

# American Legion Post 129

May-June 2017

## Upcoming Meetings/ Events

- **Planning Board at 6 pm**  
May 3 and May 31
- **House Comm. at 7 p.m.**  
May 3 and May 31
- **E-Board at 6:30 p.m.**  
May 4 and June 1
- **Auxiliary at 7 p.m.**  
May 4 and June 1
- **General Mtg at 7 p.m.**  
May 4 and June 1
- **Cabane at 7 p.m.**  
May 11 and June 8
- **ALR at 9 a.m.**  
May 6 and June 3
- **SAL at 6 p.m.**  
May 4 and June 1
- **40 & 8 at 7 p.m.**  
May 11 and June 8
- **May 14**  
Mother's Day
- **May 29**  
Memorial Day
- **June 14**  
Flag Day

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## Commander's Corner by Ernie Florig

Greetings Legionnaires and Family Members,

I'd like to start off by congratulating all 622 Post 129 Legionnaires for achieving the annual membership goal of 618—we got beyond 100% on April 20<sup>th</sup>! I especially want to single out 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Joe Maichle and Adjutant Jerry Brandt for working tirelessly to contact veterans to renew their Legion membership.

Speaking of membership, please join us in welcoming the following new members and transfers to Post 129: Daniel Bickasley-Navy-Vietnam, Richard Sexton-Navy-Vietnam, Larry Reeves-Air Force-Vietnam, and William Brandt-Navy-Lebanon/Grenada. We also welcome the following transfers: Richard McCurdy-Army-Vietnam-Post 316, George Tatlas-Navy-Vietnam-Post 250, Carlos Strickland-Navy-Gulf-Post 400, John Lee-Navy-Vietnam-Post 400, William Hoskins-Army-Gulf-Post 400, Gerard Hogan-Air Force-Gulf-Post 400, and Thomas Strickland-Army-Vietnam-Post 37.

Last month I appointed a special committee, Canteen Revitalization, to improve the infrastructure and appearance of our beloved canteen. I appointed E-Board member Chuck Nist as Committee Chairman and E-Board member Pat Fowler as Co-Chairman. Members of the committee include 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Joe Maichle, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Commander Rick Miller, House Committee Chairman Bill Wilson, and Canteen Manager Brandi Haight. Please see Chuck if you would like to get involved with the committee.

The month of April was designated as the American Legion's children and

youth month. Our post celebrated our youth by supporting the city of Jacksonville Beach's Easter egg hunt at South Beach Park on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We provided a food booth and served 150 children with hot dogs, chips, and fruit juices. Thanks to the following volunteers for making this an outstanding success: Rick Miller, John Burroughs, Joe and Kathy Maichle, and Chuck and Sue Nist.

For your information, Post 129 is a strong supporter of ROTC training at the high school and university level. On April 6<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Joe Maichle attended the University of North Florida's Army ROTC awards banquet. Joe presented the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Gold Medal to Cadet Shelby Anderson; and the American Legion Military Excellence Gold Medal to Cadet Daniel Pickard.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> I attended Sandalwood High School's Air Force Junior ROTC awards banquet. Cadet Jason Hanson was recognized with the Scholastic Excellence Bronze Medal, and Cadet Ederson Queddeng with the Military Excellence Bronze Medal. We wish these outstanding cadets the best in their future endeavors!

Sandalwood's three aerospace instructors were also presented the American Legion's Thank You for Your Service challenge coin for doing an outstanding job in mentoring these young men and women. Congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel Rick Ricci, Master Sergeant Robert Doty, and First



*For  
God  
and  
Country*



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 Candace Mabry



The gifts just don't stop giving. Your Unit was able to donate \$1,000 to Pace Center for Girls and \$5,000 to Final Salute, our Department President Kelli Becraft's special project. Their mission is to provide homeless women Veterans with safe and suitable housing. We were also able to help our own Legion Riders that were rebuilding a members home and it was in need of an AC unit. We committed to pay the remainder that was due after other donations. We each can make a difference.

I am excited to say our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Sterling Memorial Golf Classic benefitting Boys and Girls State was another huge success. The day of the event was awesome – Sterling was definitely dialed in. All 60 golfers had a great time. V's Pizza donated pizza for registration and the Canteen came through with a Bloody Mary bar. The golf course came up with a box lunch for everyone and Carrabba's supplied our dinner. We had a ball marking table, hole in one contest and silent auction and plenty of raffle gifts for our golfers. The day of the event could not take place without a lot of work being done before the event.

