, but renewals and retention are the foundation of our strength. Renewed members bring continuity, experience, and stability. Retention ensures that the heart of our mission remains strong year after year. Every renewal represents a commitment to our veterans and to the work of the Auxiliary.

At Summer Workshop, I announced a new membership award—FAMILY 3. I want to share this information again with you as we are beginning our renewals and recruitment. This award will be presented to members who recruit 3 new American Legion members, 3 new Auxiliary members, and 3 new Sons of the American Legion members during the 2026

membership year. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow our Legion Family together while strengthening every branch of our organization. The award form can be found on the membership page at alafl.org/membership.

If you need assistance with membership, there are many resources available. Begin with your Unit Membership Chairman. Then, each District President has appointed a Membership Chairman, and each Area also has a designated Area Chairman.

- Western (Districts 1 & 2): Tracy Bragg
- Northern (Districts 3, 4, 5 & 17): Janet Woods
- Central (Districts 7, 15 & 16): Eileen Wilson
- Southern (Districts 9, 11 & 14): Shirley Rearick
- Eastern (Districts 6 & 12): Char Kinlen
- Southwestern (Districts 8 & 13): Jan Farrington

Department Goal Dates are listed on the membership page at alafl.org/



DAWN DAVIS
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
@ALAFL.ORG

state. In addition, Area Membership Chairmen have created Facebook pages for their areas—please be sure to join those as well.

We have made a strong start, and now is the time to build on that

★ DEPARTMENT GOAL DATES ★

75% "Mission in Motion" December 1st, 2025

85% "Turn Up the Volume" March 15th, 2026

95% "Hearts on Fire" April 1st, 2026

100% "Hearts in Harmony" May 13th, 2026

membership. Please share these at your Unit and District meetings. Awards will be based on membership entered into the ALAMIS database by those dates.

I also highly encourage you to join the ALAFL Membership Facebook page. To join, answer three short questions. This page is a valuable resource with educational postings, ideas, and updates from across the

momentum. Keep reaching out, keep renewing, and most importantly, keep telling your story. Every member's voice adds strength to our mission, and every renewal shows our passion for veterans in action. Together, we can ensure that Florida continues to shine as a leader in membership. We are REDDY!



FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS



VIRNA LUKE
PUBLICRELATIONS
@ALAFL.ORG

I want to share some best practices when it comes to your unit's Facebook page. Our unit/post social media pages are a reflection of the American Legion Family. They should highlight our commitment to veterans, military families, and our communities while maintaining a professional and family-friendly image.

Best Practices:

1. Keep It Family-Friendly – No vulgar, adult, political attack, or offensive content.
2. Stay Mission-Focused – Share activities, programs, events, and stories that show how we serve veterans, military, youth, and communities.
3. Respect Privacy – Get permission before posting identifiable photos of children, families, or non-members.
4. Use Positive Language – Avoid profanity or negative comments; highlight teamwork and impact.
5. Stay Non-Partisan – Posts must not endorse political candidates or parties.
6. Think Before You Post – Ask: Would I be proud if this was seen by a veteran's family, community leaders, or the media?
7. Check Accuracy – Confirm dates, times, and details before posting.
8. Protect Our Brand – Use the American Legion emblem respectfully and follow brand guidelines.
9. Be Responsive – Monitor comments, answer questions, and remove inappropriate remarks.
10. When in Doubt, Ask – If you're unsure, reach out to your leadership for guidance.

Together, we can ensure our social media reflects the pride and purpose of the American Legion Family. As always, your Public Relations Committee is here to help, guide, and support you. We welcome your feedback.



SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Viewing the newsletter from your phone? Simply click on the code to open it!

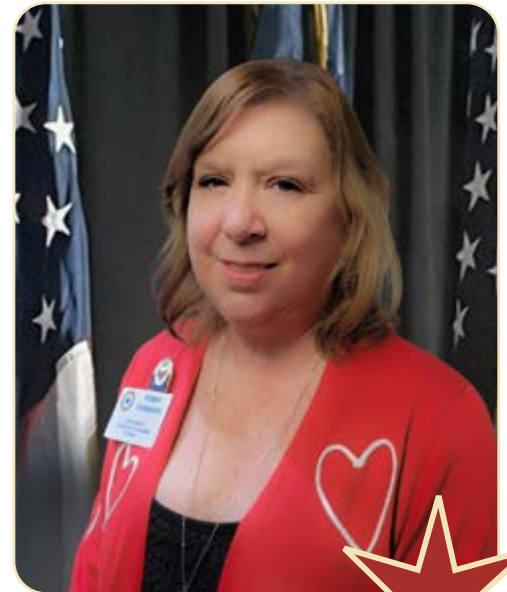
FROM LEADERSHIP

Welcome to Fall! This is an extremely busy time of year for many of our units through the Department of Florida as we are in the midst of planning Trunk or Treats, Halloween Parties, Thanksgiving, Christmas donations and much more. During this time it is important to remember that your unit should be counting all of these hours so they can have a completed Impact Form at the end of the year. These impact forms are given to the American Legion which are used when they make their annual report to Congress. Every hour you report and dollar spent make a significant impact on that report. \$33.49 is the value of each volunteer hour. The total value of all volunteer hours reported was \$242,715,426.00 (2023 - 24 Natl impact report.) Those hours, dollars and pennies can help make a huge difference in the lives of our veterans and their families. How much would it be if all our unit members reported? Think about that! Our Mentor Monday segment is starting to pick up some steam, if you

have someone who has mentored you in any way, in the Auxiliary, at any level please be sure to send a brief story explaining how they have mentored you, their name and unit number, as well as your name and unit number and a clear photo to leadership@alafl.org. Let's thank them for all their wonderful wisdom and advice.

