



AL233FL Newsletter



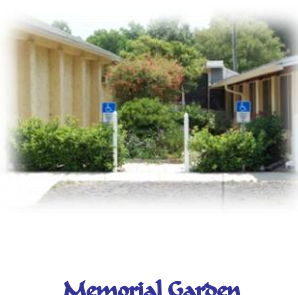
Volume 15, Issue 5

'SMOKE FREE POST'

May 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

Website: www.AL233FL.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL

Email: info@al233fl.org

Post telephone: 904.285.2484

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



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



In this issue:

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NEVER FORGET ~ POW's & MIA's



2014

OFFICERS

2015



Cdr. Roy Havekost



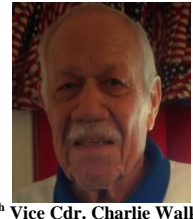
1st Vice Cdr. Dan Wortmann



2nd Vice Cdr. Don Mills



3rd Vice Cdr., & Service Officer



4th Vice Cdr. Charlie Walker



Chaplain William 'Bill' Reno



Finance Tom Leppeard



Sgt. at Arms Sonny Kirkwood



Service Officer & E-Board
Maury Lazenby



E-Board Jim Durnal



E-Board Mike Eatmon



E-Board Ted Veber



E-Board Mike Williams



Judge Advocate Ric Smith



Adjutant Jim Crutchfield



Historian JR Mathis



Auxiliary President
Judy Mills

AUXILIARY:
 1st V. President Kathy Helmly
 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 Cdr.
Jeff 'Tex' Ward

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



Riders Director
Bill Marshall

RIDERS:
 Asst. 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



Canteen Mgr. Rita Connolly

BARTENDERS:
 Anita
 Allyson
 Beth
 Debbie
 Amy

Commanders corner:



May is here and so are the Post elections for the 2015-2016 term of office. Legion elections will be held at the May 7th meeting, Auxiliary elections will be on May 14th, SAL elections will be on May 21st and Riders on the 28th. The following legionnaires have been nominated as shown:

Commander	Sonny Kirkwood Sheri Rodriguez withdrawn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

The Commander elect will appoint the following positions after the election: Adjutant, Service Officer, Judge Advocate, House Committee Chairman, and Executive Committee Chairman (optional).

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the Post 233 Legion Family members for their help and understanding in making my past three years as commander a most memorable experience. Without the help and volunteerism of our members Post 233 would not be what it is today. Although I plan on remaining active in the Post, I do want to spend more time with my family and do some traveling with my wife. My past eight years as an officer in this Post have taught me a lot and I plan on sharing my knowledge with our new officers so that Post 233 can continue to be in lead positions within the district and the state.

The responsibility for publishing this newsletter will be turned over to our new commander for the next issue. It has been my pleasure to edit and publish the newsletter for the past several years and I look forward to the new innovative ideas for its future.

To my wife Eileen and my son Chris and daughters Valerie and Victoria, thank you for putting up with my absences away from home and countless hours at the computer for the past three years. I love you all dearly, and I appreciate your understanding.

For God and Country,
Roy Havekost, Commander

3rd Vice Commander



Due to unexpected family matters out of state, I am forced to take a leave of absence from my duties as 3rd Vice and Post Adjutant. In the interest of fairness to the Post I have also withdrawn my name from the commander election for this term of office.

For God and Country,
Sheri Rodriguez, 3rd Vice Cdr.

Adjutant



Thank you to all the Legionnaires that helped us reach over 100%. We are currently at 104.739% but it is not too late! If you have not already renewed, please mail it in, drop it off at the Post, or renew online at www.legion.org/renew. I would like to thank Sheri Rodriguez for creating the Excel spreadsheet for the membership records. It makes keeping track of our members sooo much easier.

For God and Country,
James "Jim" Crutchfield, Adjutant

Legionnaire:



My name is Sonny Kirkwood and I'm running to be your next Post 233 Commander. I have been a member of the American Legion for over 26 years to include Post 316 (Atlantic Beach) and Post 233 (Palm Valley). I have held numerous positions at within both Posts to include:

- Executive Committee Member (Post 316 in 1995, 96, 97, 98)
- Executive Committee Member (Post 233 in 2012, 13, 14)
- Sergeant at Arms Post 233 (2015)
- First Vice Commander (Post 316 in 1996)
- Volunteer for numerous events (cooking, cleaning, fund raisers, etc...) and donated meals to the Post in order to make a profit for Friday dinners.

