



# AL233FL Newsletter



Volume 15, Issue 6

'SMOKE FREE POST'

August 2015



Our Post Home



Memorial Garden



Commander Louis 'Pappy' Martin Pavilion

560 N. Wilderness Trail ~ Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

*Legionnaire meetings, first Thursday each month, 7:00pm*

*Auxiliary meetings, second Thursday each month, 7:00pm*

*Son's meetings, third Thursday each month, 6:30pm*

*Rider's meetings, first Sunday each month, 11:00am*

**Canteen hours:**

**MON-FRI: 11:00am until ?? hrs.**  
**SAT: 4pm until ?? hrs. Happy Hour 4-7pm**  
 On event Saturday's, call for opening time  
**SUN: 9am until ?? hrs. Happy Hour 3-7pm**

**Monday-Friday: Lunch 12:00n-2:00pm**  
**Wednesday: Dinner 6:30pm-8:00pm**  
**Friday: Dinner 6:30pm-8:00pm**  
**Sunday: Breakfast 9:00am-11:30am**

Website: [www.AL233FL.org](http://www.AL233FL.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL](http://www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL)

Email: [info@al233fl.org](mailto:info@al233fl.org)

Post telephone: 904.285.2484



We are a Smoke Free Post, 24/7  
 Smoking only allowed outside,  
 since February 2014



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**NEVER FORGET ~ POW's & MIA's**



## 2015



**Commander**  
Sonny Kirkwood



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**  
Jim Durnal



**Chaplain**  
William 'Bill' Reno



**Finance Officer**  
Tom Leppard



**SAA**  
JR Mathis



**Finance**  
Tom Leppard

**E-Board**  
Ted Veber



**Auxiliary President**  
Kathy Helmly

**AUXILIARY:**  
1<sup>st</sup> V.President Amy Blair  
2<sup>nd</sup> V.President  
Treasurer Allyson Bass  
Secretary Angie Kees  
Chaplain Celeste Sheble  
SAA Sylvia Bass  
Historian Linda Mathis  
E-Board Dee Durnal  
E-Board Debbie Eatmon  
E-Board Patty Williams

**Bartenders:**  
Debbie, Allyson, Amy, Coop, Patty, Carline, Anita,  
Caroline and Beth

## OFFICERS

NO PICTURE  
AVAILABLE  
AT THIS TIME

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander**  
Susan Severson

VACANT

Historian



**E-Board**  
Mike Williams



**SAL Commander**  
Jeff 'Tex' Ward

**SAL:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cdr. Howard  
Sheble  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cdr. Mike Shaar  
Adjutant-Finance J.  
Crutchfield  
Chaplain Will Hurley  
Historian John Gabbard

## 2016



**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander**  
Al Hernandez



**E-Board**  
Maury Lazenby



**Judge Advocate**  
Roy Haverkost



Picture Not  
Available at this time

**Riders Director**  
Kevin Terranella

**RIDERS:**  
Dir. Kevin Terranella  
Treasurer Kathy Church  
Secretary Virna Waldron  
Chaplain Linda Williams  
Road Capt. Bill Marshall  
SAA Kevin Terranella  
Historian Virna Waldron  
Historian Kathy Helmly



VACANT

**4<sup>th</sup> Vice Commander**

NO PICTURE  
AVAILABLE  
AT THIS TIME

**E-Board**  
Ed Butler



## Commander's Corner:

Hello Post 233 Family:

Membership! Membership! Membership! American Legion (National) will be raising dues January 1<sup>st</sup> by \$8.00 – please renew early and save \$8.00 for every year you pre-pay.

WOW! What a great month for our Post in July! Unfortunately, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event was not what we wanted due to weather – but we still celebrated our Country's birthday in American Legion Post 233 style! On Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> we served over 90 plates of food – the music by The Collage was spectacular and the volunteers were awesome! Special thanks to Chef Mike Shaar, Lynette, Betty, Caroline, Noah, JR, Jim, Debbie, Ellie, Paul and Wally.

Having said that, our Post has some major structural issues (i.e., electrical, aging septic sewer tank system and interior ceiling issues) just to mention a few that need attention. Some history: when the Post sold the property on Canal/Roscoe and purchased the existing property, they were “grandfathered” to allow the property to become “commercial” versus “residential.” However, if the Post suffers a catastrophic event that requires us to pull a building permit, we could be facing crossroads of being disapproved and facing tough decisions. My initial thought process is to research our options:

- (1) Have the property appraised.
- (2) New Building options, variances and permits required
- (3) Corporate sponsorship and donations
- (4) Option of new location (sell the property) and look at Old Palm Valley Road, Nacottee, etc... and lease with working capital in the bank! Create a building fund and become more financially solvent.
- (5) Stay where we are at and continue to put good money after bad!