As a reminder for District Presidents, please remember to get your ABC Schools scheduled as soon as you can. Many Districts have theirs scheduled already so dates are filling up fast. Please go to www.alafl.org, then quick links, forms and resources, Department Forms, then ABC School Request. Please fill it out and send it to leadership@alafl.org. We will try our best to accommodate your date requested.

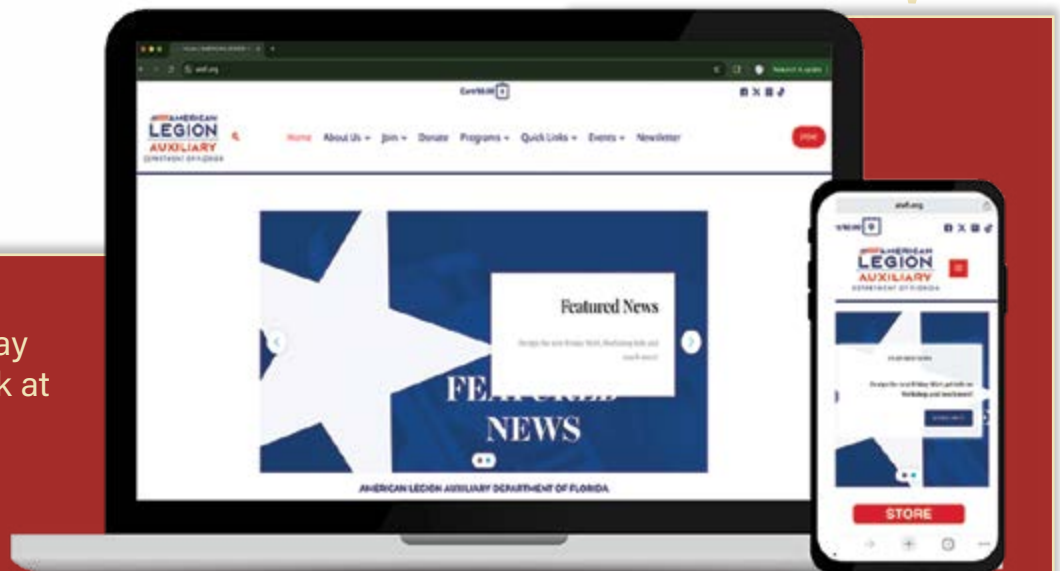
Lastly, I love seeing all those Que's learning about the American Legion Auxiliary. Please continue to create, share, and learn all about Que's Quest for Knowledge in this great organization!



PENNY KANBARA
LEADERSHIP@ALAFL.ORG



Visit the website for the Friday Reports available every week at alafl.org/friday-reports.



FROM VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION



LISA HOYLAND
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Fall is in the air and the holidays will be here before we know it. It has been great seeing all the pictures of members who have attended the Honor Flight Welcome Home events in the past month.

This month our VA&R program focuses on Wreaths Across America. The American Legion Auxiliary partnered with Wreaths Across America (WAA) in August 2023 and on December 13, 2025, we will honor veterans by placing remembrance wreaths on the graves of military members. You can support this effort by sponsoring wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting others to participate. (Please note that ALA Poppy Funds cannot be used for Wreaths Across America.)

The VA&R Zoom Series begins this month. Please mark your calendar for October 22, 2025, to hear from a special guest speaker from Wreaths Across America. Learn more about the program and how you can support it. Our goal is to sponsor 250 wreaths across the department this year. Don't miss this great opportunity!

Learn more about the Department of Florida VA&R team and see how other units and members are supporting the VA&R program by visiting our

Facebook page at ALAFL VA&R. We encourage you to submit photos and brief descriptions of your events honoring Veterans.

Caring Heart Buddy Check Week is designated for the last week of the month. Please consider reaching out to members you have not seen recently to check on their well-being. Check on a veteran and see how they are doing. Be The One!

