

American Legion Post 129

March-April 2017

Upcoming Meetings/ Events

- **Planning Board at 6 pm**
Feb. 28 and April 5
- **House Comm. at 7 p.m.**
Feb. 28 and April 5
- **E-Board at 6:30 p.m.**
March 1 and April 6
- **Auxiliary at 7 p.m.**
March 2 and April 6
- **General Mtg at 7 p.m.**
March 1 and April 6
- **Cabane at 7 p.m.**
March 9 and April 13
- **ALR at 9 a.m.**
March 11 & April 1
- **SAL at 6 p.m.**
March 2 and April 6
- **40 & 8 at 7 p.m.**
March 11 and April 13
- **March 15**
Legion Birthday
- **April 16**
Easter
- **April 30**
Opening of the Beaches

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Commander's Corner by Ernie Florig

Greetings Legionnaires and Family Members,

During the January and February Post business meetings we began by draping the Post Charter to honor the passing of Legionnaires Raymond Gannon-Army-Korea, Jessie Busby-Air Force-Vietnam, and James Mabry, Sr. (Father of Auxiliary President Candace Mabry)-Army Air Corps-WW II; and Post 137 Legionnaire Dorman Liner (Grandfather of Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Liner)-Army Air Corps-WW II. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families during this difficult period. I also would like to thank buglers Fred St. Clair and John Poe for playing Taps during these solemn memorial services.

On February 11th we held our Boys State interviews and selected ten high school juniors and three alternates for the June 18th – 24th class at the Florida State University campus. The ten delegates are: Ravi Patel-Atlantic Coast, Alex Flanagan-Douglas Anderson, Kyle Schare-Fletcher, Jacob Hunt-Nease, Jesse Gatewood, IV-Nease, Jeff Krueger, III, Sandalwood, Josh Abdulzahir-Fletcher, Scott Cummings-Nease, Zack Martin-Fletcher, and Mark Caldwell-Fletcher. The three alternates are: Mack Davis-Nease, Lucas Pels-Nease, and Basel Hussein-Atlantic Coast. We were encouraged with the academic, school activities, and community accomplishments of these candidates, and their desire to learn more about our democratic form of government. I want to especially thank our panel of Legionnaire judges who took time out of their busy schedules to support this premiere youth program: 5th District Vice Commander Danny Rodriguez, 1st Vice Commander Joe Maichle, 2nd Vice Commander Terry Stickleles, and Boys

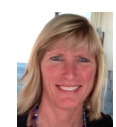
Scout/Legion Baseball Chairman Mike Flanagan.

I'm happy to report that as of February 16th our Post membership is at 92.7%, with only 45 new members or renewals to reach the Department goal of 100%. Please help us to continue to recruit new members. See 1st Vice Commander Joe Maichle, Adjutant Jerry Brandt, or me for assistance on Legion memberships. Our SAL Squadron is also doing well with membership at 80.2%, and only 36 more to reach 100%. Contact SAL 1st Vice Commander Terry Stickleles for SAL membership assistance.

During the months of January and February we recruited and welcomed eight new members and eight transfers. New members: Edgardo Candelaria, Jr.-Air Force-Gulf, Patrick Smith-Army-Gulf, Russell Ptaszynski-Navy-Lebanon/Grenada, Charles Berry-Navy-Gulf (Active Duty), Bruce Lindeman-Navy-Vietnam, Danny Fontaine-Navy-Gulf, Rick Minnucci-Army-Vietnam, and Karl Murphy-Navy-Panama. Transfers: Clyde McClain-Army-Vietnam-Post 283, Timothy Butler-Navy-Vietnam-DE Post 2, Dean Stumpf-Navy-Vietnam-Post 400, Staci Reno-Marine Corps-Gulf (Active Duty)-Post 233, Jessica Reno-Marine Corps-Gulf-Post 233, Dale Watson-Navy-Vietnam-Post 316, Derek Blackshire-Army-Panama-Post 400, and Timothy Kelleher-Marine Corps-Vietnam-Post 82.



For
God
and
Country



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

(Cont. Page 3)

Auxiliary News by Candace Mabry



Spring is in the air...oh sorry that was winter we just went through. We have been very fortunate for the weather and your American Legion Auxiliary is stepping it up as usual. We had another successful dinner served at the Mission House. Special thanks to John and Ann, all who helped stuff the goodie bags and also all that helped serve the delicious dinner. The event is one I will not forget.