This vision is just in its preliminary stages and I will compile a presentation that will provide all our options along with county officials that will support our decisions.

Member survey results:

Demographically: 58.76% Legionnaire  
27.84% Auxiliary  
13.40% Sons of the Legion  
Total: 99

- Overall average times visiting the Post (Monthly): 1-5
  - Recommend membership to Post 233: 67% Promoters
  - Likely to Volunteer: Very likely/slightly: 23% each
- Satisfied with volunteer experience: 36.36% very satisfied;  
28.41% Other.
- Lunches attended (monthly): 1-5 39.18%; None: 55.57%
  - Dinners attended (monthly): 1-5 49.50%; None: 35%
  - Quality of food: 55.56% very pleased
  - How friendly bartenders/staff: 43.16% Very pleased
  - Compared to other Veteran Organizations: 30.50% feel the same.



## Second Vice Commander's Corner:

Thank you to everyone for your patience as I get better at understanding my role as the new 2nd Vice Commander. It has certainly been a challenging couple of months so far! Looking to the future, I look forward to managing the events at the Post so that you always have an excellent experience. However, I cannot do this alone. If you are willing to volunteer to work in the kitchen and serve our members, please contact me directly. Just a few hours one evening, once or twice a month will ensure that everyone at the Post benefits; and besides the fact that many hands make light work, we have a good time back there!

I am also considering some more special events this year and would appreciate your input. Our next national holiday is Labor Day and if you have any requests for an end-of-summer cookout event, please let me know! My mobile number is 904-382-6802 and you can text or call me and I will always return your call in a timely manner. My email is [susan@navytonavy.com](mailto:susan@navytonavy.com) if you prefer to correspond that way. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Let's make this a great year at our Post!

For God and Country,  
*Susan Severson, 2nd Vice Commander.*



## Third Vice Commander's Corner:

Hello Legion Families:

As you are a witness new and positive changes are happening in our Post. It takes a united effort and I continue to encourage you to join our enthusiasm as we are “**Looking Forward Not Backward.**” There is a new wave of energy that is gaining momentum as we look for ways to make improvements for Post 233. Keep an open mind and support the positive changes. One way to support us in this endeavor is to keep an eye out for the survey which is coming out as we speak. Your opinion matters and we want to hear from you. The results of the survey will play a significant role in decisions affecting the betterment of the Post.

Let us hear from you.

For God and Country  
*Al Hernandez, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander*



## Director of the Rider's Corner:

Riders:  
Reporting installation of new officers:  
Kevin Terranella Director  
John Schumm Assistant Director  
Virna Waldron Secretary/Historian  
Kathy Church Treasurer  
BJ Atkins Road Captain  
Betty Bacom Sgt. at Arms

- Music/Entertainment: 58.54% good
- Broader variety of entertainment: 67.50% yes
- Events most likely to attend: Family oriented 40%; Honorees events: 39%; regionally recognized name bands: 36%
- Satisfied with Post 233 experience: 55% very satisfied
- Changes: Survey results at the Post for viewing.

Commander	Sonny Kirkwood
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Jim Durnal
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Susan Severson
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	Al Hernandez
4 <sup>th</sup> Vice Commander	OPEN
Chaplain	Bill Reno
Sgt. At Arms	JR Mathis
Historian	OPEN
Finance Officer	Tom Leppeard
E-Board	Mike Williams
E-Board	Jim Crutchfield
E-Board	Ted Veber
E-Board	Maury Lazenby
E-Board	Ed Butler

Of note, EVERY Legionnaire who is in good standing with membership is eligible for FREE Accidental Death Insurance in the amount of \$3,000 – no obligation and is part of your membership at Post 233. Insurance is offered through the American Income Life Insurance Company (AIL). AIL’s local representative is Lisa West (904) 571-9200. Our motto this year is **“LOOKING FORWARD NOT BACKWARDS.”**

I close with a big **THANK YOU** to all the folks that have been volunteering and stepping up-to-the-plate – let’s keep that force growing!!!

For God and Country,  
**Sonny Kirkwood, Commander 2015-2016**

**Judge Advocate:**



On July 20, 2015, President Obama signed P.L. 114-31 into law. This new law directs the Veterans Administration to issue new VA Identification cards to all veterans. The intent of the new law appears to make it easier for a veteran to prove his veteran status without having to carry a copy of his DD214, as that document provides personal information such as social security numbers and would make identity theft easier if lost or stolen. As of this writing the Veterans Administration has yet to say how this new system will be implemented and what the fee for this new card will be. Hopefully the Veterans Administration will think hard and deep when they formalize the implementation process for this new

Linda Williams Chaplain

**Special Recognition:**

The Riders Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Betty Bacom. Thanks Betty for all you do!

**Riders who Rule:**

BJ Atkins and his daughter Alaina attended Rolling Thunder this year. Rolling Thunder is the largest motorcycle demonstration in the world – all to get our politician’s to bring full accountability for POWs/MIAs.

