

# American Legion Post 129

March-April 2016

## Upcoming Meetings/ Events

- **Planning Board at 6 p.m.**  
March 2 and April 6
- **House Comm. at 7 p.m.**  
March 3 and April 7
- **E-Board at 6:30 p.m.**  
March 3 and April 7
- **Auxiliary at 7 p.m.**  
March 3 and April 7
- **General at 7:30 p.m.**  
March 3 and April 7
- **Cabane at 7 p.m.**  
March 10 and April 14
- **ALR at 9 a.m.**  
March 19 and April 16
- **SAL at 10 a.m.**  
March 12 and April 9
- **40 & 8 at 7 p.m.**  
March 10 and April 14
- **March 26**  
Pool Tournament
- **April 17**  
Paint Night

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## Commander's Corner by Ernie Florig

Dear Legion Family,

We began the year by attending Troop 15's Eagle Scout Court of Honor, sponsored by St. Paul's Catholic Church. We recognized Eagle Scouts Christian Bunker, Alex Flanagan, Emmett Grandy V, and Daniel Parkulo, by presenting them the American Legion's Good Citizen Citation and an Eagle Scout coin. We congratulate these young men for achieving scouting's highest rank!

After a three-year absence, we jumpstarted our Post's blood drive program. Thanks to the planning efforts of Chairperson Linda Barefoot, we collected eleven pints of blood. Also, a sincere thanks to the volunteers who came out to support this lifesaving effort!

We attended the 5th District's Oratorical Contest at the Highlands Branch Public Library. Although there were only two contestants, the competition was healthy and the eventual winner was from Bishop Kinney Catholic High School. Our Oratorical Chairman, Dave Tarnowski, received first-hand exposure to the oratorical process and will be well-armed to hold a contest at our Post in the fall.

We attended the Boy Scout's Black Creek District's annual Eagle Scout awards banquet in Orange Park, and recognized thirty-eight newly minted Eagle Scouts from Clay County. Thanks to Legionnaire Frank Kleese for arranging for our Post to make the presentations!

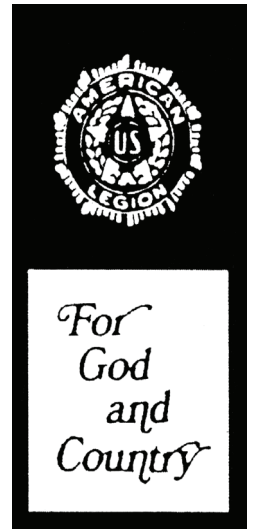
We supported the annual Four Chaplains ceremony at Post 250, Middleburg. The ceremony honored

the ultimate sacrifices made by Army Chaplains George Fox, Alexander Goode, John Washington, and Clark Poling. These brave chaplains were aboard the transport ship S.S. Dorchester when it was sunk by a German torpedo on Feb. 3, 1943. Without hesitation, the four chaplains gave their life jackets to young soldiers who had none. For more information, please visit the web-site [www.fourchaplains.org](http://www.fourchaplains.org).

We held a phone membership rally and were successful in recruiting three Post 400 Legionnaires to join our Post. Thanks to Cathy Berry, Danny Rodriguez, and Joe Maichle for taking time to help us with this important duty.

Speaking about membership, as of Feb. 18, our Post has achieved a membership rating of 95.082 percent. We're now only thirty renewals or new members away from our goal of 100 percent. Our Post currently has 580 Veteran members.

Our Post is sponsoring seven delegates to Florida Boys State, scheduled for June 19-25 at the Florida State University campus. We held interviews with high school juniors and selected the following seven as primary delegates: Scott Gann—Fletcher, Kush Desai—Atlantic Coast, Rajeev Patel—Atlantic Coast, Christopher Berta—Nease,



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

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# Auxiliary News

by Toni Abbott



Hello All!

I hope everyone has been having a fantastic 2016!

The Auxiliary ladies are happy to say we have donated more than \$5,000 to our surrounding communities over the last several months. Recently, we donated \$1,000 to the Red Cross and \$1,000 to the Instrument for Change Program for Duval County Schools.

In February, we had a wonderful "Idol" show. Thank you to all those that volunteered their time to come out and help. A

big thank you to Mary Ellen Bohlin for coordinating this event, and also to John and Ann for their superb cooking!

