

# American Legion Post 129

: Post129@comcast.net

September 2013

## Upcoming Events

- **Sept 4th**  
7:00 House Committee
- **Sept 5th**  
7:00 E-Board  
7:00 Auxiliary  
7:30 General meeting
- **Sept 12th**  
7:00 40&8 and Cabane
- **Sept 21st**  
10:00 ALR meeting  
**CASINO NIGHT**
- **Sept 25th**  
6:00 SAL meeting

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## Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

I wish to thank everyone for all their support and I am very proud to once again serve as Post Commander as well as be a member of the S.A.L., Legion Riders and 40 & 8. There are many exciting things happening over the next few months and I think as a family we can all pull together and make "Our Home" Post 129 be the Shining Star in the 5th District and State.

With everyone's help, we have the opportunity to drive the 4 Pillars of the Legion straight to the top. One of the best ways to move forward is to renew memberships and become more involved.

I am personally working on Americanism by volunteering at the Castillo de San

Marcos in St Augustine.

We can still do so much more for our Children and Youth and Veteran's Benefits.

Please remember to keep track of all your volunteer hours and any mileage. This is how we are able to track our progress and get recognition from the District and National.

Don't forget to check the monthly calendar and come out and support our Post and enjoy yourself. Upcoming events to watch for include September the 1st train crawl and bar-b-que. If you go on the train and want food make (continued on page #3)



## 1st Vice Comments by Don Grzena

I would like to **THANK** all the volunteers that helped out for National Crime Prevention Night out held on August the 6th. Your Post cook over 400 hot dogs to feed all the families that came out for the night. Our next function with the City of Jax Beach will be the "Halloween Party" for the kids.

Please see either Danny, Jerry or myself to get your card. Remember, dues are \$30 before Veterans Day, 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov and then after that \$35. If you are between the ages of 70 – 79, then the dues are \$22.50. And if you are 80 or older & after 5 years of membership, then the dues are paid by the Post. Also

remember that when you pay by Veteran's Day you are eligible for our "Early Bird Breakfast". When you get your notice from National (continued on page 3)



## Auxiliary News by Diane Powers, Auxiliary President

To My Family,

My crystal ball was right on the money. Our final total for the K9's for Warriors was \$2,400.00 and Billy's pickup truck full of peanut butter and dog treats. Shout outs again to all that helped make the celebration a huge success BUT special kudos to Second Vice Claire Sheehan and our Chef Extra-ordinaire Richard Jordan.

Now that that fundraiser is complete we can move on to the next big event, **Casino Night!** I urge all Auxiliary members to help us make this another banner night by volunteering to help to save our BUILDING. If we don't have the Post we don't have a home. The building is in need of some very expensive repairs so we are all pulling together to make them happen. If you

can help in anyway please contact Brandy or myself. The big event will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> which is fast approaching. We need feet on the street asking businesses to donate gift certificates for our silent auction that night. If you have a local business that you frequent ask them to help out in any way; I have solicitation letters for everyone that wants some. Together we can make this happen.

Wanda and Jerry Brandt pleased everyone at our monthly Auxiliary dinner with her fried chicken; I heard it was finger lickin good! The Auxiliary is always looking for chefs to help with our dinners the third Friday of the month. If you have a favorite recipe we would love to have you show it off. We can get members to help you serve and clean up so don't hesitate.

The 5th district has a competition going. We need to reach the Department increase of 5 % over last years' membership. We can do this! Bring friends to the Post to show them how much fun our "family" is and they won't be able to resist being a part of it.

We still have committees open and I would love to meet with anyone that has even "thought" about helping. Americanism is one that is needing a leader. That is what our Post/Unit is all about, isn't it? I can be reached at [dianempowers@comcast.net](mailto:dianempowers@comcast.net) or on my cell at 904-716-2423. I look forward to speaking with you.

Last but not least I want to congratulate Danny Rodriguez; our new Post 129 commander. I am sure our "family" will have a great year!

