

# American Legion Post 129

August 2015

## Upcoming Events

- **August 1**  
5:30-10 p.m. ALR Bike Night
- **August 4**  
6 p.m. Coast Guard Birthday  
Cake Cutting
- **August 5**  
6:00 p.m. Planning Board  
7:00 p.m. House Committee
- **August 6**  
6:30 p.m. E-Board  
7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting  
7:30 p.m. General meeting
- **August 8**  
10 a.m. to Noon Open House  
Pancake Breakfast
- **August 13**  
7 p.m. Cabane Meeting
- **August 15**  
10 a.m. ALR Meeting
- **August 22**  
"I Love My Post" Clean Up Day
- **August 27**  
6:30 p.m. S.A.L. meeting

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## Commander's Corner by Ernie Florig

Dear Legion Family,

I want to begin by thanking all the volunteers who've made us a highly successful Post! During the past twelve months we've joined together to accomplish the awesome challenges of achieving our membership goals, and presenting a diverse range of Post activities to serve our veterans as well as our community.

On the membership side, our goal was 595 and we met the challenge by retaining and recruiting members for a total of 604 members—our end-of-year accomplishment was 101.5%! As for Post activities, we responded with volunteers to service our veterans and troops, youth activities, and to the community of Jacksonville Beach. As a testament to our hard work, our Post received the coveted National Commander's Post Excellence Award at the Department convention in late June! Congratulations to all of our volunteers for meeting the challenge!

I would like to thank Commander Danny Rodriguez and his bride, Patty, for their contributions this past year. As a small token of our appreciation, I presented Danny with the American Legion Past Commander's lapel pin at July's officer installation ceremony. I'd also like to thank the outgoing Post officers and committee members for their contributions and accomplishments for these past twelve months. For the incoming officers, congratulations on your election and appointments. We have been truly given an opportunity to lead Post 129 into the next level.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> District level, Danny will be serving as Sergeant-at-Arms for District Commander Lawson Dukes. I will be stepping up as the Chairman of Children and Youth. Also, our very own ALR Chapter Director Jim Wine-land is now the 5<sup>th</sup> District ALR chairman. Congrats!

At the Department convention Jim Ramos was elected the Department Commander. Jim is no stranger to the 5<sup>th</sup> District or Post 129. He hails from Gainesville and has been engaged with the Northern Area caucus, the 5<sup>th</sup> District, and our Post for ten years. Assisting Commander Ramos will be two "white hats" from our Post: Jerry Brandt as Department Membership Chairman and Jeff Durden as Northern Area Commander. Jeff is responsible for overseeing four Districts, which include 68 American Legion Posts. We congratulate these two outstanding Legionnaires and pledge our support in their endeavors!

Before I close, I'd like to share my background with y'all. I'm Ernie Florig and I moved to Jacksonville Beach 18 short months ago from Valdosta. I originally hail from the tiny island of Guam in the western Pacific. My eligibility in the American Legion comes from my thirty years of continuous service in the Air Force. I'm a retired Chief Master Sergeant (E-9). My high school sweetheart and bride of forty-three years is Cathy King of Aeia, Hawaii. She grew up a Navy brat and that's how we met on Guam.



Newsletter items should be emailed to Sue Nist at susan.nist@gmail.com

# Auxiliary News

by Toni Abbott



First and foremost, I would like to thank the Ladies of the Auxiliary who voted for me as President of the American Legion Unit 129 Auxiliary for 2015/2016. It is such in honor to hold this position and I can only hope that I will do our ladies proud!

Secondly, I would like to thank those that made our first official fundraiser for the year, Christmas in July dinner on July 10 a BIG success. Thank you to Kelly and Gary Bush, Kathy Jewell, Patty and Danny Rodriguez, Erin Flynn, Jerry Abbott, Judy and Scott Moody, Pat Cornell, Vicky Gordon-Haft, Barbara and Robert Fowler, Mary and Leo Tarnowski, Wanda and Jerry Brandt, and Mary Ellen and Frank Bolin. Thank you so much for everything you contributed and accomplished on this night! It would have not gone as smoothly without

everyone's help.

With that said, I would like to recognize Mary Ellen Bolin, who was instrumental in having the Commander, accompanying officers and their spouses from our adopted ship Hue City attend our Christmas dinner. They all had a wonderful time and thought very highly of our Post and members.