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

VA&R Zoom Series
Department of Florida

Join Us



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

October 22, 2025- 7pm

Guest Speaker

Cindy Bentley-Roberts
Wreaths Across America,
FNC/Bushnell, FL

REGISTER TODAY AT

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/vHOoNSCFQkmzHOYton5LBw>



Scan the above SQR code to register

MEDICAL FACILITIES NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Bay Pines C.W. Bill Young VAMC:

In August, I made my official visit and met with Hospital Director and CEO Derek Szafranski, Shanel Kelly, Chief of the Center for Development & Civic Engagement, and our VAVS Representative, Gina Kizer. We had a productive discussion about issues affecting veterans including female veterans and caregivers, as well as the facility's current needs. Thank you to the units that contributed items and volunteered for Patriot's Day/911 Day and the Resource Fair in September. Department provided over \$300 in food items to the onsite veterans' food pantry, which is available to any veteran in need, and this has been set up to be distributed four times this year.

attending the VAVS Committee. To assemble We Care bags for the Orange and Blue Clinic and infusion clinic, I requested water from Unit 57 and labeled the ditty bags with the American Legion Auxiliary name. Promoting our organization is important. I began book inventory for patient reading and, in early August, helped bag over 1,000 cases of Girl Scout cookies—distributing them as patients arrived. In Lake City, we are the sole provider of ditty bags, and the only Ambassador program that is supported. Since COVID, other volunteer groups haven't returned. I will continue sewing American Legion Auxiliary labels on our donations.



was able to purchase for the patient and is grateful for the support of our members. This facility tour was amazing. All our Auxiliary VAVS representatives and Deputies are doing amazing work at these facilities, and I am looking forward to more visits in the coming months.

Clyde E. Lassen Nursing Home

Bridgette Greene, VAVS Nursing Home Representative, reported that she visited and attended a meeting with the Activities Director. Bridgette and Lisa are planning to attend their annual Veterans Ball being held in November.



Baldomero Lopez, Land O' Lakes

In August, I visited the facility and played Bingo with the veterans. We were able to hand out 25 bears to the patients, and they all loved them. It was a great afternoon. Barbara Bird VAVS Representative and I met with Marlies Sarrett, nursing home's administrator. She thanked ALA members for the TV that the auxiliary



Lake City VA Hospital - Irma Wehrli PDP 2010-2011, Lake City Representative

I volunteer at the VA Hospital twice a week, delivering to patients and



FROM NATIONAL SECURITY



JULIE KAY
NATIONAL SECURITY
@ALAFL.ORG

As we get into the full swing of our Auxiliary year, the Passion shown across our department is truly remarkable. Members continue to wear R.E.D. on Fridays and support the BE THE ONE initiative on the 1st of each month. These simple but effective ways not only show support but bring awareness to our communities.

Speaking of simple but effective, a care package for our active duty service members is more than just a



box of items. It's a tangible reminder that they are not forgotten. Filled with snacks, toiletries, and personal letters, these packages offer a moment of comfort and a taste of home, providing a much-needed morale boost. Sending a care package is a powerful way to show gratitude and support, letting our soldiers know their sacrifices are seen and appreciated. It's a small effort with a huge impact, bringing a piece of home to those who are so far away. The National Security virtual call for October will be on the 21st at 7pm EST. Our guest speaker is Michelle Williamson, owner and co-founder, of Ship Thrifty. She will be joining us to share ideas as well as some changes in how we can ship care packages to our troops overseas. With the Holidays fast approaching, care packages are a great way to show love and support. Here are a few ideas to help with your care packages:

- Have junior and/or home bound members write cards to include in the boxes.
- Reach out to local schools to see if any of the students would make cards or color pictures that could also be included.
- Create an Amazon wish list (shipped directly to your unit) of

items you would like to add to your care packages.

- Host a "Reverse Trick or Treat" Event - where members bring in supplies for care packages at your Fall/Halloween Events.
- #DeployToySoldier is on the move! Keep posting those pictures of your Toy Soldier working the National Security Program.

Remember to use the hashtag when posting and have fun!



Here are a few Special Missions should you choose to accept.

1. Collect items for Troop Care Packages.
2. Post R.E.D. Shirt Friday pictures to ALAFL National Security.
3. Connect with your Legion Service Officer to see if there is a service member that needs assistance.

As I continue to watch our Units and Members work the mission I am reminded of a quote by Oliver Wendell Holmes, "One Flag, One Land, One Heart, One Hand, One Nation, Evermore." We are Stronger Together and Together We are One! Keep up the amazing work!



FROM CHILDREN & YOUTH



With the start of school, many Auxiliary Units have made a remarkable impact by donating to the Education Committee with school supplies and fulfilling teachers wish lists. This benefits the well-being of children & youths within our communities. While dropping off supplies, are you asking if your Unit can contribute by participating with Flag etiquette or teaching the Pledge properly? Have you thought about asking some of our Legion members to share their incredible stories or volunteer in the schools to read to the children?

Has your Unit handed out or made any Busy Bags? I want to hear you're your ideas.

On October 13th, schools will celebrate Columbus Day, which

could be a great opportunity to invite families to your post home to recruit and get them used to the idea that we are a "Legion Family" and discover safe and entertaining events that we offer locally.

Did you know that Make a Difference Day is Tuesday, October 28th?