I want to send a special shout out and thanks to everyone's generosity, our fundraisers, and those that run and you that support our bingo each Wednesday and Friday. Because of these events we are able to donate and help non-profit organizations that help Veterans, Active Duty, Community and Children. Just since December we've given \$1,000 to ARC – Ashe Really Cares for wild fires in NC; \$2,000 to St Francis House in St. Augustine that helps the homeless and was devastated by Hurricane Matthew; \$1,000 to the Riders for COTA – Children Organ Transplant Association; \$1,000 to Lend an Ear, a Beaches group that supplies hearing aids to those that can't afford; and \$1,000 to Duval County Schools Celebration of the Arts, to keep Art and Music in our schools. Each of you truly makes a difference.

We've got some important events coming up so mark your calendars. On Saturday, March 11 we will be having a Ms. Post 129 showcasing all new talent, gowns and beauty. If you have not been to one in the

past, you don't want to miss this show. Dinner and show will be \$18 and show only tickets will be \$10. Tickets are available in advance. April 22nd will be our 3rd annual Sterling Memorial Classic golf tournament benefiting Boys and Girls State. We have kept the registration fee the same this year at only \$60 per player. This will entitle you to 18 holes of golf, range balls, dinner at awards ceremony, raffle ticket and 2 beverage coupons. Thanks to Dan Nicholson, we will have advertisement on SportsRadio 930 am and each Eagle sponsorship will be recognized.

One statement that stands true is 'membership is everyone's responsibility'. We want to make 100% this year and we need help getting new members and renewals. We only need 64 ladies to renew and we will reach this goal. Wanda Brandt has been doing an awesome job, but you can too. Never hurts in asking that person next to you in the canteen if they have renewed. Special welcome to new members: Ann Butler, Carol Megan, Jordan Smith, Nadia Candelaria, Heather Murphy and Kim Lindeman. Welcome our transfers: Kelly Grimm, Barbara Green and Janice Watson.

Patty and I would like to thank everyone for bringing in the plastic bags for her to crochet, but she is in desperate need of help in preparing these bags to make the blankets. She and Danny will be happy

to have a quick meeting at the Post to teach us how to fold, cut in loops and then roll into a ball. Please contact Patty to find out when their workshop will be held.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for their support, the cards, the smiles and hugs after the passing of my father. My Dad, James H. Mabry, Sr. was part of the greatest generation. He grew up right here in Neptune beach, was a Carnegie Medal of Honor winner, honored as Veteran of the game for the Jaguars, and most importantly he served in the Philippines during WWII. Because of him I am able to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary which allows me to serve you, my fellow Legion family.

For God and Country,
Candace Mabry



Cabane

Hello Dames,

Our monthly Rendezvous will be at 7 p.m. on March 9th and April 13th at Post 129. We are collecting supplies for Camp Boggy Creek and have a tour March 28th at 11 a.m.

March 31st is our steak bingo/bake sale/basket raffle and beef tips dinner.

Our yard sale is April 7 and 8th in the backroom at the Post. If you have any clothing or household items you would like to donate, it would be very appreciated!

Sharon Harville
(904) 635-7373

40 and 8

The next Promenade is Thursday, March 9th and April 13, 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.

Legion News

by Joe Maichle

Legionnaires:

During the past couple of months, renewals have slowed down greatly. However, we are still at 92.7 percent, so thank you to all that have renewed. For those who have not, contact myself or Jerry Brandt to renew, and get us to our goal of 100 percent.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, and Friday, Feb. 10, we conducted a phone bank to get new members and transfers from Post 400. The Commander and I made approximately 50 phone calls and got 8 transfers and a couple of renewals.

For God and Country,
Joe Maichle, 1st Vice



Commander's Corner (continued)

Congratulations to 1st Vice Commander Joe Maichle, E-Board Member Jim Wineland, and E-Board Member Pat Fowler for graduating from the Department of Florida Legion College. These Post officers attended the college in Orlando on February 16th – 18th. They covered the topics of Legion history, resolution writing, parliamentary procedures and protocol, leadership and team building, legislative priorities, programs and PR, department annual awards, and election procedures. They also met with state leaders for the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders.

One of the benefits of our American Post is having a Service Officer to assist members, as well as any veteran, on questions concerning VA benefits and claims processing. Danny is eager to help out and can be reached by cell phone 904-806-6231 or email zeug58@live.com. I recommend adding Danny's info to your computer or phone contact listing.

As you know, our Post provides a drop box in front of our flag pole, to properly

retire our Nation's flag. We need your help in removing the metal grommets before dropping the flags in the box. Also, please don't deposit sticks, bags, cardboard boxes, or mail intended for the post office.

