

American Legion Post 129

September 2014

Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 4**
6:00 p.m. Planning Board
6:30 p.m. E-Board
7:00 p.m. Auxiliary meeting
7:30 General meeting
- **Sept. 6**
5:30-10 p.m. ALR Bike Night
- **Sept. 11**
NEVER FORGET!
7:00 p.m. 40&8 and Cabane
- **Sept. 13**
3:00 p.m. Fancy Pants Fish Dinner
- **Sept. 20**
10:00 a.m. ALR meeting
- **Sept. 25**
6:00 p.m. S.A.L. meeting

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Commander's Corner by Danny Rodriguez

Well, family, the summer has gone by so fast that I really can't believe it's over.

Looking forward to this month and the things that are going to happen. One thing is the guys in funny (fancy) pants are back cooking up that great fish you like, with one thing different. There are some new faces in the crew. Same old receipt, but passing on to a new generation. So come out Sept. 13 and enjoy.

Hats off to the Riders last month for putting on some great events: backpacks for kids and the end of summer bash. Things could not be greater for the Post. Remember that the Riders are putting on the "Wreaths Across America" Poker Run again (Saturday, Oct. 11), and are looking for support. There are all kinds of things that need to be done. So if you want to help, please contact Linda Barefoot, or any other Rider.

We are doing great in membership, but I want to remind everyone that National has put on a challenge to the State of Florida by increasing our membership numbers. There are several things you can do. One is to renew your membership early and the

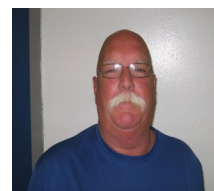
other is to help recruit one more member. For every person that brings in three new members, they will get next year's membership paid by the Post.

If you have been a member for five years and are going to turn 80 this year, I ask you to please leave a note for us so that we can put you on the life member list.

Congratulations to Jerry Brandt for being named Northern Area Commander.

Welcome to the following new Legion members:

- James Adams, Jr.
- Nick Atelevich
- William Attewell
- Garth Blanks
- Glen Brock
- Christopher Chinery
- Randy Cuzzort
- Edgar Dalrymple
- Paul Freeman
- Bruce Gilbert
- Jordan Gonzalez
- Karl Hague, Jr.
- William Kemmerer
- Gary Lyon
- Terri Marcum
- David Meltzer
- Leonard Smith
- Tiffani Travis
- Andrew Wright



Auxiliary News by Kelly Bush



Our general meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m.

In August, we voted to support Operation Orion to fund a service dog and training for a veteran with PTSD through K9s for Warriors.

We have our 5th District School of Instruction on Saturday, Sept. 6, 8:30-1, at Post 88. Come and learn about the wonderful programs of our Auxiliary and consider serving your local unit as a Chairman.

We will be collecting items for our homeless veterans to be distributed at the Jacksonville Stand Down on

September 19-20. We will be collecting small size toiletry items: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, etc. Also, white undershirts (crew neck style), white boxer shorts, and white or colored socks are needed.

We have our monthly Auxiliary dinner and steak bingo on Friday, Sept. 12. Please come out and support your unit! There is a sign-up sheet in the Auxiliary meeting room if you can cook a Friday meal.

Yours in service,

Kelly Bush,
ALA Unit 129 President

S.A.L. News by J.D. Kapeghian



The S.A.L. would like to congratulate, as well as say good bye to, Richard and Cindy Jordan. Good luck on your next endeavors! The volunteer work that you both have done is going to be sorely missed, you will always be part of our "family".

I hope everyone had a great summer. Now that fall is upon us, it's time to start thinking about renewing your memberships to help us get to our 100% before Jan. 1, 2015.

S.A.L. meetings are now on the 4th Thursday night each month at 6 p.m. All S.A.L. members are welcome and encouraged to attend. We need your thoughts and ideas.

At 5:30 p.m., on **Friday, Sept. 19**, the S.A.L. dinner will be lobster ravioli, topped with grilled shrimp and Alfredo sauce, a vegetable and garlic toast.

I would like to thank everyone that bought tickets for the bicycle raffle, and thanks to all those that helped sell the tickets.

With cooler weather approaching, it's time to start thinking about maintenance on the outside of the building. If anyone would like to volunteer for any one of our numerous projects, please see me.

Have a happy and safe Labor Day!

Thank you and good night.

