

American Legion Post 129

July-August 2016

**Upcoming Meetings/
Events**

- **Planning Board at 6 p.m.**
July 6 and August 3
- **House Comm. at 7 p.m.**
July 6 and August 3
- **E-Board at 6:30 p.m.**
July 7 and August 4
- **Auxiliary at 7 p.m.**
July 7 and August 4
- **General Mtg at 7:30 p.m.**
July 7 and August 4
- **Cabane at 7 p.m.**
July 14 and August 11
- **ALR at 9 a.m.**
July 16 and August 20
- **SAL at 5:45 p.m.**
July 7 and August 4
- **40 & 8 at 7 p.m.**
July 14 and August 11
- **July 4 Noon-4 p.m.**
Blood Drive
5-7 p.m.
BBQ Pork, Cole Slaw, Rolls
- **July 22**
Christmas in July
- **July 29**
Cabane Bake Sale

Commander's Corner by Ernie Florig

Dear Legionnaires and Family Members,

As we conclude another successful Legion year on June 30th, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our army of dedicated volunteers who worked the past twelve months to support Veterans, children and youth, and the surrounding community. Volunteers are the backbone to planning and executing the many successful Post activities during the past year. Again, to our volunteers, I extend a warm and sincere "Thanks!" for contributing your time and talent...y'all have made a positive difference in promoting the core values of the American Legion...Veterans still serving America!

May was a very busy month at our Post. We began by supporting a Legion baseball team, the Post 129 Tigers. Thanks to Northern Area baseball coordinator Terry Phillips and team head coach Tom Langford for making this happen. Most of the player came from the Fletcher High School junior varsity team. If you would like to make a donation to the team, please write a check payable to American Legion Post 129, with Legion Baseball in the memo line.

I made a home visit to long-time Legionnaire Keith Ingle. While visiting Keith, I presented him with a commemorative book from the South Korean government, as an appreciation for Keith's Marine Corps services during the Korean War. I also presented Keith with an American Legion coin for his dedicated active duty service. If you know of any Legionnaire who'd like a home visit, please contact me to make arrangements.

On May 13th, I attended Sandalwood High School's Air Force Junior ROTC awards banquet, and presented the American Legion's Military Excellence and Scholastic Excellence bronze medals to two cadets. We congratulate the

entire cadet corps and the aerospace science instructors for sustaining a record of excellence at Sandalwood!

We celebrated Armed Forces Day by holding an open house for Veterans on May 21st.

On May 24th, I attended the Lake City VA Medical Center's VA Voluntary Service quarterly meeting. The meeting's purpose is to keep Veteran organizations posted on patient care improvements, and to solicit financial support for patient comfort items that are not budgeted by the VA.

The Memorial Day weekend kept our loyal volunteers busy by placing over 700 flags at Warren Smith Cemetery, and retrieving the flags three days later. We also held our second annual Post Ceremony at Warren Smith to honor the nineteen Legionnaires who entered Post Everlasting during the last twelve months. Thanks to bugler John Poe and bell ringer Fred St. Clair, III, and Fred St. Clair, Sr., for transporting the Fleet Reserve's bell. Also, thanks to the Knights of Columbus Father Capodanno Assembly 3457 for providing a three-man honor guard, and Mike Gebert for providing chairs for our guests. On Memorial Day, our Post laid a wreath during the Beaches Veterans Memorial Park service.

We held our annual Post officer elections on May 17th. Thanks to Past Commander Jerry Brandt for overseeing the elections, and Judge Advocate Dennis McDowell and Past Commander Danny Rodriguez for serving as poll workers. I'd like to thank those Legionnaires who voted (less than twelve percent turnout) and for allowing me to serve a second term as Post Commander.