My heartfelt thanks to those volunteers: Marie Elser, Lee Fair, Carole Hansen, Diana Kelley, Brian Lee, Dan Nicholson, Rob Nicholson, Patricia Owings, Bob Storms and Clint Swineiam. Then the day of the event I have to thank more – Patty Betoni, Kelly Bush, Elinor Cantrel, and Linda Phaklides. I haven't gotten the final numbers, but I am happy to say there will be a fourth annual.

We are so close in achieving our 100% membership, we are only 17 members short of our goal. If you have family members who are eligible or newborn girls we will welcome them. Junior membership dues are only \$3 per year. Special welcome to new members: Karla Nitschke and Mary Jane Brewer and Brenda Anderson is transferring into our Unit.

Our new year is about to begin and we will be electing officers in our May meeting. We are fortunate to have had new ladies join our meetings and our committees and established members retain their chairmanship or offices. I would like to challenge some of you to step outside your comfort zone and try a new position with your Unit. The more you know the more you grow both individually and as a Unit member. I know we are all juggling plates, balls and bowling pins, but I hope you consider an office with our Unit.

The District Constitutional Conference will be at Unit 137 on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration is at 8:00 a.m. and the meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. The Department convention will be June 29 – July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Marriott Orlando World Center, Orlando, Fla.



Keep tracking those volunteer hours!

For God and Country,  
Candace Mabry

## PLEASE NOTE:

If our members go to eat at Two Dudes between April 22 to May 13 and bring this coupon, Two Dudes will donate to the Sterling Memorial 10% of the amount of the bill.

So win-win for his restaurant and our golf tournament.

Thanks,

Candace



22 Seminole Road  
Atlantic Bch, FL 32233

Bring this card - 10% of your total bill will be donated to Boys and Girls State  
Good only from April 22 – May 13  
Sterling Memorial Classic Golf Tournament

## Cabane

Hello Dames,

Our monthly Rendezvous will be at 7 p.m. on May 11 and June 8 at Post 129.

Sharon Harville  
(904) 635-7373

## 40 and 8

The next Promenade is at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 11, and we will have the election of new officers. The June Promenade is June 8 at 7 p.m.

Michael Kocijan, Conductor V215  
mikejin77@aol.com

## S.A.L. News

by Brian Hancher

The slate of officers for the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 129 for 2018 is as follows:

Commander: John Caputa  
1st Vice Commander: Terry Stickles  
2nd Vice Commander: Robert Storms  
3rd Vice Commander: Scott Hardy  
4th Vice Commander: Rob Nicholson  
Finance Officer: Steve Smith  
Sergeant at Arms: Brian Haught



# Legion News

by Joe Maichle

## Legionnaires:

Thanks to all who renewed their membership we have now reached our goal of 100% again this year. For those who have not paid their dues or know someone who has not paid, drop by the Post or do it online. If you can not do either one, contact the Post and they will let me know and I will go to them.

The Department Convention is in late June and not long after that we will again start collecting dues for 2018. This year the post early bird will be \$30.00 from the Middle of July until September 30, at which time it will go back up to \$45.00. There will be no early bird dinner this year thus the reduction in early bird cost.

For God and Country

Don't forget election of officers is May 18 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Post.



## Commander's Corner (continued)

### Sergeant Grayling Hunter!

On April 29<sup>th</sup> we began the process of revitalizing the canteen by moving all canteen equipment to the temporary location in the main meeting hall, and removing ceiling tiles and insulation. This became a manageable challenge thanks to the army of twenty or so volunteers who donated their time and talent to demo the canteen. Please pardon the dust as we work towards improving the canteen.

With hot days and clear weather, we participated in Jacksonville Beach's Opening of the Beaches parade on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Some of our volunteers rode "Big Toot", while others walked the two-mile parade route, and handed out miniature flags to the large crowd. Special thanks to all parade volunteers, and especially Parade Chairman Fred St Clair. Fred was instrumental in coordinating all the logistics for a successful parade! Also, thanks to our Post-sponsored Legion junior baseball team and family members for walking with us to support Veterans. Kudos to the 40 and 8's Voiture 215 for allowing us to showcase "Big Toot" in the parade!

Our Post 129 annual election of officers is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please contact Adjutant Jerry Brandt if you have questions about the balloting. You must have your 2017 American Legion membership card to receive a ballot.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8 am we'll need volunteers at Huguenot Park, located at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, to set up and run the food booth for the Jacksonville Beach Police Department's Hooked on Fishing Not Drugs youth fishing tournament. We'll be serving approximately 450 children during the 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. timeframe. Please contact Fishing Rodeo Chairman Danny Rodriguez if you'd like to volunteer or have questions. Danny can be reached at 904-806-6231.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize our dear moms on their special day, May 14<sup>th</sup>—Happy Mother's Day! Come by the canteen on your day of honor for a complimentary breakfast.

