

# American Legion Post 129

January-February 2017

## Upcoming Meetings/ Events

- **Planning Board at 6 pm**  
Jan. 4 and Feb. 1
- **House Comm. at 7 p.m.**  
Jan. 4 and Feb. 1
- **E-Board at 6:30 p.m.**  
Jan. 5 and Feb. 2
- **Auxiliary at 7 p.m.**  
Jan. 5 and Feb. 2
- **General Mtg at 7:30 p.m.**  
Jan. 5 and Feb. 2
- **Cabane at 7 p.m.**  
Jan. 12 and Feb. 9
- **ALR at 7 p.m.**  
Jan. 3 and Feb. 7
- **SAL at 5:45 p.m.**  
Jan. 5 and Feb. 2
- **40 & 8 at 7 p.m.**  
Jan. 12 and Feb. 9
- **Four Chaplain's Event**  
Feb. 5
- **Blood Drive**  
Feb. 25 Noon-5 p.m.

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## Commander's Corner by Ernie Florig

Dear Legionnaires and Family Members,

Happy New Year 2017! We wish our Legionnaires and family members a prosperous new year, filled with good health, love and laughter.

Our first order of business will be voting on the proposed Non-Smoking policy at the January 5<sup>th</sup> business meeting, 7:30 pm. Please make sure your Post dues for 2017 are paid so that you may be able to cast a vote on this very important and emotional issue. We'll also be voting on minor changes to the Post's Constitution and By-Laws. The proposed changes are posted on the bulletin board located to the right of the Canteen Manager's office.

At our November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, we approved three new members and four transfers. Please join us in welcoming new members Randy Leamon-Navy-Panama, John Longfield Smith-Marine Corps-Panama, and Lawrence Laymon-Marine Corps-Lebanon/Grenada. Transfers included Ernest Brunson-Navy-Korea-Post 316, Jerry Richter-Air Force-Korea-Post 400, Thomas Gilsenan-Army-Vietnam-Post 316, and Jessie Busby-Air Force-Vietnam-Post 283.

On Veterans Day, we sponsored a One Blood donor drive with a goal of ten pints. Although we were short by two pints, I'd like to recognize the following donors: Pat Fowler, David Ponce, Mike Flanagan, Howard Branzell, Thomas White, Taylor Tabeling, Bob Schmitt, and yours truly. Our Blood Donor Chairman Linda Wiltshire has scheduled the next drive for February 25<sup>th</sup>, Noon-5pm, Saturday. Please come out and share the gift of life for those in need.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> we approved four new members and five transfers. New members included Michael Taylor-Air Force-Gulf, Vincent Cruz-Active Duty Navy-Gulf, Les Thornton-Navy-Gulf, and Daniel Favichea-Army-Gulf. Transfers included Chester Galbraith-Navy-WW II-Post 37, Dean Stumpf-Navy-Gulf-Post 400, Robert Sok-Navy-Vietnam-Post 233, Richard Wagner-Navy-Vietnam-Post 316, and Joseph Friday-Navy-Gulf-Post 400.

As a reminder, to ensure application forms and transfers are processed in a timely manner, we need the following: Forms must be filled out completely and legibly, dues need to be paid, and proof of service (DD Form 214) have to be attached to the form. You can obtain a duplicate copy of the DD Form 214 by visiting the National Archives website at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). It takes approximately six weeks to process your request.

At our December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, I also bestowed the Honorary Life Membership status on two long-term volunteers: Past Commander Danny Rodriguez and 2nd Vice Commander Terry Stickles. Congrats to these two Legionnaires for their outstanding contributions to Post activities and Legion programs!

As of December 15<sup>th</sup> our Post membership rate is at 78.155%. We are 135 renewals away from reaching 100%. Now that we're in 2017, you'll need a 2017 membership card to receive canteen privileges.

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For  
God  
and  
Country



Newsletter items should be emailed to Sue Nist at [susan.nist@gmail.com](mailto:susan.nist@gmail.com)

# Auxiliary News by Candace Mabry



Hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! What better way to bring in the New Year than spending it at the Post and having a wonderful time. Thanks to Brandi Haught, our Canteen Manager, for making it another memorable evening.

Congratulations to all the raffle basket winners. Our Luau was a huge success with great food and especially fun. Hopefully we can make this a yearly event. Thanks to all the volunteers that pulled this off from the kitchen to the decorations, gift gathering, raffle ticket selling, picture booth, and to everyone that came out and supported your Auxiliary.

Speaking of a yearly event, it is time, ladies, to renew your membership. As of Dec. 9, your Unit was only at 54 percent. Our goal this year is 324 members, and we only have 175 that have renewed. Remember, as of January 1st, when you come to the Post, you must show your 2017 membership card for access.