For
God
and
Country



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

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Auxiliary News by Candace Mabry



Happy New Year! I am honored to be installed as your President for the upcoming 2016/2017 year. A very strong cabinet of officers has been elected. My thanks to Kelly Bush, 1st Vice; Mary Tarnowski, 2nd Vice; Ann Nickola, Treasurer/Secretary; Marie Esler, Chaplain; Judy Moody, Sgt at Arms; Barbara Fowler, Historian; Mary Ellen Bolin, Kathy Jewell and Patty Rodriguez, E-Board. Genell Kriner will be our representative on the House Committee and Wanda Brandt will be membership. I have several members that have agreed to be committee chairmen, but still need more. I will be sending out more information for the vacancies needed to be filled.

The Department convention was held June 16-19. We have new ideas and goals to make this next year a success for our Unit, and most importantly for us to continue to support our community, youth, and active duty soldiers and Veterans. More news to follow.

Our 2nd annual Sterling Memorial Golf Tournament was a huge success. My goal to start the Pat Cornell Scholarship will come to fruition next year. I want to thank all the volunteers, because without them, this tournament would not have been possible. Please note in this newsletter our sponsors and all the wonderful companies throughout our community

that gave us gifts for our raffle and silent auction.

Our four delegates and two alternates for Girls State left June 30th to Tallahassee to learn about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship in order that they may understand and participate in the functioning of their government. Thanks in particular to Toni Abbot for being District Girls State and Kelly Bush and Barbara Fowler who helped with the selection.

Ho Ho Ho...Merry Christmas July style. Mary Tarnowski was baptized as 2nd Vice in a very quick fashion. Her first duty was not just a meal to serve 30, rather one of our biggest dinners for the year. Everyone enjoyed and sent their compliments to the 'chef'. Thanks to everyone that made this happen and supported your Unit.

This year our monthly dinner will be the fourth Friday of each month. So members, mark your calendars and be sure to come out and play some Steak Bingo! Our fundraising months will be September and December. Any and all ideas for fundraising will be welcome.

Our Unit is over 300 members strong, and as of May 26th, we had 97.48%

membership. One of my personal goals is to get more members active. One of the concerns our members have is that our meetings are too long. I am working with the officers and committee chairs to limit their comments and will make the meetings less than an hour. Come to a meeting and hold us to it! Did you know that we give at least \$1,000 per month to a charity? Which charity you may ask? It can be one that you are passionate about as long as they are a 501(c) 3.

Thanks in advance for your upcoming support and my 'door' is always open. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. My email address is candacemabry@bellsouth.net.

Quote to remember 'if you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours'. See you at the Canteen.

For God and Country,
Candace Mabry

S.A.L. News

by Brian Hancher

The S.A.L. met on June 2nd. We decided not to spend or donate any funds, and to begin the new year with the balance brought forward in our checking account. At this time, that balance stands at \$3,537.41.

Beginning in July, we will hold our meetings at 5:45 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, the same night at the Legion E-Board and

General meetings.

Thanks to all of the S.A.L. members who have volunteered their services throughout the year, and to all of you who have supported us!

For God and Country,
Brian



40 and 8

The installation of 40 and 8 officers will be on Thursday, July 14. Theme is to wear red, white and blue, followed by dinner.

Michael Kocijan, Conductor V215
mikejin77@aol.com



Cabane

Hello Dames: On July 14th, we have a joint installation of officers with the 40 and 8. Friday, July 29th is our steak bingo and bake sale. In August, we have our Rendezvous on the 11th. Please come join us.

Sharon Harville

Legion News

by Joe Maichle

Legionnaires:

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership and for those new members that joined our Post giving us a 101% in membership. On July 1st, we will again start renewing memberships. This year, early bird will be from July 1 through Nov. 11 and the cost of renewing will be \$40 and will

include a free early bird dinner. After Nov. 11, the dues will go up to \$45. You can renew your membership Monday through Saturday between 5-7 p.m. at the Post. If you cannot make it to the Post, please contact the Commander or myself and we will come to you. Let's keep up the good work and keep our 100% ranking.

