

American Legion Post 129

December 2014

Upcoming Events

- **Dec. 4**
6:00 p.m. Planning Board
6:30 p.m. E-Board
7:00 p.m. Auxiliary meeting
7:30 General meeting
- **Dec. 6**
5:30-10 p.m. ALR Bike Night
- **Dec. 7**
2 p.m. 5th District Auxiliary Meeting
- **Dec. 13**
Children's Christmas Party
- **Dec. 20**
10:00 a.m. ALR meeting
- **Dec. 25**
Christmas Day
Post opens at Noon
- **Dec. 31**
New Year's Eve Party!

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Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

I am asking for your help with membership. We did not make department goals and this is a first for our Post in many years. Please, if you know a member that has not renewed, talk to them and find out why. Even those that have been out for two years, we can still bring them back. Also, if you know someone that is eligible, invite them down and see what kind of fun they can have. Let them know about the perks of being a member has to offer. The discounts that are available to members with the different companies such as Dell computers, hotels and rental cars. If you're not sure about these, there are flyers in the Post. We also have a Service Officer who can help with VA claims and questions.

On the subject of membership, if you have not renewed by Dec. 31, your card will not be valid on Jan. 1, and you will be refused service in the canteen.

The "Queen of Diamonds" is coming down to the wire. At the time I am writing this, there are only five cards left. As a reminder, if you play, you must have your membership card with you if you win the drawing. Otherwise, you cannot draw and another ticket will be pulled. When the game is over, we will be starting a new one with some rule changes and two more

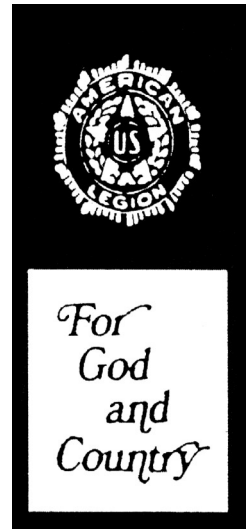
cards. So watch for the new game. Despite the rumors going around, we will still be open to all Legion family members from any post.

I have had a request that we Legionnaires help with breakfast on Sunday mornings. It seems that our cooks have dropped and there are very few Legionnaires in the kitchen. So if you can help or know how to short-order cook, please see Patti Kapeghian and sign up.

Terry, our great chef and Second Vice, has had some health issues, and I would like to thank Dave for stepping up with the dinners. Dave does a great lunch and is providing that menu for dinner, as well as a special for dinner. Joe Maichle, our 4th Vice, has stepped up as well to assist with special event meals. He was a great help on Veterans Day in helping with the dinner that was served.

I'm sure you have heard that we lost two of our favorite members of the Post, Jack and Ethel. They will be sorely missed. I want to thank everyone for their generous help with the covered dishes. It was a spread that would have made a king happy.

I would also like to send out a prayer for Keith and Joyce Ingle. Keith is in rehab, and we wish him the best.



Auxiliary News by Kelly Bush



Our general meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. Bring your Christmas cards for the troops to the meeting for delivery.

Thank you to Toni Abbott and crew for a fabulous meal in November. We have our next monthly Auxiliary dinner and steak bingo on Friday, Dec. 12. Please come out and support your unit! There is a sign-up sheet in the Auxiliary room if you can cook a monthly Friday meal.

Thank you to all who participated in and attended the wonderful show on Nov. 15. Mary Ellen and Candace really delivered up some fun, thought-provoking skits that were performed to perfection. The dinner prepared by Ann and John was spectacular, and our clean-up helpers and Fletcher Chorus servers/performers were great! The

proceeds will go to Girls State and our troops. Thank you all!

Please come and show your support for the Auxiliary on Saturday night, Dec. 6, for the Department President's visit/dinner. Let's fill our room on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., as we host the 5th District Meeting.

Sign up now for the Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 13. Ages up to 10 years old will receive a gift from Santa, but all children are welcome. There will be crafts, games, food, and lots of fun!

Be on the lookout for our upcoming golf tournament in January 2015 to benefit Girls State.

Welcome to our new/transfer unit members:

- Judith Chalcraft
- Phyllis Harris
- Linda Isaac
- Cecilia Turner

Yours in service,

Kelly Bush
ALA Unit 129 President

S.A.L. News by J.D. Kapeghian



The S.A.L. would like to send our condolences to Erik Hardebeck and his family and Maggie McCall and family as we say a sad goodbye to our beloved family members, Jack and Ethel. Thank you for the turnout. They will be missed more than words can say. They were part of the life blood of this Legion.

I hope everyone had a happy and thankful Thanksgiving!

From what I hear, our beloved train is up and running for our "Hang Over Crawl II". The sign-up sheet is on the board by the kitchen. If we have enough participants, we will be using the train again.

If not, we will still go out on the trolley.