BJ Atkins also took part in a dedication for UH-1 Huey ‘446 Helicopter at Veterans Memorial Park in Blue Ridge, Georgia. Outstanding missions BJ!

Sylvia put together a great raffle basket – get your tickets today!!!  
**Dreams Come True:**

On July 6<sup>th</sup> the Riders at Post 233 were matched with a dreamer from the funds raised on our February poker run. Breanna is age 10 is battling a brain tumor and was blinded by the condition at age 7. Breanna is attending the Florida School for Deaf and Blind. Her dream was to explore New York City. Breanna and her family flew last week to NYC, then took a limo to her Times Square hotel, where a dedicated Concierge at the hotel ensured a safe and exciting week. Breanna, her Mother and Sister went to the Broadway show Wicked with a backstage pass were Brianna was able to touch the costumes and meet some of the cast. Before the show they visited a beauty salon and shopped for dresses to attend the show. The rest of the week was spent touring the Big Apple. For all who supported this year’s charity event thank you for making Breanna’s dream come true!

**Upcoming Rider events at Post 233:**

Spaghetti Dinner Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup>

Riders Breakfast Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>

Our charity run to benefit MIAP will be on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

For God and Country,  
**Kevin Terranella, Director**



**Auxiliary President’s Corner:**

Ladies:

Hello to the entire Legion family! If you haven’t heard about all of our awards last year, let me share them with you:

Within the state and the 5<sup>th</sup> district we won the following:

- #1 unit of the year
- #1 membership
- #1 coupon collection
- #1 historian book for the state

As for service, we logged, 4,391 volunteer hours, member donations were over \$16,000 and 20,202 miles were logged. Our Chaplain sent over 50 cards, made several phone calls and visited many. As for tenure we have one member who has been with us for 56 years and two members that have been with us for more than 40-years. What a great testimonial to our amazing unit!

This year we start off with a clean slate and will strive to surpass

card, and not just create another way for someone to fraudulently claim veteran status.

Since the American Legion requires a Post to verify membership eligibility, and that verification is currently in the form of a copy of a DD214, Honorable Discharge or a valid Military ID, we will continue with this practice until advised otherwise by the American Legion National Organization Headquarters. Just a reminder, a members personal identifiers on his/her DD214 may be redacted on the copy that is provided to Post 233.

For God and Country,  
**Roy Havekost, Judge Advocate**



**Finance Officer:**

No input this month.

Tom Leppard  
**Finance Officer**



**Commander - Sons of the Legion**

No input for this month.

For God and Country  
**Jeff "Tex" Ward, Squadron Commander SAL 233**

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**DONN'T WORRY-  
BE HAPPY!**



last year, which will be no easy task, however, we have an amazing Unit which I believe will again exceed expectations. Your new team leaders are:

Myself, Amy Blair, Lauren Caldwell, Debbie Eatmon, Ally Bass, Celeste Sheble, Linda Mathis, Dee Durnal Patty Williams, Sylvia Bass and Angie Kees.

Our goals this year is to increase education of the 17 committees within the Auxiliary, productive communication, work diligently with all entities to build a strong family and growing our Unit all while having a lot of fun!

Our Wednesday night dinner will be, August 26<sup>th</sup>, Sponsor's and volunteers are always welcomed. Come out and support the Auxiliary

Our monthly meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00pm, our next meeting will be held on August 12<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see a lot of new faces!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
GOD BLESS AMERICA  
**Kathy Helmly, President 2015-2016**



**Adjutant's Corner:**

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you to take a few moments and renew your Legion membership while the price is low. Yes, you heard correctly, the Annual Membership will increase by \$8.00 on 1 January 2016. So, why not renew now and save a few dollars. It is as easy as paying on line to American Legion National Headquarters at [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org), then "click" on RENEW in the center of the screen, then follow the instructions. After you complete this payment, National will notify me and I will forward you your 2016 membership card. The next easiest way would be to come to the Post Monday-Friday from 1000hrs to 1700hrs and pay be directly and receive your 2016 membership card. If you choose, you can come by the Post any day Monday - Sunday and give the bartender on duty an envelope with your payment (\$35.00) in it and your name on the envelope. The bartender will place the envelope in my box and I will have your card at the bar waiting for you within two business days. If you desire, you can indicate on the envelope that you would like for me to mail you your card and I will be glad to do it. You can also choose to mail your payment to the Post and I will receive it and then have your card ready for pickup at the bar within two business days.

Also remember that if you pay your 2016 dues prior to 11 November you will be eligible to attend the "Early Bird" meal later this year. So, if you act not and pay your renewal dues before 11 November not only will you save \$8.00 but you will also receive a complementary meal. Why wait, act not while it is fresh on your mind.