Thanks to the Legionnaires, American Legion Riders, Sons of the Legion and Auxiliary members who participated in the show by entertaining those who came out to see us. The money raised that night will go to our Children's fund.

In the month of March, a committee will be interviewing and selecting our Girls State candidates. This is a big deal for junior girls in high school. The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program

teaches these young ladies responsible citizenship and love for God and Country. The girls get to learn first-hand how their state and local government works by spending an intensive week of study and working together as self-governing citizens.

Be sure to look for information regarding our annual golf tournament to help support the Girls State program.

Toni Abbott  
Auxiliary President

## 40 and 8

The next Promenade of the 40 and 8 is March 10 at 7 p.m. at Post 129. The Promenade for April is the 14th at 7 p.m. There will be a Wreck at Voyager 304 located at Legion Post 137, 5443 San Juan Avenue. Post 137's phone number is 387-3373. Get the word out! We have new members. Good chance to meet new Voyagers.

Michael Kocijan, Conductor V215  
mikejin77@aol.com



## Cabane

Our March 10th Rendezvous will be at Safe Harbor Seafood in Jacksonville Beach. Our April 14th Rendezvous will be at Post 129. Our annual garage sale and bake sale will be in the Spring (date will be announced soon).

Please save and donate your unused clothing and household goods to a great cause!

Sharon Harville  
(904) 635-7373

# S.A.L. News

by Brian Hancher

We are moving our membership meetings to the second Saturday morning of the month. The next meeting will be March 12 at 10 a.m.

We have raised enough money so far that we plan to make a donation to an organization that serves Veterans. If you're a member and would like to be a part of that conversation, please join us at the meeting.

At the last meeting, we opened the floor for nominations. Here are the nominees we have so far:

Commander: Brian Hancher  
1st Vice Commander: Open  
2nd Vice Commander: Martin Manley  
3rd Vice Commander: Open  
4th Vice Commander: Open  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Open  
Chaplain: Open  
Historian: Scott Kapeghian

If you would like to nominate someone for an office (including yourself), please contact me at [brianhancher@gmail.com](mailto:brianhancher@gmail.com) or by phone at (904) 226-0718.

In keep with current Legion practice, the positions of Finance Officer and Adjutant will be appointed by the Commander at the beginning of the next year.

Squadron membership currently stands at 82.7 percent. Several who have paid their dues have cards waiting for you in a box behind the bar. Thanks for renewing, and please come by and enjoy yourself in the canteen!

For God and Country,  
Brian

## 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

Fellow Legionnaires:

As of Feb. 12, our post is at 95 percent for renewals and new members. A hardy thanks for all who have renewed and getting the Post to this point of reaching our goal of 100 percent. At this point, we need approximately 30 more members to renew to make this goal. If you know anyone who has not renewed, please try and get them to the Post to renew. If they cannot get to the Post, let me know and I will go to them to get them renewed and keep their continuous year of activity.

For God and Country,  
Joe Maichle

## Let's Go Fishing!

Cathy Florig and Jerry Brandt will go fishing off the Jacksonville Beach pier on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting April 9th. American Legion Post 129 will buy the shrimp for the bait. All we need is the number of members planning to attend. Individual members will be responsible to pay for their access to the pier. Bring your pole!



## Post Everlasting

We render a Final Salute and mourn the passing of our comrades:

Jerome "Sonny" Sternberg, Jr. - Navy - WWII  
Paul Zander - Navy - WW II  
Raymond "Ray" Fisher - Vietnam  
Robert Neumann - Army - Vietnam  
John Seroyer, Jr. - Vietnam  
Junior Showman - Army - Korea

## Post Elections

Legionnaire elections are coming up on May 17th. If you wish to run for an office, please contact Danny Rodriguez or Jerry Brandt with your request.

## Commander's Corner (continued)

Brian Swicegood—Nease, Dane Barber—Nease, and William Laubach—Fletcher. The three alternates are: James Strickland—Fletcher, Joshua Santos—Fletcher, and Ryan Berry—Nease. We congratulate our delegates and alternates for doing a great job in representing their high schools. Kudos also to our dedicated judges, Jim Wine-land, Danny Rodriguez, and Dave Tarnowski!