I would also like to thank the Legion and the American Legion Riders for their donations in helping us make Christmas in July a hit. It's nice to be able to depend on our own in-house organizations when needed.

Remember the giving tree is still standing and there are still envelopes available for donations. All donations made from the giving tree will be donated to Hue City.

In this next year, I hope to continue with making a difference in our community and also within our own post by creating new relationships and renewing old.

Please remember "United we stand, Divided we fall" has true meaning and I know that our post with all its wonderful members will keep united in helping our vets, other members and our community.

Thank you,

Toni Abbott

## Cabane and 40 and 8 News

Hello Dames,

On July 9, we had a very nice installation with the Voitures. I want to thank the new officers. I know we are going to have a very successful year?

July 31st will be our Steak Bingo at 6:30 p.m.

I hope to see everyone at the Aug. 13 Rendezvous at 7 p.m.

Sharon Harville  
La Presidente

The 40 and 8 Promenade is Thursday Aug. 13. Meet the new offices of the Voiture.

Michael Kocijan

## Officers for 2015—2016

Commander.....Ernie Florig  
1st Vice.....Joe Maichle  
2nd Vice.....Terry Stickles  
3rd Vice.....Vacant  
4th Vice.....Vacant  
Sgt at Arms.....Kevin Robbs  
Finance.....Bob Schlatter  
Chaplain.....Brian Hancher  
Adjutant.....Dave Tarnowski  
Judge Advocate.....Dennis McDowell  
Service Officer.....Bob Schmitt  
Historian..... Kelly Rice

### *E-Board Members*      *House Committee*

Linda Barefoot  
Bob Daigle, Sr.  
Jeff Durden  
Lee Fair  
Chuck Nist

Jerry Brandt  
Stephanie Cain  
Kathy Jewell  
Rob Nicholson  
John Quimby  
Frank Redmond  
Bill Wilson

*Auxiliary President*  
Toni Abbott  
*Commander-S.A.L.*  
Brian Hancher  
*Director-Legion Riders*  
Jim Wineland  
*Chef De Gare 40 & 8*  
Michael Kocijan  
*La Presidente, Cabane 215*  
Sharon Harville

## Commander's Corner (continued)

Cathy is a fellow Legionnaire and she was active duty Air Force for 21 years. Cathy is a retired Master Sergeant (E-7). We raised three sons, Casey, who resides in Valdosta, and Jesse and Ryan who call Washington, D.C. home. Cathy and I are parishioners at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Jacksonville Beach.

For the past year I served as your Adjutant in Post 129. My previous experience includes three years as Post 13 Commander in Valdosta and two terms as 12<sup>th</sup> District Commander in South Georgia. I also have served in various officer positions and committee chairs at the Post and District levels, as well as a counselor on the Department of Georgia Boys State Staff.

My passion and pledge is to serve veterans, regardless of whether they're a part of our Legion family or not. We must all be reminded, from time to time, that we are advocates for veterans, widows, and family members.

In closing, thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your Post Commander. I look forward to serving you and working with our officers to provide the best possible service for Team 129.

For God and Country,

Ernie Florig



## American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



As you all know, we didn't have our regular meeting this month but, the incoming officers got together for a short organizational meeting to get our new year kicked off. As I mentioned before JoAnn Blik is stepping up to help coordinate our upcoming events. We all need to pitch in and help. It's not something one individual can handle, it is a group effort for sure!

There were many new ideas kicked around on what type of an event or events to have. We could just do a Poker Run; our scheduled run is for Oct. 3. Chuck Turner suggested having a scavenger hunt which would be a new twist for us. Several individuals want to bring Big Toot into the event for the non-riders, which would bring a few more to the event. Lots going on.

Events already scheduled, Sunday,

Aug. 16, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII at the Jacksonville Cemetery, more information coming. 19th Street Charities Poker Run on Sept. 19, starting out from the Fleet, we are the second stop. That is also the date for our ALR meeting, so look for a time change here, possibly starting it a half hour earlier at 9:30 so we can support the event.

The following Saturday is Post 283's Poker Run, followed by ours on Saturday Oct. 3, which is also our Bike Night. We will need help from all to pull this off.

Dates to remember: In State Legacy Run, April 10-16, starting in Deland and ending at Melbourne; State Rally in Punta Gorda, May 13-15; and a Round Robin Run on November 7.

Ride Safe!

