

American Legion Post 129

December 2015

Upcoming Events

- **Dec. 2**
6 p.m. Planning Board
7 p.m. House Committee
- **Dec. 3**
6:30 p.m. E-Board
7 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting
7:30 p.m. General meeting
- **Dec. 5**
5:30-9:30 p.m. ALR Bike Night
Commander's Welcome
Dinner
- **Dec. 10**
5:30 p.m. Cabane Meeting
- **Dec. 13**
Children's Christmas Party!
- **Dec. 19**
9 a.m. to Noon Open House
Pancake Breakfast
10 a.m. ALR Meeting
- **Dec. 20**
1 p.m. Dart League Banquet
- **Dec. 24**
Christmas Eve Party!
- **Dec. 25**
Merry Christmas!
- **Dec. 31**
New Year's Eve Party!

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Commander's Corner by Ernie Florig

Dear Legion Family,

I begin by honoring the many brave men and women who served admirably during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. During this cowardly attack, 2,403 of our service members were killed, 19 ships were sunk or destroyed, and 188 aircraft were destroyed. As a result of their admirable bravery during this single day, our Nation awarded 15 Medals of Honor, 51 Navy Crosses, 53 Silver Stars, and numerous other decorations for valor in defense of America. The attack on Pearl Harbor ushered "Day One" of World War II and would end 1,332 days later. Ultimately, the war effort would claim the lives of 405,399 American patriots.

The American Legion National Commander, Dale Barnett, is a graduate of West Point; and as you may conclude, his motto is Duty. Honor. Country. These three words truly capture the contributions and resolve of our warriors of the "greatest generation." We render a sharp salute to the fallen and survivors of Pearl Harbor, and as a grateful Nation, sincerely thank them from the bottom of our hearts for a job well done!

Our Post celebrated the Marine Corps' 240th birthday on Nov. 10. Thanks to Past Commander Danny Rodriguez for organizing this event!

On Nov. 11, our Post co-sponsored the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Beaches Veterans Memorial Park, adjacent to Post 316. Thanks to the handful of Post members who participated. Special recognition goes out to Legion Riders Director

Jim Wineland for being an official flagbearer during the event!

Jerry Brandt, Jeff Durden, Jim Wineland and I attended the Department's fall conference in Orlando. Our Post was recognized for achieving the monthly goals for membership. Thanks to those Legionnaires who made an effort to renew their membership dues! As of this writing, we've turned in 80 percent of our renewals and inching our way towards 100 percent. As we approach Dec. 31, I'd like to gently remind those Legionnaires who haven't renewed to get it done before the Jan. 1 dues hike. Don't forget, your canteen privileges expire Dec. 31.

On Nov. 15, Terry Stickles, Rick Miller, and Jose and Kathy Maichle prepared a scrumptious baked chicken dinner for recognizing our Early Bird membership renewals. We truly thank this kitchen team for supporting our Post activities week after week!

"New York" Tom Dermody prepared a French toast breakfast for our Nov. 21st monthly free membership breakfast and open house. WE had a crowd of 35 vets who came together on a Saturday morning for good food and fellowship. Thanks to Tom and his able helpers, Richard and Charles!

(cont. page 3)



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

Auxiliary News

by Toni Abbott



Hi to All!

A very brisk morning as I write this article. I believe winter has arrived and I will sleep (and so will you) so much better than I did with the heat!

Last newsletter, it was mentioned that the Auxiliary would soon spread their wings in an effort to reach out to other non-profit organizations. I'm happy to announce that the Auxiliary spread their wings super wide and we were able to donate \$1,000 each to help two organizations this month. The first, PACE, is a non-profit center for girls that began in 1985 in Jacksonville as a community response to the realization that girls involved with the justice system were either placed in programs designed for boys or placed further into the system for their own protection. There were no effective alternatives. Started by Vicki Burke and guided by the research-based recommendations which called for gender responsive programming. PACE created a new alternative to institutionalization or incarceration for girls. They provide girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy.

Today, PACE has 19 centers throughout Florida.