Maybe you could host a community event and invite Veterans, school age children and the community to come together for an evening of fun,



laughter and getting to know one another. Perhaps just have a Hot Dog roast and the community brings a bag of chips or a container of dip or try a parking lot dance party, if you have room. Any idea to inspire the community to discover our true purpose is a key factor. Halloween is October 31st and keeping our kids safe is at a high priority these days.

Wouldn't it be awesome if your Unit could host a spook-tacular "safe Trick or Treating event" at your post? Have you ever heard of a Trunk or Treat? This magical event is where volunteers decorate the back of their vehicles, usually with a fun theme and hand out candy, healthy snacks or small toys. This encourages kids to stay in one controlled and secure area, while inviting the community to participate as well.



DARA OLIVER
CHILDRENYOUTH
@ALAFL.ORG

Some vehicles transform into carnival attractions and host games or activities. Consider awarding prizes to the most elaborately decorated or themed vehicles as well as the best costumes.

Given that Halloween falls on a Friday this year, perhaps your Unit or Legion Family could host a Halloween Party and costume contest offering refreshments, crafts, music and a pizza party. Be creative when it comes to our Kids! Once they start having fun at the Legion, they may just want to go more often, and you have the incredible opportunity to inspire a new generation of members out of it!



FROM LEGISLATIVE



LINDA ALLEN
LEGISLATIVE@ALAFL.ORG

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead.

My life and work within the American Legion Auxiliary are guided by this famous quote. Whenever I feel overwhelmed or feel the mountain of Legislative work is too high to climb, I repeat these words to myself and then state them out loud. I let the words gather momentum and guide my steps one at a time with one foot in front of the other to reach the height needed to create change. My Voice matters, Your Voice matters. Our Veterans and their families need our support and our unity to improve the quality of their lives. Our Legislators need to hear from you! The American Legion is working hard to pass critical legislation that will benefit Veterans and their families. Legislation like the Major Richard Star Act, The Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act and so many important pieces of legislation that are swirling around the Capitol

waiting to gather momentum and pass into law. Take a stand and make your voice heard.

What can you do?

Take the first step and sign up for Action Alerts. Take the second step and educate yourself about the issues and take actions. Take the third step and share the information and QR Code with your Unit. Take the fourth step and share the information at the District Level. You can make a difference and climb that mountain.

Want to do more?

Integrate yourself into local or state issues and legislation. I serve on a US Congressman's' Veterans Advisory Committee and other members serve as liaisons to local and state officials on Veteran issues. Become the valuable and reliable resource that our officials need to make informed decisions about issues impacting Veterans. Follow my Legislative Task list each month and reach out to your local, state and national elected officials. Introduce yourself to elected officials and share your passion for Veterans.

Need more information?

Feel free to contact me anytime. I am able and willing to provide information, answer questions or travel to your Unit or District meeting.

Linda Allen

Major Richard Star Act

Watch this video that breaks down the Major Richard Star Act and provides a personal story to demonstrate how the legislation can help over 50,000 Veterans.

youtu.be/UixkvAuTsdk?si=YzbmoiSwO7qQXx1c

Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES ACT)

Follow this link to take action.

votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/127463/Respond
<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/116903/Respond>





National Convention 2025

10 Tips for a Successful Meeting on Capitol Hill

Members of Congress receive thousands of meeting requests from constituents and interest groups every year. Most of these requests are delegated to staff members who manage the subject, while a select few, typically those of particular relevance to the Member's district or legislative priorities, may be granted a meeting with the Member directly. During a typical week when Congress is in Session, staffers will attend dozens of meetings covering a wide range of issues, including with veteran service organizations like The American Legion.

To have an effective meeting and ensure that you stand out from the crowd, follow these 10 Steps:

Step 1: Research Your Members of Congress: Know their educational and professional background, committee assignments, and key legislation. Understand what matters to their district and identify shared interests. **Read their official bio.**

Step 2: Be Organized & Assign a Primary Speaker: Limit your group to 2–3 people; congressional offices are smaller than expected. Include constituents when possible. Choose one person to lead. Consider optics, for example: bring a woman veteran when discussing women veterans issues.

Step 3: Develop Your Meeting Plan: Who is telling the pertinent facts and issues? Decide on a clear request that makes sense for this Member of Congress. Do they need to support an existing bill? Or write new legislation? Have your “ask” ready, and ensure it’s something realistic that they can do.

Step 4: Arrive on Time: Arrive no more than 15 minutes early. Do not knock, just walk in and let the staffer at the front desk know who you are and who you are there to see. If your meeting leader has a business card, present it (only one) to the staffer at the front desk.

Step 5: Remain Flexible: Remember that Members of Congress do not control the Floor schedule, thus your meeting time might shift. **Be flexible and professional.** Sometimes, in order to still meet with you, they may move your meeting to a new location/time, such as a hallway or committee room.

Step 6: Build Rapport: Building a relationship with your Member of Congress is vital to your success. Ensuring you meet with your Members of Congress at least once a quarter, particularly back home, is a great way to establish a professional relationship.