## S.A.L News by JD Kapeghian

S.A.L. would like to wish Mr. Garth Collins a fond farewell and good luck on his latest adventure, he will be missed! We would also like to thank everyone that has stuck with the S.A.L. who have tried to help make this a better year. By the time you read this, I hope everyone had a great time on the "Train-anniversary" crawl. S.A.L has two dinner Mondays a month. The second Monday and the third Monday. The

second Monday is available to whomever would like to volunteer in the kitchen. Your menu and your ideas are welcome! On Friday, September 6th, the S.A.L. dinner will be a broccoli and cheese stuffed chicken breast, homemade scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, garlic bread and dessert, starting at 5:30. On Monday, September 16th, will be the legions famous loaded nachos. Come down and support your post!

Football season is HERE, please remember to be here early on Sunday to reserve your TV for your favorite team! The kitchen will be having football food. Once again, and more than ever, volunteers are GREATLY needed, please. Thank you and good night.



## Officers for 2013—2014

Commander.....Danny Rodriguez  
1st Vice.....Don Grzena  
2nd Vice.....Terry Stickle  
3rd Vice.....Stephanie Cain  
4th Vice.....Frank DeCoste  
Sgt at Arms.....A.K. Rogers  
Adjutant.....Jerry Brandt  
Judge Advocate.....Bob Wilson  
Finance.....Bob Schlatter  
Chaplain.....Brian Hancher  
Service Officer.....Robert Schmitt

<i>E-Board Members</i>	<i>House Committee</i>
Frank Bolin	Bill Wilson
Tommy Williams	Frank Redmond
Lee Fair	Rich Hansberg
Chuck Nist	Kathy Jewell (Aux)
Robert Schmitt	Dale Peterson
	Nolan Bomar
	Dave Jordan

*Auxiliary President,*  
Diane Powers  
*Commander S.A.L.,*  
JD Kapeghian  
*Chef De Gare 40 & 8,*  
Marie Kraemer  
*La Presidente, Cabane 215,*  
Louise Bagdasarian  
*A L Riders Director*  
Lee Fair

**Commander** (continue from page 1)

Sure you sign up on the second list. September the 15th is the flag rededication at 12:00pm and the Post 129s 70th birthday. We are having a pig roast. The 31st Annual Croaker Tournament is in October on the 12th and 13th. Boat entry forms are available now. The entry deadline is October 11th.

There was an emergency E-Board meeting concerning the repairs to the back wall. The bid from Blalock Roofing Inc was accepted by the E-board. Repairs will be starting soon. Please bare with us during the repairs.

**For the Good of the Legion**

The commander will be available for all members Monday—Friday from 5:00pm pm to 7:00pm at the Post. Legion meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. Please attend. As a reminder, the American Legion Post 129 is still giving away the Blue Star Banners. Please let the Commander know if you have a loved one in the military service

**Cabane 215**

Our August Rendezvous was very informative. We thank everyone who was able to attend. Just a reminder that our Sept Rendezvous will not be at post 129, we will meet at 6 pm on Wed., Sept 11th at the Fish Company on Atlantic Blvd. All Cabane members are invited to meet us there. Please RSVP to Louise "[@lbagdasarian1@comcast.net](mailto:lbagdasarian1@comcast.net)" or call (904) 349-8729, by Sept. 8th, so we will be able to accommodate everyone at the restaurant. Looking forward to a great turnout. Until then.

Respectfully,

Louise Bagdasarian, La Presidente

**1st Vice Comments**

(continued from page 1)

and you are 80yrs or older, please, don't send money. Just put down your age on the Notice and send/or drop off the Notice at the Post and we will do the rest. Right now, we are at 40%!! I know we can be at 50% by September the 1st and 100% by December!! With the E-board permission, I am starting something new with Membership. Any Post Member that gets **three new members** to join, will get his or hers yearly dues paid by the Post. And if you get **Six new members**, the Post will pay for two years of your membership. Any question about this or your card, please see me.

