



AL233FL Newsletter



Volume 15, Issue 6

'SMOKE FREE POST'

July 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL

Email: info@al233fl.org

Post telephone: 904.285.2484



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



In this issue:

Page 2	2015 - 2016 elected officers
Page 3	Officer reports
Page 4	Officer reports cont'd. / Canteen report / Welcome Aboard
Page 5	SAL reports
Page 6	SAL & Auxiliary reports cont'd.
Page 7	House Committee. / Birthdays / Misc.
Page 7 & 8	Paid advertising-business card ads
Page 9	SPIN to WIN \$\$\$\$\$ flyer, every Friday



NEVER FORGET ~ POW's & MIA's



2015



Commander
Sonny Kirkwood



1st Vice Commander
Jim Durnal



Chaplain
William 'Bill' Reno



Finance Officer
Tom Leppard



SAA
JR Mathis



E-Board
Ted Veber



E-Board
Mike Williams



Judge Advocate
Roy Haverkost



Adjutant & E-Board
Jim Crutchfield
Canteen Manager



Auxiliary President
Judy Mills

AUXILIARY:
1st V.President Kathy Helmlly
2nd V.President Amy Blair
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



SAL Commander
Jeff 'Tex' Ward

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

OFFICERS

2016



VACANT



3rd Vice Commander
Al Hernandez



E-Board
Maury Lazenby

NO PICTURE
AVAILABLE
AT THIS TIME

4th Vice Commander

E-Board
Ed Butler

VACANT

Historian

Bartenders:

**Debbie, Allyson, Amy, Coop,
Patty, Ellie and Beth**



Commander's Corner

Hello Post 233 Family:

I want you to know how excited I am about the upcoming year. I believe your newly elected/re-elected officers bring lots of experience and synergy that will continue to move the Post forward in the future. **Installation of Officers by 5th District will be conducted on Sunday, July 12th at 11:00.** **NOTE: All officers being sworn in must have their 2016 dues paid before being installed.**

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to our former Canteen Manager, Rita Connolly. Rita submitted her Letter of Resignation and her reasons for leaving are personal in nature and I respect her decision. Our Judge Adjutant, Jim Crutchfield, has stepped up-to-the-plate and has assumed the duties.

Congratulations to our Auxiliary Unit 233 on their selection as Unit of the Year for 5th District – this recognition validates all the hard work those ladies have done to help make Post 233 such a success – congratulations!

Our video surveillance system was installed with an eight-camera system and the monies were donated by two members.

We are working on purchasing a Point of Sale Program that will help us with accounting, inventory, and identifying (if any) deficiencies in our procurement practices.

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

Our Membership survey is going out this month and I encourage all members to please participate! This initiative will help us in our efforts to focus on where we need improvements and where are doing well.

As the Incoming Commander I am required by the By-Laws to select three members to conduct an in-house financial audit. I

2nd Vice Commander



I am excited about the upcoming year and working with everyone with regards to entertainment and activities at the Post.

REMINDER: The Blood Mobile will be at the Post on Sunday, July 5th from 2:00 – 5:00 PM – come out and help possibly save the life of someone! See at the Post!

For God and Country,

Susan Severson, 2nd Vice Commander

3rd Vice Commander



As we continue to embrace the wave of better for Post 233, I would like to personally thank our American Legion Families, the Legionnaires, the Auxiliary, the SAL and ALR for their superb support. Every time I visit our Post I sense a renewal of energy and enthusiasm in all whom I see and greet. The refreshing change is contagious. We all need to do our part to welcome the betterment changes coming for our post. Don't sit on the sidelines come join us and enjoy the wonderful comradery unfolding in our post.

For God and Country

Al Hernandez, 3rd Vice Commander

Adjutant



Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is that time of the year again. Time to renew your membership. I have just returned from the Department of Florida Convention where I picked up the 2016 membership cards for the Legion and the SAL. I will begin issuing the new cards on July 1, 2015. You can renew your membership quite a few ways. You can stop by the Post and see me on Monday – Friday from 1000 – 1700 to pay your dues and get your new card. You may choose to drop your renewal by the Post in an envelope marked for “Adjutant Jim Crutchfield” and give it to the bartender on duty. The most convenient way to renew is to go on line and pay directly to National Headquarters. The Headquarters will send me a list of members who chose this option and I will mail your cards to you. May I suggest, while the idea is on your mind, go ahead and send in your renewal today. Remember, all of our members who pay before 11 November will be treated to a free dinner at the Post.