Step 7: Focus on Two or Three Issues: Our Legislative Agenda covers many topics. Choose 2–3 you’re passionate about. Don’t overwhelm the meeting. Bonus: Give the agenda or point paper at the end of the meeting, so they focus on you, not the paper.

Step 8: Make Your Ask Personal: When delivering your “ask” make it personal by telling your Member of Congress how it will help veterans in their district.

Step 9: Thank Them for Their Time: Make sure you thank them for your time, even if you do not end with an agreed upon action. Respect goes a long way; remember, you represent The American Legion.

Step 10: Take a picture! Share it on social media and tag your Member of Congress. Don’t forget to submit your Contact Report to www.Legion.org/Action





DISTRICTS & UNITS



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida units are shining bright with a star-spangled heart in the community! The next few pages highlight achievements, meetings, and donations throughout the community.

UNIT 180

A Feast of Gratitude for the Plantation Fire Department
Every year, as the calendar turns to September 11, communities across America pause to remember a day that forever changed the nation's history. The echoes of loss, bravery, and resilience reverberate in ceremonies, quiet moments, and communal gatherings dedicated to honoring the lives lost and those who responded in the face of unimaginable tragedy. In Plantation, Florida, Unit 180 marked this somber anniversary with a gesture woven from equal parts remembrance and gratitude: an Italian feast hosted for the Plantation Fire Department, sourced from the beloved Mr. D's Pizza.

Pictured: President Jenny Kupkovich, Chief Don Todd, Secretary Aimee Bogle and Member at Large Connie Strickland



YOUTH VOLUNTEER AT THE LAKE CITY VA

Cade Swanson is youth volunteer for the Lake City VA
An appreciation ceremony was held at the Lake City VA in July. Pictured Cade Swanson (left) and Irma Wehrle (right).



DISTRICT 2 UNIT 13

The American Legion Auxiliary District 2 attended an ABC School on September 13th. The class took place at Unit 82 at Lanark Village. There were 20 attendees and the instructor, Janet Woods traveled from her location south of Ocala to present this information for us. There were a lot of questions and interactions so I think everyone left with more information than they came with. Lunch was provided and I don't think anyone went home hungry.



Muriel, Nell, Katrina, Paggy And Margie From Unit 13 In Tallahassee. Dottie Is Taking The Picture.



Katrina Rosedale And Margie Mcneil



Unit 18 in Scarves and White Shirts



Look At Those Smiles



Filling Up the Gas Tank



Janet Woods

UNIT 113

Unit 113 is collecting bears for the Caring Heart, Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Project to be given to Veterans on Veterans Day. They have already collected over 60 bears and still counting.



DISTRICT 17 UNIT 45



You are all invited to our **GRAND OPENING!** As the first Auxiliary in Florida, we would love to share our new building with you. Join us on October 23 anytime between 2:00 and 7:00. We will have our ribbon cutting ceremony at 2:00. Displays of what we do will be up and light refreshments will be served. Help us spread the word.

We had a wonderful visit from our Department and State leaders, Department President Robin Burk, along with her husband Jim, Julie Kay of National Security, Eleanor Amato, the Department's VA Representative in Daytona Beach, and District 17 President Toni Ellsworth. The Legion also welcomed Department Commander Jim Bowers. They joined us in Palatka for breakfast, a flag folding ceremony, a visit to our new Auxiliary building, and then Robin planted some crotons at our new building.

Our Legion family joined together to attend the 9/11 ceremony held at the Palatka fairgrounds. The ladies pictured are Auxiliary President Esme Coward, and Chaplain Cathy Boyland. Representing the Legion are 1st Vice Kevin Tracey, Commander Gary Coward, Fred Bayler, and Tom Boyland.



UNIT 312

What an Amazing Ride for a Great Cause! On Sunday, September 14th, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 312, was honored to help host a Poker Run to benefit Pete Wagar. It was an incredible day filled with community, camaraderie, and purpose. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us on the ride or donated to support the cause — your generosity truly made a difference. We captured some unforgettable moments — be sure to check out the photos and relive this amazing day with us!



DISTRICT 16 UNIT 104

AR-MEDCOM in Pinellas Park (Army Reserve Medical Command) hosted their First Olympics and Chili Cook-Off as a fun, morale-boosting event for the full-time staff before the summer ended on August 25th. It provided the opportunity for different sections to connect, unwind, and build stronger working relationships outside of the office. For those not familiar with them they are hidden away in Pinellas Park and this location is mainly women. They hold many events throughout the year to help active duty and reserve members (biggest event is the Military Meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas). Events were corn hole, potato sack races, tug-of-war, hula hoop relay, push-up or plank challenge, litter relay race, team puzzle race, blindfold land nav, PT belt wrapping challenge, pickleball, and more. This was the launch for their first-ever Chili Cook-Off.