I have been noticing a lot of older Veterans and disabled people coming into the Post having a hard time opening the front door. Well, I would like to help

them with that problem. At all VA and Hospital, they have automatic door openers. I found a company in St. Augustine that makes these door openers. The cost will be about \$1,500. The door openers are easy to put up and there will be no further cost to the Post. I will be going around asking for donations. I will be calling this: "Operation Open Door!". A lot of you have ask me how I can help out at the post without volunteering my time, well here is your chance. Donate to this worthy cost!! I will take checks, money, loose change. If giving a check, please make it out to the Post. In the "for" section of the check, put down Operation Open Door fund. Any questions about this, please ask me. Thank you

On a personal note, I want to

thank everyone that helped me out well I was the acting Commander. I been having a lot of people ask me why I pulled my name from the ballot. Well, two reasons. One, I have some medical issues I will need to take care of. Appointments, surgery etc. The second, is that I will be going home sometime soon to help out my family with some family matters. I am the type of person, that put in charge with something, I give it my 100%. Right now, I can't do that. I will stay on as 1st Vice. Thank you again and C U around the Post.....)



## Canteen Update by Brandi Roberts



On September 21st we are going all out and will be holding a Casino night in the back hall! This event will be similar to the fundraiser we did for Bridge City. If you were around back in 2008 then you remember what a great time that was. We will have six blackjack tables, craps, roulette, poker, wheel of fortune, slot machines, and live entertainment! There will be prizes at the end of the nights, food throughout the night, and a silent auction! This type of event we only put together every few years so this will be a night that you will not want to miss! Tickets cost \$20 and includes entry to the event, play money to get you started, and appetizers. Tickets are available at the Canteen.

The funds raised at the casino night will go directly into the building fund account as our building is in desperate need of some TLC! We are still collecting donations of prizes for the event as well as still looking for companies or individuals to sponsor this event. If you know of anyone interested please let me know and I can get you all the information. In addition to prizes and sponsorship I will be looking for volunteers to serve, set up, and help during the night. Please come and see me if you would like to help!

With the event hall looking better than ever the dates are starting to fill up so if you know anyone that is looking for a venue to hold a

wedding, birthday party or other celebration please let them know that the hall is available for rent and to contact Brandi at the Post.

We know there is a lot going on at our Post and in an effort to keep everyone informed of all the great events, meals, activities and specials we have started a weekly e-mail notice. If you would like to be added to the list please send an email to Brandi at brandi-roberts@att.net.

If you have any ideas or would like to get involved please let us know. Let us know your needs, expectations and hopes. We hope to serve you soon.

## Ask Ethel.....



**Dear Ethel:** Talk about a stupid spendthrift! I heard of a guy who paid \$10,000 to have his teeth capped, and they were still false. Will you chomp on that?—Eileen Dentine

Dear Dentine: I'm not a chompiom, to you.

but I can tell you this: Be true to your teeth and they won't be false

**Dear Ethel:** The season is changing and I'm checking my wardrobe. What do you think I should do about the fall?—Weather Heather

**Dear Weather** Get up, if you can.

If you have any questions for the "Ask Ethel" column, she would appreciate your input. Send the questions to Ethel at: triplejj@comcast.net

## Voiture 215 Comments. by Marie Kraemer, Chef De Gare

Voiture 215 is seeking a few more Voyageurs Militaire to fill a few key positions within the Voiture. These positions include Chef de Train, Aumonier, and Program Directeurs. If interested, please attend our next Cheminot and Promenade at 1900 on 12 Sep 2013.

20 Sep 2013 is POW/MIA Recognition Day. This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action as well as their families. The focus is to

ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve it and to make sure that we do all that is possible to account for those who have not returned.

One of the greatest programs of the 40 & 8 is our Child Welfare Program. What would be a better way to help show the community that we take our Child Welfare Program Seriously, then to support the Surfers For Autism event on 21 Sep. This event allows children with autism to unlock their potential through

the sport of surfing. The 4th Annual North Coast Surfers For [Autism](#) Beach Festival is being hosted by Hampton Inn Oceanfront, 21 Sep from 0900-1600.

For any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions I can be reached at e-mail address: [gamblerk@hotmail.com](mailto:gamblerk@hotmail.com) or via text message at 352-697-1749. Please indicate 40/8 or 215 in the subject line. Thank you for your support.

## Legion Lore

by Jack Hardebeck

Some veterans views:

These could still be great years for the Pentagon. To the average citizen, a stockpile of tanks, guns, and missiles is scary. To the Pentagon, it's Toys-R-Us.

There's got to be a way of cutting costs by eliminating some of the frills. For instance, does a 60-ton tank really need curb feelers?