I have just returned from the Department of Florida Convention and learned that membership dues will be increasing by \$8.00 on 1 January 2016. So, renew or join prior to 31 December 2015 and pay \$35.00, renew or join 1 January 2016 or later and pay \$42.00.

Things are happening at 560 N. Wilderness Trail, so do not miss any of the fun. Renew your membership and be the first person in

welcome anyone who has the background and wants to volunteer to assist in this requirement.

We are now serving draft beer (Bud Lite)! Also, we are going to implement a reservation program for our Friday Steak Night events to better plan for budgetary reasons and to meet or exceed our member/guest expectations.

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. I have asked Lisa to address the General Assembly at the August 6th meeting.

Our motto this year is **“LOOKING FORWARD NOT BACKWARDS.”**

On a somber note, we lost one of our Legionnaires this past month - John Valente, a World War II veteran who courageously served our Country during the Battle of the Bulge and the Normandy Invasion. Our prayers are with his family.

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:



Just attended the Department of Florida 97th Convention in Orlando along with Commander Sonny Kirkwood and Post Officers - Lots of good information and I'm excited about the upcoming year.

During this year's Convention the Post received many accolades for the first time – Legionnaire Post Excellence Award for 2015; American Legion Auxiliary Unit of the Year Award from District

For God and Country,
Roy Havekost, Judge Advocate

Finance Officer:



Fellow Members,
June is the close of another fiscal year as July starts the new fiscal year. Financially, last year looks like it will not be as rewarding as we had hoped it might have been. Good news is that we may be headed in the right direction. May was a good month financially and June may prove the same, due to the successful events we have had at the Post. The events not only add the positive cash flow that the Post needs to cover operating costs but it brings together members that have not been to the Post in a while. In addition it gives us the opportunity to invite the general public and the community in to our post to experience what the American Legions are to the community.

The newly elected E-Board has a tough job ahead but I believe they are up to the task. It will take hard work and dedication in order to right the ship and head in the right direction. Times are tough but we are up to the challenge. The E-Board cannot do it

your circle of friends to have your new 2016 Legion membership card.

For God and Country we continue to serve.
James “Jim” Crutchfield, Adjutant

Entertainment:

I will continue to work with the E-Board and bring some exciting entertainment into your Post!

Mike Eatmon, Entertainment Chairman

WELCOME ABOARD:

We will publish new members for June and July in next month's Newsletter edition! Thank you, Commander Sonny.

CANTEEN:



Our entertainment and events for July will be as follows:

- 3 July - Juke Box Night
- 4 July – Celebration of our Country
- 5 July - Blood Drive
- 10 July - Be a Star Karaoke
- 17 July The "Collage" Band
- 21 July - No Tacos
- 24 Jul - Don Miniard Entertainer
- 31 July - Beach Street Boogie Band

Hope you are having a wonderful day. The season to celebrate is fast upon us. The Fourth of July is just around the corner. Your Post 233 has planned a wonderful day of activities, fun, and food for the entire family. **The Post will open at 1100 hrs for beverages from the bar. Activities and events will be from 1300-1900.** The band will play outside from 1500-1900. Food is scheduled to be served from 1300-1800. HOWEVER, 1000 HRS OR 10:00AM is a very important time for all Post 233 Family Members. This is the time we will be setting up the activities and getting everything ready for the day's activities. The more hands we have, the quicker we will get the job done. There is something for EVERYONE to do. So, come early - 1000hrs - and help us get ready for a wonderful day sun and fun to celebrate the 4th of July.