Units helping to sponsor were:

Unit 14 – St Petersburg provided 80 hotdogs

Unit 104 – Pinellas Park provided 80 burgers

Unit 158 – Treasure Island provided LOTS of woman power the day of the event

Unit 252 – Seminole provided buns and chips

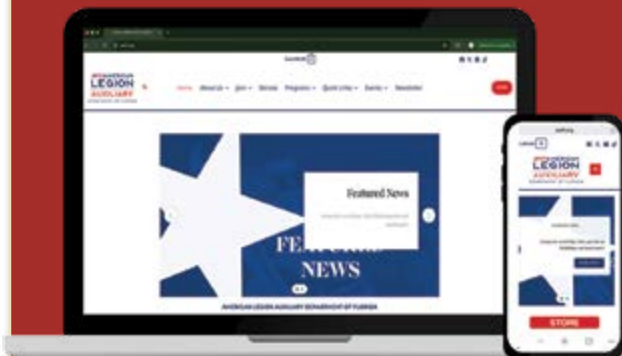
Unit 305 – St Pete Beach provided Cookies

USO – Volunteers, water, popcorn machine and some of the games

It was awesome to see our Units come together to help with such a great team building event. District 16 ROCKS!



ALAFL.ORG/newsletter



Share your unit's
stories with the rest
of the Auxiliary!



DISTRICT 6 UNIT 219

Unit 219 in Fruitland Park has been busy all summer with RED Fridays and donating to the local Fire Stations, Police Departments and Schools with supplies and fulfilling teachers wish lists.

The latest dinner held at the Post was on Patriots Day to benefit Tunnels to Towers, the s/b units' National Security committee and to honor those lost on 9-11-01. Chairperson Sheryle Hackman had a crew of volunteers that cooked & served Chicken or Shrimp scampi, tossed salad and bread. For dessert, attendees could purchase homemade bake goods items from the bake sale. Seventy-two Dinners were sold within an hour and half. A raffle was also held, and the winner donated 100% back to the Unit.



The Unit is now in full swing with their Annual Community Service Peanut Butter drive. Last year they collected 345 jars of Peanut butter and donated to Beyond the Walls food pantry. They are hoping to beat their record again this year. The history of this event started as a Service Project from one of their local youths, that became a Girls State delegate years ago. The Unit didn't want to see it end after the young lady went to College, so it continues to this day. Anyone wishing to help can donate any size container of peanut butter to the legion or they can take an electronic monetary donation to purchase the jars.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES FIND THE MEMBERSHIP REPORTS BY
DISTRICT AND UNIT.
REPORTS CURRENT AS OF 26 SEPTEMBER 25

DISTRICT 1

0075	Crestview	235	0	65	65	27.66%
0078	Milton	13	0	6	6	46.15%
0193	Pensacola	69	0	5	5	7.25%
0221	Niceville	245	2	82	84	34.29%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	148	0	44	44	29.73%
0240	Pensacola	246	1	39	40	16.26%
0296	Destin	98	0	27	27	27.55%
0340	Pensacola	344	7	151	158	45.93%
0356	Lynn Haven	146	2	24	26	17.81%
0378	Gulf Breeze	68	0	6	6	8.82%
0382	Navarre	210	0	74	74	35.24%
0392	Panama City	204	1	39	40	19.61%
0402	PC Beach	63	1	15	16	25.40%
Total		2089	14	577	591	28.29%

DISTRICT 2

0013	Tallahassee	71	5	32	37	52.11%
0082	Lanark	75	0	7	7	9.33%
0084	Havana	22	2	2	4	18.18%
0100	Marianna	37	5	28	33	89.19%
0217	Quincy	29	0	10	10	34.48%
0241	Sneads	63	15	31	46	73.02%
Total		297	27	110	137	46.13%

DISTRICT 3

0049	Monticello	30	0	15	15	50.00%
0057	Lake City	294	1	78	79	26.87%
0083	Macclenny	74	0	26	26	35.14%
0107	Live Oak	57	0	1	1	1.75%
0215	Jasper	37	2	12	14	37.84%
0224	Madison	58	0	11	11	18.97%

0291	Steinhatchee	207	0	59	59	28.50%
0383	Old Town	156	2	49	51	32.69%
Total		913	5	251	256	28.04%

DISTRICT 4

0016	Gainesville	35	0	6	6	17.14%
0027	Ocala	14	1	6	7	50.00%
0058	Dunnellon	29	0	7	7	24.14%
0077	Inverness	103	1	32	33	32.04%
0149	Newberry	28	3	8	11	39.29%
0155	Crystal River	435	2	138	140	32.18%
0166	Homosassa Springs	192	0	69	69	35.94%
0230	Hawthorne	48	4	33	37	77.08%
0236	Bronson	66	1	26	27	40.91%
0237	Beverly Hills	154	0	11	11	7.14%
0284	Bellevue	85	0	24	24	28.24%
Total		1189	12	360	372	31.29%