## ***Canteen Manager's Corner:***

Welcome one and all to the Palm Valley Post 233 Canteen. We have made a few small changes that we hope will bring more of our members and friends in to enjoy the fun and activities. Just in at the bar is **FIRE BALL** a very popular drink. We offer it room temp or chilled for your enjoyment at the price of \$3.50 a shot. For those of you who have not been for a while, we now have Bud Lite on draft for \$2.00 a glass or \$8.00 a picture. We have a new bartender by the name of Caroline. Her first duty day was yesterday. Come by and welcome her to the Palm Valley Post 233 family.

Be on the lookout for special events to come to the canteen during football season, both college and NFL. Be sure to come in and wear your team colors and cheer them on to victory. Details to follow next month and in the weekly update.

We have a position we would like to fill as soon as possible. Looking for a part time job. We need a lunch time cook to work from 11:30-2:30 Monday-Friday at the rate of \$8.05 per hour. Duties to include prep to cook hamburgers, hotdogs, grill cheese; cooking and serving the food in the canteen and cleaning the kitchen area after lunch. Anyone interested, contact Jim Crutchfield, Canteen Manager at the Post, personal cell phone 904-679-9839 or email [crutch1030@aol.com](mailto:crutch1030@aol.com).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the Post at 904-285-2484 or my cell at 904-679-9839.

**MEMBERSHIP  
MEMBERSHIP**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**MEMBERSHIP**

***Jim Crutchfield***  
**Adjutant**



## **AUGUST BIRTHDAY'S**

**Please visit the website for birthdays and much more!!!**

Your birthday can be listed here by sending your name, month and day to [webmaster@al233fl.org](mailto:webmaster@al233fl.org) or call Roy @ 287-6909

### ***POST 233 "MEAL DEAL" SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM***

***Are you one of those people who would love to volunteer to help your Post but you don't trust your culinary skills or aren't able to manage the kitchen duties?***

***We've got a DEAL for you! There are others willing to do the work for you and better yet, you get all the credit. Become a Post 233 LEGIONNAIRE MEAL SPONSOR and all the planning, shopping, cooking, service and clean-up will be taken care of and you will be honored as that Wednesday evening's Meal Sponsor. Your dinner will be on the house and you can even request a favorite meal you would like to have prepared.***

***There is a Sponsorship Level for everyone and your Sponsorship is a tax deductible donation to American Legion Post 233. Your donation will be used to offset the food cost and compensate the evening's Chef for their time and effort on your behalf.***

***GOLD SPONSOR - 100.00 - SILVER SPONSOR - 50.00 - BRONZE SPONSOR - 25.00***



## Planning an outdoor Party ?



Consider renting our pavilion area for your next birthday, anniversary, family gathering, business meeting or picnic.  
For details contact our Canteen Manager or any of our bartenders for more details.

Go to [AL233FL.org](http://AL233FL.org) for pix. Call 285-2484.

Smoking is permitted outside and at the pavilion bar.

**POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot**

**ADVERTIZE YOUR BUSINESS CARD ON THE POST TV FOR ONLY \$75.00/YEAR**

Ask the bartender for details

The Post 233 calendar of events is online at:

<http://www.al233fl.org/ecalendar.htm>

If you have a smart phone, you can connect to the e-calendar with your gmail account and have all the Post 233 event dates at your fingertips.

**SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT HELP SUPPORT YOUR POST**


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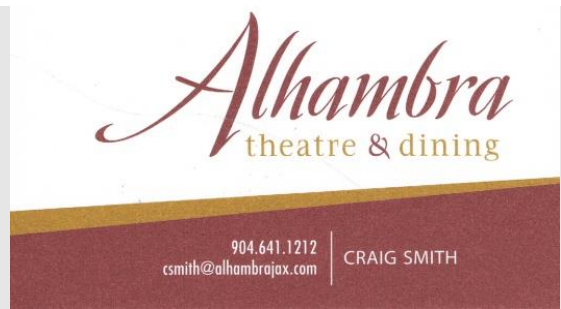
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\$25.00 per year to advertise your business card on both the monthly newsletter and Post website.

Make check payable to American Legion Post 233.

Your check and business card can be left in the Commanders mailbox.

Business cards that missed the payment deadline will be posted immediately to the website when your payment is received.

Display your card here!





**Every Friday night at Post 233  
play the  
'SPIN TO WIN' FUNDRAISER**

- **Tickets ( \$1 each) will be sold from 7pm to 9pm with a weekly drawing at 9pm**
- **Winning ticket holder will spin the wheel to win a cash prize**
- **Prize amount will increase each week if there is no winner**
- **Complete fundraiser rules posted at the bar**
- **Prize amounts will be listed weekly on Facebook or you can call the Post at 904-285-2484**
- **Post 233, 560 North Wilderness Trail, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.**