Beth Sweet asked us to spread the word about how to support our deployed troops. One charity she recommends is Adopt A US Soldier. AAUSS is staffed fully with volunteers to help thousands of soldiers find friendship, support, and a much needed touch of home. Sending postcards or a shoebox-sized container

filled with goodies goes a long way towards making a difference in a deployed soldier's life. Visit their website at [www.adoptaussoldier.org](http://www.adoptaussoldier.org) — AAUSS is listed as a charity on [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org).

During the month of March, we will be the hosting Post for the Northern Area Commander's Ball; celebrating the American Legion's 97th birthday; provide a St. Patrick's Day dinner, and offering a free Easter breakfast.

For the month of April, our biggest event will be hosting the American Legion's Walk for Veterans, during the Opening of the Beaches Parade on April 24th at 1400 hours. Please review the Post calendars for additional information.

In closing, thank you to our many dedicated volunteers who are passionate about serving Veterans and our community. You truly make a positive difference in the lives of many! Also, wishing everyone a Happy Easter on March 27th.

For God and Country,

Ernie Florig  
(904) 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*      *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 Wine-land  
*Chef De Gare 40 & 8*  
Marie Spine  
*La Presidente, Cabane 215*  
Sharon Harville

# Canteen Update

By Brandi Roberts



Hello from your Canteen Staff,

In March, we have another pool tournament planned for Saturday, March 26. More details to follow.

On April 17, we are hosting another Paint Night fundraiser. If you missed it last time, you missed a great time! Mark your calendars and plan on joining us! Learn from a master artist to create a work of art and socialize at the same time. You can sign up on our website or directly with Brandi.

On April 24, the Post is hosting a "Walk for Veterans" during the Opening of the Beaches Parade. This should be a great event, and we would love to have a tone of Post 129 members involved. Details are still being worked out, but mark your calendars and check the weekly email and our website for more information.

We have some fun new weekly events here at Post 129. Have you heard? Every

Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. we have added a shuffleboard tournament, on Wednesday nights we have brought in live bands. The next two months we have some great bands lined up, so come on in and check them out! On Thursday nights, we have brought in a dice game called Left, Right, Center (LRC), starting at 6 p.m. Come on in and give it a try! You won't be sorry! Saturday night's Queen of Diamonds raffle is getting bigger every week! Remember, you can't win if you don't play.

Also, starting April 1, we will be opening the back bar for our non-smoking members. So come on in, grab some dinner and relax in a non-smoking environment.

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 our website or see Brandi.

As always, we would like to thank all the members who help out around the canteen. There are too many of you to name, but we hope 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



Update on our Navy SEAL's home upgrade...it's done! We made the final purchase of a slide glass door for his kitchen. This will sound like a TV show, but here is the list of accomplishments: new carpet for the bedrooms, installed hardwood floors in living room and dining room, replaced all the windows, new kitchen appliances, replaced all electrical receptacles and light switches, new paneling and chair rails in the dining area and painted everything. This could not have been completed without the help of his next door neighbor, and a handful of his good friends. The final Home Foundation report has been completed, and a copy is available at the Post.

I know you remember hearing about the "Round Robin" event we had last year. Well, they have now changed the name to "Merry-go-Round". The rules are the same as last year, but the proceeds go to "Children & Youth" picnic at Post 117 in Palm Bay, and that's what all the rides are about, raising awareness and funds for the Legion programs.

This event was presented at the 5th District ALR meeting and Posts 283, 316, and of course 129, have stepped up to organize the weekend runs. Post 283 will have the responsibility of handling the event on the March 12 weekend, 316 will handle the following weekend of March 19, and our Post will finish up with the March 26 weekend. The run is all about points to win the trophy and the bragging rights for the next year. Points are accumulated by the money we raise and the miles we ride. All of the out-of-district miles are doubled. There is also another way to accumulate points, by recognizing the "Veterans Awareness Walk" and wearing a yellow shirt while riding. In case everyone forgot, the 5th District came in third out of the 17 districts in Florida.

5th District News: All rider posts have a designated month for their events. If another post wants to run in their month, they are to notify that post to make sure there is no conflict to their scheduled event.

## Dates to Remember:

**March:** District "Merry-go-Round"

**April:** Post 88 Fun Run

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

**May 7:** Boots on the Ground

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

**May 21:** Pediatric Cancer Treatment Foundation Poker Run

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!

Ride Safe!  
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)

**Gold Level, \$50**

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

**Silver Level, \$25**

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)