A big thank you to all our members and volunteers who placed flags at Warren Smith Cemetery before Memorial Day, and also thanks to those who retrieved the flags following the holiday.

For God and Country,
Joe

Commander's Corner (continued)

With the slate of officers for 2016-2017, we are positioned to do well in the coming twelve months!

During the month of June, Post delegates attended the annual District Constitutional Convention at Post 137. Congratulations to newly-elected 5th District Commander Fred Matthews (Post 197) and Vice Commanders Troy Horsley (Post 283) and Danny Rodriguez (Post 129).

Children and Youth reps John Burroughs and Lisa Gorman made the American Legion school award medal presentations at San Pablo, Jacksonville Beach and Seabreeze elementary schools. Each school's top male and female fifth grader was recognized for courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. Congratulations to the school winners and thanks to John and Lisa for taking the time to represent our Post in the community!

We draped the Post charter at our June 2nd business meeting to honor the We draped the Post charter at our June 2nd business meeting to honor the passing of Legionnaires Dr. Robert "Bob" Kiely - US Army - Persian Gulf, Ira "Dave" Ashley - US Army - Vietnam and

Melvin "Shorty" Heiman - US Marine Corps - Korea. We render a final salute to these men for their active duty service to our Nation! Thanks to bugler John Poe for playing Taps at the ceremony.

On June 9th, I attended Ms. Barbara Green's retirement ceremony at Alden Road Exceptional Student Center. I recognized Barbara for her 35 years of service as a Boys Scout volunteer at the school's troop. Barbara was instrumental in raising funds to allow her scouts to attend an annual fall campout. Our Post was a major contributor towards the last campout. We thank Barbara for her service and wish her well in retirement!

I attended Boys State orientation at Post 197 on June 9th and met with our seven delegates and one alternate. District Chairman Ed Krass and Boys State staffer Clarence Hill briefed the 57 delegates on what to expect during the week at Boys State. Emphasis was placed on having a positive-can-do attitude.

1st Vice Commander Joe Maichle presided over our Post's Flag Day ceremony on June 14th, with assistance from 5th District Sergeant-at-Arms Danny Rodriguez. Also, the Post celebrated the US Army's 241st birthday. Thanks to Terry Stickles and Rick Miller for procuring the birthday cake.

On June 16-19th, Department Membership Chairman Jerry Brandt, Northern Area Commander Jeff Durden, District Sergeant-at-Arms Danny Rodriguez, District Riders Chairman Jim Wineland, 1st Vice Commander Joe Maichle and I represented the Post at the Department State Convention in Orlando. We listened to a variety of guest speakers, attended workshops, and concluded the convention with the election of department officers for 2016-2017. Congratulations to Joe Magee for being Department Commander! Commander Magee announced his color as Kelly green and his designated charity is Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). For more information about this worthwhile charity, visit the website: www.cota.org.

In closing, thanks to our dedicated volunteers and Post officers for making 2015-2016 a very successful year. Because of our collective efforts, we earned the coveted National Commander's Post Excellence Award for two consecutive years — congrats!

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

<i>E-Board Members</i>	<i>House Committee</i>
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

Thank You!

By Candace Mabry

Thank you to the following sponsors and gift providers for the Sterling Memorial Golf Tournament:

Eagle sponsors: \$1,000

Haught Financial Group, Inc.
American Legion Riders Chapter 129
American Legion Post 129 Family

Logo Ball Sponsor: \$500

Coldwell Banker Commerical Benchmark

Hole in One Sponsor

Ponte Vedra Golf Carts

Liberty Sponsor: \$250

Coastline Custom Floors, Inc.