Officers for 2014—2015

Commander.....Danny Rodriguez
1st Vice.....Tommy Williams
2nd Vice.....Terry Stickles
3rd Vice.....Jerry Brandt
4th Vice.....Joe Maichle
Sgt at Arms.....Anna Rogers
Finance.....Bob Schlatter
Chaplain.....Brian Hancher

<i>E-Board Members</i>	<i>House Committee</i>
Cathy Berry	Dwight Deyo
Lee Fair	Rich Hansberg
Deborah Left	Kathy Jewell
Dennis McDowell	Dale Peterson
Chuck Nist	Rich Reyman
	Bill Wilson
	Jim Winelnad

Auxiliary President
Kelly Bush
Commander-S.A.L.
J.D. Kapeghian
Director-Legion Riders
Jim Wineland
Chef De Gare 40 & 8
D.R. Richards
La Presidente, Cabane 215
Louise Bagdasarian

1st Vice Comments by Tommy Williams

I would like to start this month's newsletter input with a small apology, for this is my first entry since being elected as your 1st Vice. For those who know me, I'm much more a do-er, but not very much of a speech writer. I can assure you that we are getting much done here in both membership and Post involvement within the community.

Membership now stands at a little over 34%. Membership cards are now in for the new year, and while not required yet, the sooner you renew, the better it benefits the Post. Department has tasked us with even sooner percentage goals this year, so please see the Commander, myself, or the Post Adjutant to renew as soon as possible. As always, do not forget that we are ALL recruiters for the Legion, so invite friends, neighbors, and coworkers down to the post to see all the good things we do here.

Sometime in the near future, we will be holding a membership drive in front of a few of the local businesses to get our name and mission out in the public eye.

Having lived in the Beaches area all my life, I know there are many Veterans we are not reaching, and we need your help to do so.

As post Americanism chairman, I would also send out a somewhat belated thank you to all who helped out for the Flag Day colors retirement ceremony. Although many of the Post officers were off to convention, a nice service was held, and over 70 flags were retired in honor. (A special thanks to SAL Sgt-At-Arms Kevin Stewart with help folding them all). I am currently working on a flag disposal box to set inside the Post, so flags that are brought to the Post for disposal may have a better resting place than the current.

Also keep in mind that on September 19th, we will be holding our POW/MIA recognition service at 6:00 pm. Many have noticed the small round table in the corner, but do not understand the meaning of the items upon it. This is a very touching service that tells us of the meanings, and keeps in our minds the

memories and sacrifice of all our brothers and sisters who did not return.

For God and Country,
Tommy Williams

American Legion Riders by Jim Wineland



When this article is posted in our newsletter we will only have about six weeks left until our Wreaths Across America Poker Run. I'm sure we still have plenty to do and several opportunities for people to help. Last year we had approximately 100 bikes participate, this year we shooting for 200! There is even talk of a fly over from the same organization that participated in the "Boots on the Ground" Poker Run. Don't turn your phones off, we may be calling.

Another activity this month was delivering school supplies to a local school. About twenty Riders delivered thirty-six backpacks full of school supplies to the children waiting at the Carver Center on

August 8, 2014. The Carver Center is part of City of Jacksonville Beach and provides numerous programs and activities in the areas of recreation, the arts, and education, free of charge to low to moderate-income families and children in the community. We aren't done yet, we are still collecting supplies until the end of August. The children also enjoyed the numerous motorcycles that carried the backpacks to them.

Under the category of "I didn't know what I didn't know", The American Legion Riders started in Michigan in the fall of 1993. Commander Clarence Hill, who later went on to become National Commander made the ALR an official program of the

Florida during the 2002 Fall Conference in Orlando. Since that time, ALR membership in Florida has grown to be one of the largest in the country, in both membership, and number of chapters.

The American Legion Riders across the country raised \$1 million for the 2014 Legacy Scholarship Fund! Outstanding accomplishment!

We also have a few new members that we would like to recognize, Chris Chinery, Randy Cuzzort, Jordon Gonzalez, Joe Maichle, Sterling J Phaklides and Robert Hancock. Welcome! We are looking forward to your active participation.

Ride Safe!

Canteen Update

by Brandi Roberts



Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept 13th. The Fancy pants crew will be back in the kitchen serving up a fabulous fish dinner! They will start serving at 3pm! This is a meal that you will not want to miss. All proceeds will go to the USO.

Football season is here! We are looking for volunteers to cook. We would like to make sure that there is food EVERY weekend for the football games, but in order to do so, we need your help! You can cook whatever you like and donate the money to whichever Legion organization you would like. There is a signup sheet on the kitchen board. Please think about which day you would like to volunteer and then sign up.

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 send an email to Brandi at brandiroberts@att.net.

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!

Softball League

We are looking for members who would like to play softball in the upcoming season. The season will start in the September/October time frame, and we will be facing other Softball teams fielded by other Legion Posts. The softball games are held on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

“The Queen of Diamonds”

We now have a new type of raffle, “The Queen of Diamonds” will be played every Saturday at 7pm.