DISTRICT 5

0009	Jacksonville	83	0	12	12	14.46%
0054	Fernandina Bch	309	3	114	117	37.86%
0088	Jacksonville	89	0	10	10	11.24%
0129	J'ville Bch	437	1	134	135	30.89%
0137	Jacksonville	477	2	87	89	18.66%
0194	St Augustine	44	2	22	24	54.55%
0197	Jacksonville	62	0	9	9	14.52%
0202	Keystone Hts	113	0	50	50	44.25%
0233	Ponte Vedra Bch	193	17	39	56	29.02%
0244	Jacksonville	28	0	8	8	28.57%
0250	Middleburg	316	20	74	94	29.75%
0283	Arlington	466	1	120	121	25.97%



0316	Atlantic Beach	382	32	57	89	23.30%
0372	Mandarin	45	0	19	19	42.22%
0401	Hilliard	40	0	2	2	5.00%
Total		3084	78	757	835	27.08%

DISTRICT 6

0010	Kissimmee	202	3	33	36	17.82%
0018	Wildwood	23	0	0	0	0.00%
0019	Orlando	74	3	15	18	24.32%
0035	Mount Dora	153	0	32	32	20.92%
0055	Clermont	299	0	42	42	14.05%
0080	Saint Cloud	310	17	71	88	28.39%
0101	Bushnell	108	0	10	10	9.26%
0112	Winter Park	35	4	22	26	74.29%
0183	Fern Park	124	0	24	24	19.35%
0219	Fruitland Park	251	2	53	55	21.91%
0239	Groveland	22	0	5	5	22.73%
0242	Orlando	134	9	16	25	18.66%
0286	Orlando	191	1	50	51	26.70%
0330	Leesburg	45	2	13	15	33.33%
0331	Orlando	27	0	1	1	3.70%
0347	Lady Lake	2823	9	1148	1157	40.98%
0412	Orlando	11	0	1	1	9.09%
Total		4832	50	1536	1586	32.82%

DISTRICT 7

0003	Bartow	100	0	14	14	14.00%
0004	Lakeland	61	0	6	6	9.84%
0008	Winter Haven	714	3	213	216	30.25%
0015	Dade City	29	0	1	1	3.45%
0034	Haines City	100	0	37	37	37.00%
0071	Lake Wales	29	0	3	3	10.34%
0072	Mulberry	140	0	6	6	4.29%
0201	Florence Villa	20	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		1193	3	280	283	23.72%

DISTRICT 8

0011	Arcadia	53	8	16	24	45.28%
0024	Bradenton	343	1	68	69	20.12%

0025	Lake Placid	463	0	89	89	19.22%
0030	Sarasota	57	0	12	12	21.05%
0069	Avon Park	824	13	199	212	25.73%
0074	Sebring	142	0	48	48	33.80%
0113	Rotonda West	383	1	77	78	20.37%
0159	Venice	616	2	86	88	14.29%
0254	North Port	199	0	46	46	23.12%
0266	Fruitville	188	0	22	22	11.70%
0309	Palmetto	214	0	45	45	21.03%
0312	Oneco	166	0	35	35	21.08%
0325	Ellenton	205	0	34	34	16.59%
Total		3853	25	777	802	20.81%

DISTRICT 9

0036	Ft Lauderdale	38	1	2	3	7.89%
0092	Hollywood	73	0	11	11	15.07%
0142	Pompano Bch	159	5	37	42	26.42%
0157	Margate	185	0	35	35	18.92%
0162	Deerfield Beach	187	11	47	58	31.02%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	94	0	38	38	40.43%
0209	Dania Beach	21	0	0	0	0.00%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	26	0	1	1	3.85%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	58	0	19	19	32.76%
0287	Deerfield Beach	22	0	1	1	4.55%
0304	Dania	78	1	43	44	56.41%
0310	Hallandale	37	0	4	4	10.81%
0321	Cooper City	247	7	103	110	44.53%
0365	Sunrise	16	0	11	11	68.75%
Total		1241	25	352	377	30.38%

DISTRICT 11

0020	Belle Glade	50	2	12	14	28.00%
0047	Lake Worth	79	2	30	32	40.51%
0062	Stuart	909	2	351	353	38.83%
0064	Okeechobee	73	0	7	7	9.59%
0065	Delray Beach	51	1	22	23	45.10%
0141	W Palm Beach	68	3	26	29	42.65%
0164	Boynton Beach	219	14	145	159	72.60%
0199	W Palm Beach	48	0	18	18	37.50%

0268	Riviera Beach	74	0	52	52	70.27%
0271	Tequesta	198	3	78	81	40.91%
0277	Boca Raton	62	0	6	6	9.68%
0367	Royal Palm Bch	38	1	24	25	65.79%
Total		1869	28	771	799	42.75%