Our second organization to support is the expansion on the Ronald McDonald House in Jacksonville. The expansion, when completed in January 2016, will fully renovate the house to meet the increased need for their services. The construction includes 24 additional bedrooms to increase their facility to 54 rooms. The extension to the facility will be three stories and will be built over the west side of the existing parking lot. Covered parking will be created as part of the new construction. There will also be an increase to all common area spaces including kitchens, dining room, laundry facilities and play areas. We know that both these organizations are fantastic and we are glad to provide the much needed support.

Volunteers, I don't know what we would do without our volunteers. Our volunteers DO make a difference. Thank you to Kelly and Gary Bush, Judy Moody and Wanda Brandt for the wonderful meal and fabulous service they provided to our members earlier this month with a Hawaiian marinated chicken dinner and dessert.

I'd also like to thank those who came out again to help with the Auxiliary room, Kelly and Gary Bush, Judy Moody and Candace Mabry. And a BIG thank you to our day time bingo volunteers, Joann Scoggins and Pat Alvey and our evening steak bingo caller, Candace Mabry. I would be remised if I did not mention that every single one of our Auxiliary ladies volunteers throughout the year. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

I would like to end this article with a personal note. My whole family appreciates the many friends that attended and bid a farewell to my mother Patricia (Pat) Cornell at her Celebration of Life. Pat was a wonderful addition to the Auxiliary and the Legion for more than 30 years. She will be dearly missed. Thank you!!

Toni Abbott, Auxiliary President

Saturday Golf League

We play every Saturday at Windy Harbor Mayport Naval Station. The first t-time is 10:30 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. For more information, contact Clint Swinehart at [904-253-5856](tel:904-253-5856) or e-mail him at swineiam@bellsouth.net.

Can you Crochet?

How many of us are asking ourselves at the end of the day: Did I love enough? Did I laugh enough? Did I make a difference? These are among many of the questions that seem to keep us awake at night.

I would love to have as many Legion family members, or friends of members, assist me in making crocheted Granny Squares in a project for 2015-2016, with the potential to continue.

If interested, please see me at the Post for feel free to email me for the specifics. Patty Rodriguez
ajmema2@hotmail.com



S.A.L. News

S.A.L. Officers 2015-2016

Commander — Brian Hancher*
 1st Vice — Kenny Pigg*
 2nd Vice — Martin Manly
 3rd Vice — Terry Stickles*
 4th Vice — Phil Munson
 Sgt. Of Arms — A.J. Rodriguez*
 Finance Officer — Steve Smith*
 Adjutant — Rob Nicholson
 Chaplain — Brian Hancher*
 Historian — Rob Nicholson
 *Appointed

Legion News

By Joe Maichle

Fellow Legionnaires:

On Sunday, Nov. 15, we held our annual Early Bird Dinner, which was very well-attended by all in the Legion Family. We served approximately 75 dinners and had nothing but compliments from all. A special thanks to 2nd Vice Commander Terry Stickles, 4th Vice Commander Rick Miller, and Kathy Maichle, who all helped in preparing the dinner. Also a thank you to Commander Florig and his wife Cathy who helped serve the dinner.

Our membership renewal stands at 79.3%. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership and

helping us make our goal. For those who have not renewed, Jan. 1 is coming very, very quickly and the dues will increase by \$10 to \$45 per year. If you can't make it to the Post to renew your membership, contact Commander Florig or myself and we will come to you. On Dec. 12, we will be holding a phone bank at the Post to contact those who have not renewed their membership. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

For God and Country,
Joe

Commander's Corner (continued)

The flower beds by our entrance way needed sprucing and TLC. Thanks to Betty Hughes, with assistance from Cathy Florig, for beautifying our Post home!

In January 2016, we will be transitioning to a bi-monthly newsletter issue. As you can imagine, putting together a newsletter month-after-month is labor intensive and costly for printing and postage. So, to give our Newsletter Editor Sue Nist much need relief, we've decided to publish a newsletter every other month. Many members of our Post expect the various services our volunteers provide, but only a handful will lend their time and talent towards getting this done—just sayin'.