Jim Crutchfield, Canteen Manager



alone and we need the help and support of all of the membership of the post. It is the little things that add up such as coming to the post once or twice a month at a minimum and having breakfast, lunch or dinner. Invite neighbors or work associates for one of our amazing dinners. Use the post for family gatherings in our beautiful outside pavilion. It is the cash flow from everyday normal operations that should meet our overhead costs, and the events should be the icing on the cake that provides the funds to update and improve our post. With a little help from everyone we can make it happen. The stronger we get financially the more we can do. Post 233 is a great place to meet and have a good time with events like Monday trivia, Tuesday poker and great entertainment on Friday nights along with our Spin to Win game which by the way just paid out \$1,800 to a lucky player.

The events planned for the Fourth are going to be great so come down to the Post with some friends and family and celebrate the independence of this great nation with some great food, drink and entertainment. Until next month, God Bless our Post and God Bless our great Nation.

Tom Leppeard
Finance Officer

Auxiliary:



Hello, I would like to introduce myself, I'm Kathy Helmly, your incoming President of Unit 233.

I would like to say that I am very excited to work with all of you this upcoming year.

I would like to inform everyone of installation of officers is July 12, 2015 at 11:00 at the Post. As a reminder and also addressed by our Post Commander, all incoming officers must have their 2016 dues paid prior to installation. I hope to see all of you there to welcome the incoming officers.

Our Executive Meeting is the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Our Regular Meetings are the second Thursday every month at 7:00 p.m.

Please don't forget about our 4th of July event with food, games, music, and refreshments – hope to see you there!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
GOD BLESS AMERICA

Kathy Helmly, Incoming President 2015-2016



Commander - Sons of the Legion

Squadron – We did it!! Our membership as of the Department of Florida Convention this week is 102.9%. That is great and I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Post 233, Unit 233, and Chapter 233 for also obtaining over 100% membership for the 2014-2015 Legion year.

Great as this is, it is time to start all over and do it again. Membership cards and will begin issuing them on 1 July 2015. Jim Crutchfield will be at the Post Monday-Friday from 1000-1700, so you can stop by and pay your renewal and receive your new card, you can leave your \$30.00 renewal in an envelope with your name on it and marked for my attention and/or Jim's.

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

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 22 veterans commit suicide each day. Stop22 is a National awareness campaign to show our military members, both active and retired that they are not forgotten. K9s for Warriors, Ponte Vedra, FL, is doing their part to help post 9/11 veterans with PTSD and TBI and helping spread #STOP22 awareness. As American Legion Post 233 Commander here in Ponte Vedra, I challenge all American Legion Posts across the nation to show support for #STOP22 and #K9sSTOP22. Post 233 intends to recruit at least 22 new veterans, can you OUTDO our 22?



Sons of the Legion:



The SAL would like to thank JR & Linda Mathis and Hank Griffis for their recent donations to us for the "Wheel" and State Conference expenses. Your continued support helps keep our SAL as the best in Florida!

With July 4th just around the corner, planning has begun to make the event at the Post even better than last year. All of our entities will be involved in the planning and execution. If you would like to be involved in any small/large way, please email me. Thank you,

For God and Country
Howard Sheble
SAL 1st Vice Commander



Riders:

On behalf of all The American Legion Riders (ALR), I'd like to express a warm thanks to all the outgoing Officers of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), and Sons of American Legion (SAL); and of course, our own ALR Former Director and Founding Member Bill Marshall for his gracious leadership and most generous support for Post 233. We salute your service!

As the new Director of the ALR, I would like take this opportunity to explain a bit about our group. First and foremost,

PALM VALLEY GOLF CLUB
and Practice Range
A Family Golf Learning Center



JACK HORN
PGA PROFESSIONAL
SUPERINTENDENT
www.palmvalleygolfing.com

PROSHOP: 824-9279
MAINTENANCE: 818-5854
1075 PALM VALLEY RD.
PONTE VEDRA 32081

PAGEAUTHORS
WEB DESIGN

St. Johns, FL 32259
Members: IAWMD - HTMLWG - MSSBN

Roy Havekost
904-287-6909
www.PageAuthors.com
Established 1996

STEVEN M. BARNETT

INVESTMENT EXECUTIVE
Phone: (904) 645-8350 | Cell: (904) 254-4334
11949 Arrow Lake Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32225
steven.barnett@investfinancial.com
Registered Representative of INVEST Financial Corporation, member
FINRA/SIPC. INVEST and its affiliated insurance agencies offer
securities and certain insurance products.

