American Legion
Palm Valley Post #233
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August 16, 2026

Subject: SITREP ***002-2026***

Dear Members:

Yes! My "Situation Reports" (SITREP) have started again! We have experienced some great things these past weeks with the Kitchen Pantry renovation along with ongoing renovations to the Ladies' bathroom – special thanks to Ronnie and David for their hard work.

The Post passed our recent Department of Florida Health Department Inspection – special thanks to the Auxiliary for their hard work with required kitchen signage, organizing the kitchen supplies, and cleaning, Updates with Post operations:

- With the new arrival of our Finance Officer (Ben Bishop) along with Harry Jorgensen (Adjutant/Finance Officer) and Randi Shields (Bar Manager), I asked them to investigate our pricing structure and make a recommendation to the Executive Board. Proposal to increase pricing "across the board" at $2.00 per drink was recommended and approved at the General Membership. However, because of several members' concerns over the beer pricing, ***I've asked Randi, Ben, and Harry to revisit the pricing structure for beer; liquor prices will remain the same.***
- To reduce excess inventory, we will be implementing a "drink of the week" option for members/guests.
- Overview for August 10-16, 2026, revenue:
    - Sales: $3,201.66
    - Labor: $385.70
    - Labor percentage: 12%

- I requested an external audit from 5th District due to past-due taxes and the "lack of" data to file our Post taxes (2023-2024-2025). It was recommended by the District Committee to obtain past bank statements; submit. There are many "questionable" deletions/changes via our accounting software (QuickBooks) that can't be explained. We are just moving forward and implementing protocols to prevent future discrepancies.
- Membership has approved of the new Post officer's positions: Post Commander, Finance Officer, 2nd and 3rd Vice Commander, and Executive Board member.

Subject: SITREP ***002-2026 (continued)***

- We have cut some of our overhead costs (i.e., Ice Machine monthly rental of $200 monthly). New ice machine (donated and we own) will be installed Monday (August 17th). CO2 tank monthly rental fee $100; Mike Shields will be replacing the CO2 with a portable tank). Thank you, Mike!
- BINGO machines have been installed in the Post. These machines are 100% legal and Post return is the first $10,000 revenue is ours, after that, our split is 60-40. These machines will help us with revenue to help offset monthly expenses.
- Entertainment. Ben Biship (Finance Officer) has requested to assume those responsibilities, and he will coordinate with Randi to ensure bartender coverage/special events.
- We have started "rotating" Friday's meal options (i.e., Pork/Chicken and Steak/Chicken). Consensus has been well received.
- Walk-in cooler's fan motor failed. B&G Refrigeration replaced the motor at $928.00. I will be reaching out to SAL for a donation.
- Friends (Jeff and Rick) were kind enough to investigate the Post's current A/C challenges; they changed fan motor speeds along with adding freon, investigating the mini-split unit's functions/settings – they spent several hours at the Post (Sunday) – THANK YOU!

In closing, ***WE*** have some major hurdles to overcome, but with ***YOUR*** efforts, time, expertise, and donations, ***WE*** will survive this storm. I am grateful for the outpour of help with repairs and volunteering. It must be a **TEAM** effort! GOD Bless **OUR** Post Family.

For GOD and Country,

SONNY KIRKWOOD, PC 2015-2016/2023-2024
Post Commander, Palm Valley Post 233 (2026-2027)
Post Commander Squadron 233 (2026-2027)
5th District Adjutant/Assist Adjutant (2016-present)
Department of Florida