In closing, on behalf of our Post officers, I'd like to wish you and your loved ones a blessed and safe Christmas season and a New Year filled with good health and fortune! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Please join us in welcoming the following new members and transfers:

New Members

Elizabeth Barry - Air Force - Vietnam
Robert Bilik - Air Force - Vietnam
Dr. William "Pete" Booras - Navy - Korea
Donald Hansen - Marine Corps - Gulf
Craig Heligman - Navy - Panama

Transfers

Gregory Anderson - Army - Gulf - From NY Post 1302
William "Bill" Karandos - Marine Corps - Vietnam - From Post 233
Luis Melendez - Army - Panama - From

Hello Dames:

We will be having our annual Christmas Party with the Voyagers Thursday, Dec. 10, at Wipeouts Grill in Neptune Beach starting at 5:30 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 7. This is our regular Rendevous night.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sharon Harville
La Presidente

Post 137

Donald "Don" Olson - Navy - Vietnam - From WI Post 154
William Sands - Navy - Vietnam - From Post 400
David Small - Air Force - Gulf - From MO Post 1000
D. "Steve" Stevers - Army - Korea - From Post 233
C. Randolph "Randy" Thomas, Jr. - Navy - Vietnam - Post 283
Lelyn Wendricks - Air Force - Gulf - From Post 316

For God and Country,

Ernie Florig
Cell: 515-8390

Officers for 2015—2016

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

E-Board Members

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

House Committee

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

Marie Spine

La Presidente, Cabane 215

Sharon Harville

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.

Do you remember when we had Knights to Remember in the event hall? If you don't, it was a great time. The group has since broken up, but we have the lead singer coming in on Friday, Dec. 4, to perform for you in the main canteen area! Peter Michael will be performing your favorite tunes of the 40s thru the 80s. So mark your calendars, this is a night you are not going to want to miss!

We will hold our annual Christmas Eve party on Dec. 24th. **Post 129 will be open for Christmas Day!** We will open at 10 a.m. 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. Double Shot 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 a champagne toast at midnight, but other than that, it is just come, party, drink,

and dance! No dinner will be available that evening. We are requesting that if possible, everyone bring 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. 16th. So start cooking and experimenting with those wonderful chili's. If anyone would like to judge, please let me know. We are also planning to bring back Pain Night, Comedy Night, and Monte Carlo Night next year. Please let me know if you have any other ideas!

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!



American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



The final pieces are coming together for our Navy Seal's home upgrade. We are looking at a lot of activity in this area to get this wrapped up for him, and get the project behind us. We have about 75 days to complete and submit the final paperwork to the Home Depot Foundation.

We have a great story to tell...while at the Home Depot presenting the Assistant Store Manager, Randy Jackson, with a plaque of appreciation for all Home Depot has done, our Navy Seal just happened to be there, so he was included in the celebration. We couldn't have planned it any better. Sometime things just happen for a reason. God Bless!

The numbers are in for the Round Robin,

and we placed in the top 25%, competing against all 17 Districts in the State of Florida. Thanks again to all who participated from our Post. Just a side note, out of the 13,000 plus miles I recorded in the 5th District, 10,000 plus miles came out of Post 129. Great Job!

Dates to Remember:

Dec. 5: 19th Street Charities Toys for Tots Marine escort to the Seawalk Pavilion and ALR Bike Night.

Dec. 12: Wreaths Across America escort ride.

Dec. 13: Santa escort for the Post's Childrens' Christmas Party.

Jan. 9: SCOOTINAMERICA at Adamac in Jacksonville.

April 10-16: In State Legacy Run starting in Deland and ending in Melbourne.

May 13-15: The State Rally in Punta Gorda.

Please put applications for the ALR in the Road Captain's mailbox in the back hallway. If it's too small, please let us know and we'll get a larger box. Thanks!

As you can see, there's a lot going on with lots to do.

Ride Safe!

Jim

American Legion-Ocean Beaches

1151 S. Fourth St.
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

**POST
129**

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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 Al "Sharkey" Wiltshire (2022)

Platinum Level, \$100

In Memory of Cindy Burroughs (7/16)

Gold Level, \$50

Chuck & Sue Nist (4/16)
Charlie Parker (9/16)
Bill Garrett (6/16)

Silver Level, \$25

In Memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/15)
In Memory of Kim White (10/16)
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/16)
Louise Taylor Braren (8/16)
Paul "Shorts" Urff (8/17)
Frank and Joan Baagoe (3/16)
Sally & Pearse Doherty (5/16)
In Memory of Skip Hilliker (6/16)
Gordy & Petie Havey (9/16)

Bronze Level, \$10

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