I would like to thank everyone for their participation and anticipation of getting new members into the post.

As of Jan. 1, bartenders will be checking Legion cards for eligibility for 2015. Anyone that has not paid their dues, they are \$20. Please see one of the S.A.L. officers or leave it with the bartender. Cards will be made daily from now until Jan. 1.

S.A.L. will be serving dinner on Friday, Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m. Menu to be determined.

Please look for our raffle basket in the month of January. We will be raffling off a bag of \$CASH\$ and a basket of booze, with other prizes to be determined!

Thank you and good night.

Officers for 2014—2015

Commander.....Danny Rodriguez
1st Vice.....Tommy Williams
2nd Vice.....Terry Stickles
3rd Vice.....Jerry Brandt
4th Vice.....Joe Maichle
Sgt at Arms.....Anna Rogers
Finance.....Bob Schlatter
Chaplain.....Brian Hancher
Adjutant.....Ernie Florig
Judge Advocate.....Bob Wilson
Service Officer.....Ken Aune
Historian.....Kelly Rice

E-Board Members	House Committee
Cathy Berry	Dwight Deyo
Lee Fair	Rich Hansberg
Deborah Left	Kathy Jewell
Dennis McDowell	Dale Peterson
Chuck Nist	Rich Reyman
	Bill Wilson
	Jim Winelnad

Auxiliary President
Kelly Bush
Commander-S.A.L.
J.D. Kapeghian
Director-Legion Riders
Jim Wineland
Chef De Gare 40 & 8
D.R. Richards
La Presidente, Cabane 215
Louise Bagdasarian

The World According to Me by Patty Rodriguez

Welcome December!

The New Year is right around the corner and as we get ready to say farewell to 2014, let's not forget the exciting things we accomplished together as a Legion Family and the difference we made in the lives of others.

We have all faced and endured a lot of fears and battles during this last

year. My prayers and hopes for all of you:

Take a deep breathe, exhale and give yourself the encouragement and love you have shared with others.

Spend a little more time taking care of yourself even if its a 10-minute walk on the beach or reading a book.

The circle of life sometimes makes us dizzy and is not always fair, yet it is worth living.

I do believe 2015 will be an adventurous one!

VA Healthcare News by Kenneth Aune, Service Officer

Comrades:

We have a new Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. His name is Robert McDonald. Secretary McDonald has implemented a system to alleviate the tremendous wait times at our VA Health Care facilities. This is called the "Veterans Choice Card". This is a short-term program.

Treatment outside of the VA Health Care System has certain requirements:

1. The veteran is told by his/her local VA facility that he/she will need to wait more than 30 days from the preferred date or the date medically determined by his/her physician.
2. The veteran's current residence is more than 40 miles to the closest VA care facility. This is determined by as the crow flies.
3. The veteran resides in a location other than Guam, American Samoa, or the Republic of the Philippines and needs to travel by plane or boat to the closest VA facility.
4. The veteran faces a geographic challenge, such as extensive distance

around water or other geologic formations, such as mountains that presents a significant travel hardship.

If the veteran has a health care plan, the VA will be the secondary responsibility for payment. When a veteran receives care from an eligible provider, that provider must submit a copy of any medical record information related to the care and service provided.

These cards will be mailed to veterans who currently treat with the Veterans Health Administration.

American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



Well, 2014 is coming to an end, but it's not over yet!

There are two rides ALR members can be a part of on Saturday, Dec. 6. We have the 5th District Legacy Fund Poker Run, and our Post is one of the stops. Also that day is the 19th Street Charities Toys-For-Tots escorted ride.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, the escort and placement of wreaths at the Jacksonville National Cemetery will take place. Also on Dec. 13 is the Children's Christmas Party at Post 129.

It is a hectic time of year trying to balance out the time for family activities, as well as those of our Legion family.

With so many things going on as Christmas draws near, we decided to move our Christmas celebration to the

first Bike Night of 2015 on Jan. 3. More details to follow.

Reflecting back on the year, we have accomplished a lot. Through the year we have been able to support several 5th District posts with donations to their charities. Our Post 129 Riders came together and supported the Carver Center of Jacksonville Beach, as well as successfully host our 2nd Annual Wreaths Across America Poker Run. We are already planning activities for next year.

Welcome to new members: Alison Joyner and Charles Turner. Wayne Parrot became a life member.

In closing, I wish all of our Legion families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ride Safe!



Canteen Update

by Brandi Roberts



Hello from your Canteen Staff!

December is already here and it's hard to believe! It's been a busy year and December is no different. We will hold our annual Christmas Eve Party on Dec. 24.

Post 129 will be open on Christmas Day! We will open at noon and close when business declines. We will not have food available, but if you would like to bring something to share with your Post family, you are welcome to.