I would like to welcome our new members: Kim Burke, Stacy Colby, Adrianna Edwards, Kylie Edwards, and Victoria Edwards. Our transfers are Angela Leekim and Paula O'Neil. Welcome, welcome and hope to see you at our next meeting, which is the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

We had another successful Children's Christmas Party. Thanks, Erin, for all you do! I feel it gets better and better each year. Thanks John Burroughs and Cindy Jordon for your generous gift to the kids. Thanks also to all who helped Erin get this party done.

Mark your calendars for April 22, 2017. This will be our 3rd Annual Sterling Memorial Golf Tournament benefitting Boys and Girls State. Anyone who would like to help with this tournament, we will welcome you to the fold. I am happy to report that we have been given approval by the Department of Florida, both Legion and Auxiliary, to grant two scholarships for our district to a boy and a girl whose Post/Unit cannot afford to send to Tallahassee. Thanks, Toni Abbott, for all your work to make the Pat Cornell Scholarship come to fruition.



None of this work can be done without our volunteers. I recently came upon this poem and would like to share:

*Many will be shocked to find,  
when the day of judgment nears,  
That there's a special place in Heaven,  
set aside for volunteers.  
Furnished with big recliners,  
satin couches and footstools,  
Where there are no committee chairmen,  
no yard sales or rest area coffee to serve,  
No library duty or bulletin assembly,  
there will be nothing to print or staple,  
Not one thing to fold or mail,  
Telephone lists will be outlawed.  
But a finger snap will bring cool drinks  
and gourmet dinners and  
rare treats fit for a king.  
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged  
and work for all they're worth?"  
Why all those who reaped the benefits,  
and not once volunteered on Earth.*

Just saying, let's not wait for the day of judgment and just do one thing that will help a Veteran, Active Duty, a Child, or our Community to make it a better place.

For God and Country,  
Candace Mabry

## Cabane

Hello Dames,

Our Rendezvous will be January 12 and February 9. Our Mid-Winter Conference will be January 19-21 in Panama City Beach.

Our spring yard sale/bake sale will be April 7-8. Please save your household goods and clothing items that you know longer use or need for us. The proceeds help fund our many charities.

Sharon Harville  
(904) 635-7373



## 40 and 8

The next Promenade is Thursday, January 12 and February 9, 2017, at 7 p.m.

Michael Kocijan, Conductor V215  
mikejin77@aol.com

## 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](mailto:swineiam@bellsouth.net).

# Legion News

by Joe Maichle

Legionnaires:

This message is hoping a Happy New Year. As of Dec. 15, membership was at approximately 78 percent. Starting this month (January), we will have a phone bank at the Post to contact members who have not renewed and other members from Post 400 in order to help make our goal of 100 percent again this year. We will be looking for help with the

Phone bank. Please watch for flyers at the Post.

If you know someone who has not renewed, please let me know. If they cannot get to the Post, we will go to them.

For God and Country,  
Joe Maichle, 1st Vice

Join Us!

## Commander's Corner (continued)

I'd like to extend kudos to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Joe Maichle and Adjutant Jerry Brandt for working tirelessly week in and week out to process the renewals—as y'all know it ain't done 'til the paperwork's done.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> we hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> District meeting and welcomed Department of Florida Commander Joe Magee. Commander Magee informally visited us earlier in the week and was impressed with our involvement in many of the American Legion programs that benefit Veterans and the local community. Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers who continue to do the work of the American Legion!

Last July our Post unanimously endorsed Jerry Brandt as candidate for Department of Florida 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander, 2017-2018. On December 16<sup>th</sup> our Post hosted a fundraiser to assist Jerry in his campaign. Jerry is Past Post 129 Commander, Past 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander, and Past Northern Area Commander.

He currently serves as our Post Adju-

tant and this is the third consecutive year he's been serving the Department of Florida as a Program Chairman, the last two years as Membership Chairman, a critical program affecting our status at the state and national levels. Thanks to Jeff Durden and Joe Maichle for heading the December 16<sup>th</sup> fundraiser. Please see me if you'd like to contribute to Jerry's campaign.

More good news about other Legionnaires stepping-up to serve beyond our Post. At our December 1<sup>st</sup> business meeting, our membership endorsed the following: Danny Rodriguez for a second consecutive term as 5<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander, Jeff Durden for a second term as Northern Area Commander, and Bill Reno for Department of Florida Chaplain. Good luck to these candidates on their quest to serve at higher offices!

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, nine of our Legion Riders Chapter members were part of an official escort party, consisting of 280 bikers, to lead two Walmart trucks carrying 8,347 wreaths to the Jacksonville National Cemetery. This annual national tribute, under the auspices of the Wreaths Across America program, is a testament to the

community efforts generated in Duval and surrounding counties. This is the first year that Arlington National Cemetery and the Jacksonville National Cemetery were fully outfitted with wreaths. Kudos to our riders Jim Wineland, Bobby Greer, Wayne Parrot, Jo Ann Blik, Bill Wilson, Kathy Jewell, Sue Pearl, Alex Findley, and Jerry Delisle!