Jim

### A.L.R. Officers 2015-2016

Director — Jim Wineland  
 Asst. Director — Chuck Turner  
 Secretary — Bill Wilson  
 Treasurer — Bob Schlatter  
 Sergeant-at-Arms — Frank Hotmer  
 Road Captain — Bobby Greer  
 Historian — JoAnn Blik  
 Membership — Mary Tarnowski  
 Chaplain — Kathy Jewell  
 Safety Officer — Phillip Leveridge  
 Asst. Sgt. at Arms — Gerald Delisle

## Croaker Tournament Oct. 11-12, 2015

Here we are exactly 85 days away from the start of the 2015 Croaker Tournament. We had our Committee meeting last night and things are really starting to look up. The registrations have been mailed to prior tournament fishing teams (65 in all) along with a 130+ Boat owners that I found driving around Jacksonville and the Beaches. Hopefully that will mean that we will exceed the last few years of boat registrants! We already have the first 4 boats committed. The quest for boat prizes is going great. I think there will be some fabulous prizes for each and every boat registered for the tournament.

As we all know the cost of sponsoring a Young Man for Boys State has increased a lot this year. It is very important that legion members try to support this effort, either by registering for the tournament, or buying raffle tickets and or dinners.

I would like to say a special thank you to Jim Wineland, Post 129 Legion Riders, for allowing the Croaker reps to sell our Raffle tickets all over the legion on Oct. 9, 10,

and 11th. He certainly did not have to give us their time, but he did and I greatly appreciate it. He is certainly a class act! Come and find me and I will definitely buy your raffle tickets too.

Lastly, as an aside, the success of this tournament is definitely due to this Croaker Tournament Committee! I would like to say that this Committee is the finest that I have ever had the privilege of working with. They are all energetic, bright, enthusiastic, and willing to work hard to make this project a success – not only for the Boys State but also for Post 129. They are all to be commended.

Linda Wiltshire  
Tournament Director



## Saturday Golf League

This April, we will be going into our 3rd year of the American Legion Post 129 Nine-Hole Golf League. We play every Saturday at Jacksonville Beach Golf Course. The first t-time is 11:15 a.m. If you are playing, you should be at the course by 10:45 a.m. When you register to play, you will receive a reminder each Monday asking if you will be playing. The format is 9-hole Captain's Choice. Join today, have fun.

## Post Everlasting Final Salute

We render a final salute to our comrades and extend our thoughts and prayers to their loved ones:

William (Bill) Bivens - Air Force - Korea

Sterling Phaklides - Air Force - Vietnam

## Wall of Honor

We are attempting to start a new tradition at American Legion Post 129. We would like to place pictures of all ACTIVE DUTY Personnel, in Uniform, on our wall.

Please give a picture of your service person to the Commander Danny Rodriguez or Jerry Brandt.

## Queen of Diamonds

Please join us every Saturday night at 7 p.m. for the Queen of Diamonds.

Rules are on the board at the Post.

Good Luck!



## Pass the Trash

Come out Sunday nights at 6 p.m. and have some fun playing "Pass the Trash".



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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 (11/15)
- In Memory of George A. Campbell (1/15)
- In Memory of James M. Chilton (1/15)
- In Memory of Arlene G. Chilton (1/15)

**Platinum Level, \$100**

- In Memory of Cindy Burroughs (7/15)

**Gold Level, \$50**

- Chuck & Sue Nist (4/16)
- Charlie Parker (9/15)
- Bill Garrett (6/16)
- Rush K Abry (2/15)

**Silver Level, \$25**

- In Memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/15)
- Sterling & Linda Phaklides (6/15)
- In Memory of Kim White (10/16)
- P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/15)
- C.M. Walker (10/15)
- Jack & Ethel (2/15)
- Louise Taylor Braren (2/15)
- Franklin Friers (3/15)
- Paul "Shorts" Urff (8/15)
- Frank and Joan Baagoe (3/16)
- Sally & Pearse Doherty
- In Memory of Skip Hilliker (6/16)

**Bronze Level, \$10**

- Estelle Mellon (9/15)
- Maddy Chitko (2/16)
- Richard & Jo Ann Scoggins (4/19)
- Robert Gomez (1/16)
- Russell & Mary Lou Jones (9/15)
- John & Gloria Molisani (8/17)
- Thomas Selig (7/16)
- Pete Riebesehl (9/15) MIA Henry Koch
- William and Fannie Bivens (2/16)
- In Memory of John C. Ford (5/17)