New Year's Eve will be the same as it has been for a few years. Group Therapy will be here to entertain us from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. There will NOT be a seat or cover charge this year. It is a no-fuss party. There will be party favors, and we will put out some munchies around midnight. But other than that, it is just come, party, drink, and dance! No dinner will be available for that evening. We are requesting that if possible everyone brings

in some snacks to share.

We are already starting to plan next year's events, and I believe it will be another wonderful year. We will be holding our annual chili cook off on Jan. 17. So start cooking and experimenting with those wonderful chili recipes. If anyone would like to judge, please let me know. We are also planning to bring back Comedy night and Monte Carlo night next year. Please let me know if you have any other ideas.

Football season is well underway, and the NFL Sunday Ticket and the Game-Plan from Direct TV has been a huge success!!! You will be seeing every game every week!

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 email. If you would like to be added to the list, please sign up on the bulletin board.

As always, we would like to thank all the members that help out around the canteen there are too many of you to name but we hope that you know how thankful we are for your help. This canteen could not run without you!

We are continuing to bring new and exciting events to the Post! If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please let us know. We can always use your help!

Let us know your needs, expectations, and hopes. We hope to serve you soon!

January 24, 2015 Golf Tournament

American Legion Post 129 will be hosting an 18-hole golf tournament on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015. It will be a Captains Choice format. The proceeds from this tournament will benefit the Boys and Girls State program.

Please join us for this Inaugural American Legion Post 129 Golf Tournament. We will have a great day of golf at the beautiful Jacksonville Beach Golf Club in Jacksonville Beach. The event will include a 4-person shotgun start scramble. The cost per golfer is \$60, which includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, range balls, lunch, arrival gift packet, and awards dinner following the tournament. There will be other fun things such as the opportunity to purchase mulligans, a putting contest, as well as prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, and straightest drive. You can register in person at the Post or go to our Website (www.post129.org) to register and pay.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us with the pre-tournament activities, as well as tournament-day tasks. If you have any questions, you can call: Candace Mabry (904) 708-2445 or Sterling Phaklides (904) 294-4234.

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".



Commander's Corner (continued from Page 1)

Remember that this is your Post. At my installation, it was said, "that the success or failure of the Post rests upon my shoulders", but I cannot do this alone. It takes the membership to do this. You can help by doing some small thing.

I want to advise everyone that I am calling for the elections for Post officers to be scheduled Friday, May 1. This means I would like for members to start thinking about running for office. I will call for the election committee at the April meeting. I would like for some of the younger members to get involved.

Welcome new Legion members:

- William J. Blacklidge (transfer) — Navy
- Harlan K. Clayton — Marine Corps
- Ernesto M. Fajura (transfer) — Navy
- Charles A. Hannon — Navy
- Patrick F. McLaughlin (transfer) — Army
- Harvey C. Rice, III — Navy
- Gregory G. Richardson — Navy
- Stephen M. Starke — Navy
- Randy L. Whitmire — Navy



Thank You.....

Thanks to all who participated in the America Bold and Beautiful. The cast was patient and wonderful, the decorations delightful, the food very tasty, and the ticket master was so dependable. The two guys on props once again made Granny proud, and the audience was GREAT!

— Mary Ellen Bolin



Cabane News

by Louise Bagdasarian

I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Cabane on NFL Sundays, as well as our Fantasy Football Raffle. Thanks again!

Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m. we are having our holiday dinner with the Voyageurs at LongHorn Steakhouse. Don't forget the date. I am looking forward to a

very enjoyable evening.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Faithfully yours,
Louise Bagdasarian
La Presidente

Editor's Comments

by Sue Nist

Please remember the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who are actively defending our freedom and not able to be home with their family and friends this Christmas.

I wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

My contact information is:
susan.nist@gmail.com.



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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 (11/14)
In memory of F. Joe Cornell (10/14)
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 (4/15)
Charlie Parker (9/15)
Bill Garrett (6/15)
Sally & Pearse Doherty (8/14)
Rush K Abry (2/15)

Silver Level, \$25

In memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/14)
Sterling & Linda Phaklides (6/15)
In memory of Kim White (10/16)
Nicholas Patrizio (10/14)
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/15)
C.M. Walker (10/15)
Jack & Ethel (2/15)
Nick Patrizio (10/14)
Louise Taylor Braren (2/15)

In memory of Jim Forbess 11/14
In memory of Donald Forbess (11/14)
Franklin Friers (3/15)
Paul "Shorts" Urff (8/15)

Bronze Level, \$10

Estelle Mellon (9/15)
In memory of Skip Hilliker (10/14)
William & Fannie Bivens (10/14)
Maddy Chitko (2/15)
Richard & Jo Ann Scoggins (4/15)
Robert Gomez (1/16)
Russell & Mary Lou Jones (9/15)
John & Gloria Molisani (8/15)
Thomas Selig (7/15)
Pete Riebesehl (9/15) MIA Henry Koch