Information about the “Queen of Diamonds” will be posted in the Legion.

Wall of Honor

We are attempting to start a new tradition at American Legion Post 129. We would like to place pictures of all ACTIVE DUTY Personnel, in Uniform, on our wall.

Please give a picture of your service person to the Commander Danny Rodriguez or Jerry Brandt.

9 Hole Golf (Sat)

On Saturdays in July we continued to have fun hitting the little white ball. Give me a call (Sterling) at 294-4234 or e-mail me at sterling1960@comcast.net. I send out an e-mail every Tuesday to find out who will be playing the following Saturday. Individuals that are going to play need to let me know so that I can schedule the proper number of t-times. First t-time is around 11:15am. We have room for 20 golfers each week. Have some fun, join us.

Pass the Trash

Come out Sunday nights at 6 p.m. and have some fun playing “Pass the Trash”.



Never Forget!

by Chuck Nist

If you ask anyone old enough to remember when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, most likely they can tell you exactly where they were when they heard the news. I was in my 7th grade classroom when an announcement was made about the President being shot and killed, and we were sent home early.

Likewise, when the events of September 11, 2001 were unfolding, I can tell you exactly where I was, as I'm sure most of you can too.

We must never forget that on that fateful day, 2,996 citizens were murdered when 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda hijacked four airliners and carried out attacks against U.S. targets in New York City, Washing, D.C., and Shanksville, Pa.*

Did you know that the USS New York (LPD-21) stationed at Naval Station Mayport, contains 7.5 short tons of steel from the rubble of the World Trade Center in its bow? The ship's motto is "Strength Forged Through Sacrifice — Never Forget".

I was an active-duty Fire Captain with the City of Jacksonville Beach on 9/11. Yes, firefighters make their living running into burning buildings while everyone else is running out, but the loss of 343 New York City firefighters that day was a tragedy. Those brave public servants, doing what they do best, truly gave all so that others may live.



I will never forget! God Bless America.

* 9/11 Commission Report

Thank You.....



A big THANK YOU to Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning for the deep cleaning they gave both of our bathroom floors! They look incredible!

If you are in need of cleaning at your home please consider using Heaven's Best! Jim Wilson, Owner of Heaven's Best and member of Post 129, can be reached at 904-280-2900 or check out their website at www.heavensbestjim.com

Cabane News

by Louise Bagdasarian

Hi everyone, hope you had an enjoyable summer. Now a new year has begun, we are ready to get to work!

Thank you to all that supported our delectable goodies at the cake walk on Aug. 29th. Who can resist a good cake!! Our next rendezvous is Sept. 11th at 7pm. Don't forget your berets!!

Look forward to seeing all you Dames that evening. We are all ready for another successful year ahead.

Faithfully yours,
Louise Bagdasarian
Cabane 215 Presidente

Editor's Comments

by Sue Nist

Please remember that the newsletter is only as good as the information given to me.

If there is something you'd like to see in the newsletter, let me know, and I will talk to Commander Rodriguez about adding the information in upcoming issues.

My contact information is:
susan.nist@gmail.com.



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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 (11/14)
In memory of F. Joe Cornell (10/14)
In memory of George A. Campbell (1/15)
In memory of James M. Chilton (1/15)
In memory of Arlene G. Chilton (1/15)

Louise Taylor Braren (2/15)
In memory of Jim Forbess 11/14)
In memory of Donald Forbess (11/14)
Franklin Friers (3/15)
Paul "Shorts" Urff (8/15)

Platinum Level, \$100

In memory of Cindy Burroughs (7/14)

Bronze Level, \$10

Estelle Mellon (9/14)
In memory of Skip Hilliker (10/14)
William & Fannie Bivens (10/14)
Maddy Chitko (2/15)
Richard & Jo Ann Scoggins (4/15)
Robert Gomez (1/16)
Russell & Mary Lou Jones (9/14)
John & Gloria Molisani (8/15)
Thomas Selig (7/15)

Gold Level, \$50

Chuck & Sue Nist (4/15)
James M. Denholm (7/14)
Charlie Parker (9/14)
Bill Garrett (6/15)
Sally & Pearse Doherty (8/14)
Rush K Abry (2/15)

Silver Level, \$25

In memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (12/14)
Sterling & Linda Phaklides (6/14)
In memory of Kim White (10/14)
Nicholas Patrizio (10/14)
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (11/14)
C.M. Walker (10/15)
Jack & Ethel (2/15)
Nick Patrizio (10/14)