The Army is trying to make mess hall eating a more pleasant experience. However, maybe they went a little too far with that strolling violinist.

Why wouldn't a former Army cook make a fine husband, especially in the kitchen? Because most of the recipes he has end with something such as "Serves 15,000."

Triple bravo to the next veteran. He said: "Frankly, I don't look on it as the armed forces. To me, it's more like a prep school for the American Legion."



## Use Month Wisely

The full month is to be used by the various organizations that make up the American Legion Post 129 family. If someone wants to extend their time, they will need to request the time from the Organization that owns the month.

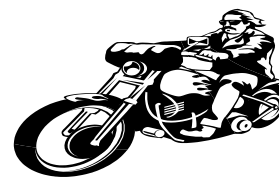
September	SAL
October	Legion
November	Cabane
December	Auxiliary
January 2014	SAL
February	40&8
March	Cabane
April	Legion
May	ALR
June	40&8

## American Legion Riders....by Lee Fair

A correction to my last input has to be made. The Quartermaster that organized our inventory and the Tracking system was Barb. Thanks Barb, sorry I put in wrong name last time. Sept 28th is ALR 283 annual poker run for PEDSCARE. I would like to see a large turnout for this from 129 riders. ALR 283 has

has always stepped in and helped us. Our Wreaths Across America ride is progressing. We have a sign up sheet by the front door for several things which have to be done that day (Oct. 12th). Any member of the 129 Legion family may participate if interested. September 7th is our bike nite. Come out and

enjoy the virtual range with Barry. Have some fun competition. See if you can top Sue Nist LOL.



## Editor's Comments

by Sterling L. Phaklides

We now have 21 9 Hole Golf Saturdays behind us. Only rained out once. We have 26 golfers signed for the group and we get 10-12 each week. Everyone is having fun. If you are interested give me a call or send me an e-mail. We may even get ready to challenge other Legion Posts to a week end outing once per month. We will let you know. I

Send out notices each Wednesday to find out who will be playing on Saturday. Get your name on that list.

If you are interested in writing an article for the newsletter on an American Legion event or project please let me know. Would like to have more people involved in writ-

My contact information is: sterling1960@comcast.net or you can reach me on my cell phone 294-4234





# Support Those Who Support Us

## Business Booster List

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First month is FREE (signup) Donation of \$100 for 6 months or \$175 for 12 months. Your business card will be placed on this page. Get your business name out in front of all American Legion Post, Auxiliary, S.A.L and American Legion Rider members. Contact either Sterling (sterling1960@att.net) or Post Finance Officer Bob Schlatter if interested. Spots available for Post 129 members only.

## Meet One of our Members

Sometimes we don't know all of our Members, or know them vaguely. Over the next few months lets take a closer look at some of them and in the process discover a few interesting things about them.

James Stinekraus, known as 'Jim', can often be seen with his family down at American Legion Post 129. Were you aware he is a member of the Carson's Raiders? WWII, The United States Marines decided to make a new team, the "Elite of the Elite" were the raiders group. In total, there was only Four Raiders Groups. Jim was one of the "Elite of the Elite".

Carlson's Raiders fought in Guadalcanal, however, they are better known for the raid on Makin Island in the Gilbert islands. Via submarines, the Raiders

(122 Marines) were dropped off on the Japanese control island. Their mission was to assault the Japanese troops to keep them busy so they could not reinforce the troops currently under assault by Americans on Guadalcanal island. The Americans lost 30 men during this raid. The raid took place on August 17, 1942.



## STAND DOWN FOR HOMELESS VETERANS ( September 28, 2013)

Donations of Toiletries, socks and under clothing are appreciated. We will have a box available in the Auxiliary Office to place any items that you would like to bring in. This year we will be working together with the entire 5th District to assist in distributing these items to our Homeless Veterans.

Stand Downs are one part of the Department of Veterans Affairs efforts to provide services to homeless veterans. Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing services to homeless Veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling and referrals to a variety of other necessary services such as housing, employment

and substance abuse treatment. Stand Downs are collaborative events coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies and community agencies who serve the homeless.

The first Stand Down was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam Veterans in San Diego. Since then Stand Downs have been used as an effective tool in reaching out to homeless Veterans.