In preparation for Memorial Day, we need a small army of volunteers to place grave-side flags at Warren Smith Cemetery, on the corner of Beach Boulevard and Pen-

man Road. We'll meet up on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. We'll also need volunteers to recover the flags on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. Please contact Joe Maichle if you have questions about this detail.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. the Beaches Veterans Memorial Park will be holding the beaches community memorial service. Please join us at the park, in Atlantic Beach, on the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Mayport Road. The park is adjacent to American Legion Post 316.

In closing, I'd like to thank our wonderful crew of volunteers who unselfishly give of their time and talent to support our many programs. Because of you, we're able to meet the needs of our Veterans and members of our surrounding beach communities!

"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

### E-Board Members

Lee Fair  
Pat Fowler  
Chuck Nist  
Fred St. Clair  
Jim Wineland

### House Committee

Harry Becker  
Wayne Blas  
John Caputa  
Frank Kleese  
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



Pardon our progress – exciting changes in the works! If you have been down to the post you may have noticed some things. The main canteen area is getting a much needed overhaul. We are replacing the insulation, all the electrical wiring, the duct work, the floor, and are reworking the sprinkler system. Much of this work is being done to bring our much loved Post up to current code. We are also planning on replacing the tables and the barstools as well as giving the canteen a fresh coat of paint. This project is projected to take approximately 8 weeks so please bare with us. We are still open but we have moved the canteen operation to the back hall. We know that we all miss the main canteen area, your canteen staff included, but in the end it will all be worth it to have a fresh updated safe canteen area for all of members to enjoy for many years to come.

Even though we have the construction project going on it does not change our weekly schedule. We will still have trivia, darts, karaoke, poker, live entertainment, queen of diamond raffle, pass the trash, regular bingo and of course steak bingo. The kitchen will still be open Monday through Friday for lunch and dinner and we will still have Sunday morning breakfast. We are thinking about adding a few fun events so watch your weekly for details.

We also have some special events coming up. On May 5<sup>th</sup> the SAL will hosting a Cinco De Mayo party. On May 6<sup>th</sup> the ALR will be having a Kentucky Derby party. On May 20<sup>th</sup> we will once again be helping the city with their Hooked on Fishing

Tournament. Volunteers are needed for this event, so please watch the board to sign up.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> we are going on a group outing to see the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp. Cost for the outing is \$20 per person which includes your ticket and transportation. We already have over 40 people signed up for this event. If we get 10 more people to sign up, we can get a second bus. So if you are planning on joining us, please sign up as soon as possible. Money for the event is due the week before.

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 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



Well this Legion year will be wrapping up soon. The dollars donated this year almost doubled over the previous year. A lot of that can be attributed to our own Post donating record amounts to help us with our Veteran's home upgrade. Thank you Auxiliary, Legionnaires and Sons!

The upgrade is gaining momentum thanks to a couple of special individuals: Rich Nicholson who will be providing the carpenter expertise, and Russel Sweeney fulfilling our plumbing needs. This brings up an interesting point; both of these individuals own contracting companies and they are donating their time to help us get the project completed.

This makes us wonder if there are other contractors that are members of our post? Look for a signup sheet that will be circulating around the post and please sign up. This will make the next home upgrade go a lot smoother, and we wouldn't have to rely on just a couple of contractors.

Special thanks go out to Howard Branzell and Scott McClure for their continued support of this project, and Sue Nist for finding us a plumber. Another individual to thank is Maggie Anderson, Assistant Manager for the Beaches Home Depot store; she has done everything in her power to help reduce costs. If you're in the beaches store and you see her, please stop her and thank her for all of her efforts. She has some great ideas for the next home.

It's back! Graffiti Junktion has opened their doors again for our Bike Night on the fourth Thursday of every month from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Graffiti Junktion will donate 15% of total sales to our fund which helps support our building upgrades. Come join the fun.

There are several events over the next few months, as noted.

### Dates to remember:

- May 6<sup>th</sup> — Thunder on the Beach, Panama City Beach
- May 13 — Post 9, Boots on the Ground
- September 23 — Post 283 Five Star Poker Run
- October 7 — Post 316 Bike Rodeo and Gun Raffle
- October 14 — Post 129's Poker Run
- October 28 — ALR 316 Zombie Run

Ride Safe,  
Jim



**American  
Legion-  
Ocean  
Beaches**

1151 S. Fourth St.  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

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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)  
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)