It's that time of the year to start thinking about our elected Post leaders for 2017-2018. If you have a willingness to learn and the commitment to work behind-the-scenes to plan and execute Post Legion programs, I encourage you to run for elected office. The fourteen positions up for election are Commander, 1st through 4th Vice Commanders, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, and five E-Board Members. See me, Joe Maichle, or Jerry Brandt if you have any questions about the duties relating to these officer positions. If you're sure you want to be on the ballot, contact Judge Advocate Jeff Durden.

In closing, I'd like to thank those dedicated volunteers who worked behind-the-scenes these past couple of months, to provide first class service to our veterans, family members, and the community. We also need volunteers for the upcoming events:

Opening of the Beaches parade-April 30th and Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs youth fishing rodeo-May 20th.

"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.....Jeff Durden *
Service Officer.....Danny Rodriguez *
Historian..... Lisa Gorman

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

For Your Information

by Post Service Officer Danny Rodriguez

A lot of questions have been coming in about V.A. benefits. Calls have been coming to the Post about the Post legal representation on claims to the V.A. Let me explain some things that will clear this up. The Post does not provide legal representation, nor does it provide a lawyer. The American Legion does not provide this either. What we can do is guide you to a County Service Officer who will assist you in signing a Power of Attorney V.A. form 21-22. This will aid you in having the service officer and the V.A. appoint legal representation in your claims if and when it goes before a judge.

If you are filing a claim, I can assist you with paper work, but I will advise you to see a County Service Officer. If you have questions about your claim or need to file further paper work, I as a Post Service Officer cannot look at your claim. This can only be done by an officer that is paid by the State and is accredited. Mine is a certification.

I am able to assist you by taking you to the Service Officer or even print out forms that you might need. I am also able to answer questions. If I don't have the answers, I will get them for you. I am available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. 7 days a week. My number is 904-806-6231. If I don't answer, leave a message and I will call you back.

Canteen Update

By Brandi Haught

Upcoming Events:

March 11 — Miss Post 129

March 15 — Legion Birthday

April 7 & 8 — Cabane Yard Sale

April 30 — Opening of the Beaches



American Legion Riders

by Jim Wineland



First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers for Cheryl during her recent illness. That meant a lot to us to see the Legion family in action to support one of their own family members. God bless everyone who sent all of the cards, flowers, messages, texts and emails to support us through that time period.

Your Riders' group will become very active with our current Veteran's house upgrade. We have our "scope of work" defined, the Home Depot Foundation behind us, and we are ready to get started. We have the AC to swap out, upgrade the plumbing, some electrical work, an exterior door to replace, flooring, windows, plus a few other repairs on the list. If anyone is interested in giving us a hand, or has a contractor resource that donates time to Vets, please let me know and we can pencil them in to help.

From the State, we have the In-State Rally just around the corner. The 5th District is sponsoring the even this year.

Our Post will be serving the "Kick Off" dinner on March 2. We expect a full house. The following day, our Post will be leading the well-known ride around the Daytona Loop, and the Holly Hill Post 120 in Daytona is furnishing lunch. That night, Post 283 will be serving dinner. Saturday will also be a full day. Post 283, The Rally Host Post, will have three different routes to enjoy. If you're not interested in the rides, they have a lot of other activities lined up at their Post, plus vendors and shopping.

Come join us every fourth Thursday at Blackfinn's in the Town Center. 4840 Big Island Drive, Jacksonville, 32246. It runs from 5-8 p.m. and most of that is during Happy Hour. Blackfinn's is donating 15 percent of the total for our group for our Veteran's Building Fund.

There are several events over the next few months.

Dates to remember:

- March 2 — "Kick Off" State Rally Dinner at Post 129
- March 3 — Ride the Daytona Loop, lunch at Holly Hill Post 120
- March 3 — In-state Rally at Post 283
- March 23 — Blackfinn's Bike Night
- April is Merry-Go-Round Month for Riders
- April 2-8th — In-State Legacy Run starting at Lady Lake
- April 15 — Post 401 Benefit Run
- April 22 — Post 88 Fun Run for Sulzbacher Center
- April 27 — Blackfinn's Bike Night
- May 6th — Thunder on the Beach, Panama City Beach
- May 13 — Post 9, Boots on the Ground
- October 14 — ALR Chapter 129 Poker Run

Ride Safe,
Jim

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Legion-
Ocean
Beaches**

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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 (11/17)
- Dieter Arnold (3/18)
- 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)
- 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)