Hole Sponsors: \$100

Republic National Distributing Co
About Floors and More
The Tavern on 1st Street
Stephen J. Blaszk, CPA
Lynch's Irish Pub
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 283
Jax Mobile Detail
The Dock Shop

Martin Home Exteriors
Watson Realty—Lori Loving
American Legion Riders Chapter 129
Sterling's Saturday Swingers
Bill Fenwick Plumbing, Inc.
Terry's Country Store
VFW Post 3270
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 250
Pusser's Bar and Grille
Sheila Burek—Burek Appraisal Group
Franklin Electrical Service, Inc.

Gifts and Prizes

Angie's Subs	North Beach Fish Camp
Beach Bowl	Outback
Blue Water	Pablo Creek
Bogey's Grill	Pablo Creek
Bonefish	Ponte Vedra Inn & Club
Casa Marina	Proctor Ace
Chili's	Publix
Cruisers Grill	Ponte Vedra Golf Carts
Donation	Safe Harbor
Fresh Market	Sierra Grille
Hilton Garden Inn	Stein Mart
Jaguars	Tires Plus
Jax Sharks	TPC
	Trader Joe's

Lynch's Irish Pub	Windsor Park
Massage Envy	Windy Harbor
Master's	Mattiace Golf
Wipe Outs	Zeta
Days Inn & Suites, Jekyll Island	
Earth's Care Natural Products	
Jekyll Island Golf Club	
Tomo's Japanese Steak House	
World Golf Hall of Fame	

The Sterling Memorial Golf tournament would not have been such a huge success without the donations and sponsorships from our community.



American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



First, I would like to announce that our American Legion Rider Historian JoAnn Blik, won second place in the state competition this year. Well Done! If you get a chance, take a look at her scrapbook covering last year's activities. It gives you an overview of the 82,444 miles we traveled over the last year, along with our 14,663 volunteer hours and +\$20,000 in collected donations. If you are interested, come on over and join the fun and talk to Mary Tarnowski about joining the American Legion Riders.

With the election being completed, I would like to welcome our new officers: Alec Finley as Assistant Director, Chuck Nist as Sergeant-At-Arms, and Wayne Parrott as the Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms. I would also like to thank our Treasurer Bob Schlatter, Secretary Bill Wilson, Safety Officer Phillip Leveridge, Road Captain Bobby Greer, Chaplain Kathy Jewell, Historian JoAnn Blik and Membership Chair Mary Tarnowski for continuing in their positions.

Another thing our Post Riders were heavily involved in was last year's Merry-Go-Round fundraiser for the "Children and Youth" picnic at Post 117. The state ALR organized a state-wide competition between all 17 districts. The competition was based on miles ridden, hours, new members, and donations. I'm proud to announce that our 5th District won the competition and we were presented with the trophy at this year's convention.

Dates to Remember:

- Watch for information on Vets4Vets in August
- Post 283's Poker Run for Five Star September 24
- Our Poker Run for our Veterans Building Fund October 8
- Legacy Ride, end of February 2017
- In-State Rally following the in-state Legacy Ride at Post 137
- Bike Night at Graffiti Junktion July 28 and August 25

One of the topics during the convention that I wanted to pass on is our overall

performance of your State Riders Family. With just 71% of the rider organizations reporting, we accumulated over 2,161,117 miles, 223,088 volunteer hours and collected \$566,697 in donations.

I know that I reported that we collected about \$34,000 during the State Legacy Run. During the convention, we collected another \$35,000 for a total of \$79,000. There have also been some changes in the scholarship program. In the past, the children of a deceased Veteran after 9/11 were eligible for the funding. They have now changed it to include "wounded warriors" children.

Please put applications for the ALR in the Road Captain's mailbox in the back hallway. Thanks!

Ride Safe, and again thanks for your support!

Jim

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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 (11/16)
In Memory of Al "Sharkey" Wiltshire (2022)

.....
Platinum Level, \$100

In Memory of Cindy Burroughs (7/16)
In Memory of Snakebite (5/16)

.....
Gold Level, \$50

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

.....
Silver Level, \$25

In Memory of Kim White (10/16)
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/16)
Louise Taylor Braren (8/17)
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)