Approximately 1/3 of homeless adults (one out of every 3) in this country are veterans, yet veterans represent only 11% of the civilian population. On any given night 107,000—300,000 veterans are homeless. Based on various estimates

500,000—840,000 veterans are homeless at some time during the year. It has been estimated that Iraq & Afghanistan veterans represent 1.8% of the homeless veteran population. In 2008 44% of those surveyed reported being homeless for the first time. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs the number of homeless Vietnam era veterans exceeds the number of fatalities that occurred during the war.

The Florida Dept. of Children & Families has estimated that 17.3—18.4% of Florida's homeless are veterans. In 2008 the number of homeless veterans in Florida on any given night was ....19,000.

### New Members

#### Let's Welcome these new members to American Legion Post 129

Joshua McDade	U.S. Army
Stephan Hanns	U.S. Air Force
Randi Hansen	U.S. Navy
Joshua Wathen	U.S. Army
Michael H. Church	U.S. Navy
Kenneth D. Fox	U.S. Army
Richard K. McDowell	USMC
David W Lee	U.S. Navy
Fred Hubley	U.S. Army
Paul George	U.S.
Fredrick Boisclair	USMC

### Veterans Special Recognition Ceremony

Congressman Andrew Crenshaw is having a "Veterans Special Recognition Ceremony" honoring all veterans that served from World War II through Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The ceremony will be held in November at a date to be announced later this summer. The application deadline for this Special Recognition Certificate is October the 4th. To be eligible for this, you must send in a DD214 and Application, which I have and live in the Fourth Congressional District. You can check the back of your voting card to see if you live

in this District. Anyone interested in this Special recognition or have any questions, please get in touch with me.

Don Grzena. 1st Vice



### The World According to Me

Be the reason someone Smiles today...Beauty catches the  
ATTENTION  
However it's the character which catches the  
HEART

A HUGE THANK YOU TO Rose for donating yarn. It will be made into something special.

Ms Patty Rodriguez

### Football Sundays

Lunches will be served on Football Sundays starting on Sunday September 8th. The menu will vary weekly and donations will go to Post 129 organizations (Post 129, Auxiliary, SAL, ALR etc). Donations of \$5:00—\$6:00 depending on the menu for that week.

See you for Football on Sunday

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If you would like to become a Post 129 booster, please contact the Finance Officer. The dates below are booster expiration dates. Levels of booster sponsorship; Diamond \$100+, Platinum \$100, Gold \$50, Silver \$25, Bronze \$10.

**BOOSTER LIST**

**Diamond Level, \$100+**

Bob Schlatter (11/13)  
Sonny & Suzanne Sternberg (10/13)  
Shannon Devlin & Gregory Stanford  
(11/13)

**Platinum Level, \$100**

In memory of Cindy Burroughs (7/13)  
In memory of Mark Higgenbotham (6/13)  
Frank & Margie Redmond (8/13)  
Vince Rogers (1/14)

**Gold Level, \$50**

Chuck & Sue Nist (4/14)  
James M. Denholm (1/14)  
Jim and Mary Jo Davis (9/13)  
Charlie Parker (9/13)  
Bill Garrett (6/14)  
Sally Doherty (8/14)

**Silver Level, \$25**

In memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/13)  
Sterling & Linda Phaklides (6/13)  
In memory of Kim White (10/14)  
Jack & Ethel (11/13)  
In memory of USS Stark (5/13)  
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/13)

Nick Patrizio (10/13)  
Louise Taylor Braren (2/14)

**Bronze Level, \$10**

Jim Smith (8/13)  
In memory of Dottie Smith (8/13)  
In memory of Skip Hilliker (10/14)  
Martha & Roy Hauge (7/13)  
William & Fannie Bivens (10/13)  
Maddy Chitko (2/14)  
Richard & Jo Ann Scoggins (4/15)  
Richard & Katy (5/13)  
Robert Gomez (1/16)  
Russell & Mary Lou Jones (9/13)  
Shorty Heiman (11/13)  
Towney Kennard (11/13)  
Pete Riebesehl (11/13) MIA Henry Koch  
John & Gloria Molisani (8/15)

Let's  
Fill  
This  
Booster  
List  
Up  
Again