DISTRICT 12						
0001	Titusville	231	0	58	58	25.11%
0022	Cocoa	147	1	55	56	38.10%
0039	Vero Beach	243	1	37	38	15.64%
0040	Fort Pierce	238	3	95	98	41.18%
0081	Melbourne	251	2	58	60	23.90%
0117	Palm Bay	651	1	91	92	14.13%
0126	Jensen Beach	209	0	10	10	4.78%
0163	Eau Gallie	263	1	39	40	15.21%
0189	Sebastian	187	0	60	60	32.09%
0191	Melbourne	67	0	14	14	20.90%
0200	Satellite Beach	154	0	25	25	16.23%
0318	Port St Lucie	1622	1	521	522	32.18%
0344	Merritt Island	24	1	6	7	29.17%
0348	Cape Canaveral	290	3	60	63	21.72%
0358	White City	77	0	23	23	29.87%
0359	Port St John	389	0	87	87	22.37%
0366	Barefoot Bay	46	0	5	5	10.87%
0394	Palm Bay	303	2	92	94	31.02%
Total		5392	16	1336	1352	25.07%

DISTRICT 13						
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	10	10	27.03%
0090	Cape Coral	408	3	73	76	18.63%
0103	Punta Gorda	955	1	299	300	31.41%
0110	Port Charlotte	573	5	162	167	29.14%
0123	Sanibel	79	0	22	22	27.85%
0130	Labelle	178	0	21	21	11.80%
0135	Naples	454	0	76	76	16.74%
0136	St James City	579	0	78	78	13.47%
0192	Fort Myers	23	0	11	11	47.83%
0274	Fort Myers Bch	405	0	46	46	11.36%
0303	Bonita Springs	584	3	164	167	28.60%

0323	Lehigh Acres	472	6	111	117	24.79%
0336	N Ft Myers	599	1	258	259	43.24%
0351	Fort Myers	104	2	23	25	24.04%
0415	Punta Gorda	40	3	21	24	60.00%
Total		5490	24	1375	1399	25.48%

DISTRICT 14						
0028	Key West	53	0	18	18	33.96%
0031	South Miami	140	0	39	39	27.86%
0043	Homestead	58	3	32	35	60.34%
0067	North Miami	36	0	4	4	11.11%
0098	Coral Gables	19	0	4	4	21.05%
0133	Miami	61	3	6	9	14.75%
0154	Marathon	165	0	29	29	17.58%
0168	Key West	20	0	1	1	5.00%
0333	Key Largo	90	0	13	13	14.44%
0346	Miami	21	0	2	2	9.52%
0374	Key Biscayne	32	0	10	10	31.25%
Total		695	6	158	164	23.60%

DISTRICT 15						
0005	Tampa	25	2	12	14	56.00%
0099	Brooksville	24	0	14	14	58.33%
0108	Land O' Lakes	25	0	7	7	28.00%
0111	Tampa	58	0	21	21	36.21%
0138	Tampa	682	5	218	223	32.70%
0139	Tampa	114	0	27	27	23.68%
0147	Odessa	28	0	7	7	25.00%
0148	Riverview	236	3	73	76	32.20%
0152	Tampa	287	3	78	81	28.22%
0186	Brooksville	423	0	89	89	21.04%
0418	Spring Hill	38	2	12	14	36.84%
Total		1940	15	558	573	29.54%
Total		1940	3	169	172	8.87%

DISTRICT 16						
0007	Clearwater	259	0	26	26	10.04%
0014	St Petersburg	155	0	46	46	29.68%
0079	New Port Richey	501	1	72	73	14.57%



0104	Pinellas Park	366	6	161	167	45.63%
0119	Largo	368	1	64	65	17.66%
0125	St Petersburg	295	20	77	97	32.88%
0158	Treasure Island	362	1	55	56	15.47%
0173	Holiday	366	0	57	57	15.57%
0238	Safety Harbor	448	12	118	130	29.02%
0252	Seminole	1316	3	419	422	32.07%
0273	Madeira Beach	3683	2	631	633	17.19%
0275	Dunedin	1384	1	239	240	17.34%
0305	St Pete Beach	180	0	48	48	26.67%
0335	Hudson	120	2	26	28	23.33%
Total		9803	49	2039	2088	21.30%

DISTRICT 17						
0006	Deland	114	0	32	32	28.07%
0017	Nw Smyrna Bch	188	0	15	15	7.98%
0045	Palatka	46	0	13	13	28.26%
0115	Palm Coast	42	0	14	14	33.33%
0120	Holly Hill	196	0	68	68	34.69%
0127	Lake Helen	16	0	0	0	0.00%

0255	Deltona	29	4	10	14	48.28%
0259	Debary	43	2	21	23	53.49%
0267	Ormond Beach	257	0	43	43	16.73%
0270	Port Orange	235	1	56	57	24.26%
0285	Edgewater	176	0	54	54	30.68%
0293	Interlachen	36	0	27	27	75.00%
0361	S Daytona	290	0	45	45	15.52%
Total		1668	7	398	405	24.28%

DISTRICT 99						
0400	Orlando	382	1	113	114	29.84%
Total		382	1	113	114	29.84%

DISTRICT 2						
0116	Port Saint Joe	28	0	11	11	39.29%
Total		28	0	11	11	39.29%

UNIT 33						
0033	Pensacola	10	0	0	0	0.00%
Total		10	0	0	0	0.00%

Total		45968	385	11759	12144	26.42%
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