Our riders will also be undertaking a project to assist one of our disabled Vets in making much needed repairs to his home. So in the next couple of months, if you hear the call for volunteers, please come and make a positive difference in a Veteran's life.

In closing, tighten your shoestrings, 'cause we're hitting the pavement hard to meet the challenges of the second half of this Legion year!

"For God and Country"

Ernie Florig  
(904) 515-8390

## Officers for 2016 — 2017

Commander.....Ernie Florig  
1st Vice.....Joe Maichle  
2nd Vice.....Terry Stickles  
3rd Vice.....Dave Tarnowski  
4th Vice.....Rick Miller  
Sgt at Arms.....Mike Liner  
Finance.....Bob Schlatter  
Chaplain.....Brian Hancher  
Adjutant.....Jerry Brandt \*  
Judge Advocate.....Kevin Robbs \*  
Service Officer.....Danny Rodriguez \*  
Historian.....Lisa Gorman

### E-Board Members      House Committee

Jeff Durden      Harry Becker  
Pat Fowler      Wayne Blas  
Chuck Nist      John Caputa  
Fred St. Clair      Frank Kleese  
Jim Wineland      Genell Kriner  
Bob Schmitt  
Bill Wilson

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

# Canteen Update

By Brandi Haught



## Special Events at Post 129

1/7 — ALR Bike Night

1/14 — Chili Cook Off at 3 p.m.

1/29 — Shut up and Drink Tour

2/4 — ALR Bike Night

2/5 — Four Chaplain's Ceremony

2/5 — Super Bowl Party

2/14 — Special Surf and Turf Dinner in the back hall  
with entertainment RSVP Required

2/25 — Blood Drive Noon—5 p.m.



## American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



I hope all of you enjoyed Christmas and New Year's with your family and friends.

I have great news! Our application was approved from the Home Depot Foundation. We will be receiving \$5,000 to help upgrade one of our past commander's home. The major upgrade will be replacing his air conditioning units and upgrading his plumbing. The balance of the work is painting and electrical repairs. I plan on added this to our January agenda so we can start the final planning process.

As you can see from the "Dates to Remember" list, we are starting Bike Night again at Post 129 the first Saturday of every month. We are really looking at this as our Post's social event just to get everyone together. We are going to have darts and target shooting competitions in the non-smoking backroom. We could start a pool league if there is enough interest. I plan on inviting the 5th District to join the fun.

You will also notice that we are having a second event at Blackfinn Ameripub at the Town Center (off Gate Parkway). The address is 4840 Big Island Drive, Jacksonville, 32246. Our event will be from 5-8 p.m., most of that during Happy Hour. Blackfinn is donating 15 percent of the total for our group for our Veteran's Building fund.

There are other events scheduled over the next two months. The first Florida ALR Summit & Expo in Cocoa Beach, the Legacy Ride, which starts February 25th in Lady Lake, heads south to Homestead and back to Post 283. When the Legacy Ride returns from riding the Daytona Beach Loop on Friday, March 3rd, the In-State Rally will begin at Post 283.



### Dates to remember:

- January 7, 2017 ALR Chapter 129 Bike Night at the Post
- January 20-22, 2017 1st Florida ALR Summit and Expo
- January 27, 2017, Blackfinn's/ALR Chapter 129 Bike Night
- February 5, 2017 Four Chaplain's Escort/Ceremony
- February 18, 2017 ALR 233 Fun Run to Gainesville Fisher House
- February 25, 2017 In-State Legacy Ride, ending at Post 283
- March 3, 2017 In-state Rally at Post 283
- October 14, 2017 ALR Chapter 129 Poker Run

Ride Safe,

Jim

# American Legion- Ocean Beaches

1151 S. Fourth St.  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

***POST  
129***

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## Address Service Requested

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 (11/17)  
In Memory of Al "Sharkey" Wiltshire (2022)  
In Memory of Cindy Burroughs (7/17)

#### **Platinum Level, \$100**

In Memory of Snakebite (5/17)

#### **Gold Level, \$50**

Chuck & Sue Nist (7/17)  
Charlie Parker (9/16)  
Bill Garrett (6/17)  
In Memory of Audine Hoover (5/17)

#### **Silver Level, \$25**

In Memory of Kim White (10/18)  
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/16)  
Louise Taylor Braren (8/17)  
Paul "Shorts" Urff (8/17)  
Franklin Friers (7/17)  
Victor & Marlen (11/17)

#### **Bronze Level, \$10**

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