WELLS FARGO ADVISORS

Christopher M. Thompson, CFP®, CRPC
Vice President - Investment Officer
Financial Advisor
NMLS ID: 521710

Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
818 Highway ALA North
Suite 200
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082-3297
Toll Free: 800-542-5270
Office: 904-273-7908
Fax: 904-285-0249
christopher.thompson@wfsadvisors.com
www.wellsfargoadvisors.com/christopher.thompson

Member FINRA/SIPC

ALR membership is open to any member in good standing at our Post 233's Legion, ALA, or SAL. Membership is open to motorcycle riders and non-riders alike, who share the same goal of supporting our Post and having fun doing it. We are truly blessed to have among our Post 233 Rider family, members who have in the past or are currently still serving in various leadership positions at Post 233 and at 5th District. They find being part of the ALR a great way to continue supporting our shared goals in an enjoyable new way. And when I say new I mean it! Our ALR group only started in 2012 so we are still finding our teeth, while activity recruiting new members with fresh ideas as we move forward. Today we have 37 ALR members.

In our short history we have provided the following contributions to our Post and community:

- Volunteered 3,997 hours
- Mileage 35,358 (70 MPH billboard for Post 233)
- Donations \$20,696

We also were awarded best Small Chapter of the Year in 2014 Please join the Riders at the following:

- ALR General Membership meeting is the 3rd Sunday of every month at 12PM and all are welcome.
- Riders host breakfast the 3rd Sunday of every month 9-11:30AM
- Riders host dinner the 1st Wednesday of every month 6:30-8P
- Join us on Facebook @American Legion Riders Chapter 233 Palm Valley Florida or tweet us @ALR233FL
- **"LOOKING FORWARD NOT BACKWARDS"**

For God and Country,
Kevin Terranella, Director

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



JULY 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 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 for pix. Call 285-2484.

Smoking is permitted outside and at the pavilion bar.

POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot

ADVERTISE 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

PAGEAUTHORS
Web DESIGN
St. Johns, FL 32259
MEMBER: IAWMD ~ HTMLWG ~ MSSBN
Roy HAVEKOST
904-287-6909
www.PAGEAUTHORS.COM
Established 1996

STEVEN M. BARNETT
INVESTMENT EXECUTIVE
Phone: (904) 645-8350 | Cell: (904) 254-4334
11949 Arbor Lake Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32225
steven.barnett@investfinancial.com
Registered Representative of INVEST Financial Corporation, member
FINRA/SIPC. INVEST and its affiliated insurance agencies offer
securities and certain insurance products.



peyton stockton
REALTOR

904-655-3554
Peyton.Stockton@gmail.com
240 Ponte Vedra Park Dr., #201
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
peytonstockton.net



P.S. Service you can count on!
over 25 years of experience.



COWGILL'S HOT SAUCE
"THE BEST"

Brenda Cowgill
Owner

Tel: 904-285-5954
Cell: 904-860-8613
Ponte Vedra Beach,
Florida 32082

bmcowgill44@msn.com

**PALM VALLEY GOLF CLUB
and Practice Range**

A Family Golf Learning Center



JACK HORD
P.G.A. PROFESSIONAL
SUPERINTENDENT

www.palmvalleygolfing.com

PROSHOP 824-9279
MAINTENANCE 810-5054
1075 PALM VALLEY RD.
PONTE VEDRA 32081



Christopher M. Thompson, CFP®, CRPC
Vice President - Investment Officer
Financial Advisor
NMLS ID: 521710

Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
818 Highway A1A North
Suite 200
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082-3297
Toll Free: 800-542-2370
Office: 904-273-7908
Fax: 904-285-0249
christopher.thompson@wfadvisors.com

Member FINRA/SIPC

www.home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/christopher.thompson



MIke Jagger
Mick Jagger Tribute
Private Parties, Fundraisers,
Cruises, Special Events

Email: mik_e_jagger@yahoo.com
Call or Text Mike Eatmon: (904) 894-6055

Alhambra
theatre & dining

904.641.1212
csmith@alhambrajax.com

CRAIG SMITH

\$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!



K9S FOR WARRIORS.ORG



**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.