My military background is I served 22 years and retired in October 1999 as the Command Master Chief and Administrative Officer at Regional Support Group (largest shore Command at Mayport). I have an extensive administrative and Human Resources background along with budgetary experience with managing companies. Presently, I am the Administrator & Compliance Officer for The SMI Group which involves HVAC Test & Balancing in the commercial sector. I oversee the day-to-day operations and ensure The SMI Group is in compliance with government contractual requirements. I am a widower of 33+ years of marriage to my late beautiful bride, Adelina, and we have two daughters and three grandchildren. I am man of faith and know without Him in my life, nothing is possible. My platform for running as your Commander is very simple: "Keep the atmosphere one that members and guests enjoy coming to the Post; enhance and maintain harmony amongst all identities (Auxiliary, Riders, SAL, and Legionnaires) and promote teamwork! We have to "work together" to achieve success! In closing, I want to thank Roy Havekost and his Committees over

Judge Advocate:



With this newsletter, it is official, I will be retiring as a Senior American Legion Officer at the end of June. Working with all you guys and gals has been a blast for the last 22 years. It has been a great pleasure to serve all our veterans in the 5th District. I am reminded of the definition: "A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check, payable to the United States of America, for an unknown amount, up to and including his life".

I will close with an old Irish saying, "May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand"

For God and Country,
Ric Smith, Judge Advocate

Auxiliary:



Hello to all and I hope everyone is doing well. There isn't much for the newsletter but here goes with what I have.

May 1st the Legion is having Uno Daimio with Be A Star starring Wanda Callahan so all you Karaoke singers get your followers together and come on over to Post 233 for a great steak dinner and wonderful entertainment.

May the 7th is the Auxiliary Executive meeting at 6:30pm and the Legion meeting to follow.

May the 10th is the 5th District Meeting at Post 197 on the Westside of Jacksonville, it is a very informative meeting and you really meet a lot of great people so try to make plans to attend you won't be disappointed.

The Auxiliary will preparing Wednesday Night dinners on the 13th, if you would like to donate to a dinner or cook it would be appreciated, please contact me or Amy Blair if you would like to volunteer.

May the 14th is the Auxiliary regular meeting at 7:00pm please try to attend we will be holding our officer elections on this night.

May the 16th the Legion is having a Spring Fling with Kenny Holliday and Mike Jagger in the house, you know there will be a great time had by all. The Auxiliary will be supplying the excellent Hors D'oeuvres for a donation of \$5.00. Place the date on your calendar and come over to Post 233 and party with us.

As I mentioned above our Executive Meeting is on May 7th at 6:30pm and our regular meeting is on May 14th at 7:00pm. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND FOR WE WILL BE ELECTING OUR 2015-2016 OFFICERS.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
GOD BLESS AMERICA
Judy Mills, President



these past three years for their unwavering commitment and dedication in making Post 233 a better place! Under Roy's leadership, Post 233 has become the Local, District and State leader with achieving American Legion excellence through 100% membership, supporting local and non-profit organizations, K-9 for Warriors, Wounded Warriors and many more. Roy will be hard shoes to fill but I hope to have an opportunity and try – thank you.

For God and Country,
Sonny Kirkwood, Commander nominee

Entertainment:

We are looking for a Legion volunteer to accept the position of Entertainment Chairperson. This would entail the booking, scheduling, posting online, etc. of all Post entertainment. For more info contact the commander.

Entertainment schedule can be found online at
<http://www.al233fl.org/ecalendar.htm>

Roy Havekost, Commander

WELCOME ABOARD:

William Clynes, Navy; Jerry Powell, Army; William Leonard, Navy; William Karandos, Marines; and Tom Bragg, Army.

Thank you to all our members who have recruited new members.

CANTEEN:



Remember to visit the Post on Friday's to play our newest fundraising game SPIN TO WIN \$\$\$\$\$. The jackpot continues to grow each week that there is no winner. Play from 7:00pm to 9:00pm drawing time. Winning ticket holder must be present to SPIN TO WIN!

TOP PRIZE is now over \$1,350.00

Any member or group who wish to volunteer to cook Sunday breakfast, or Legion Wednesday dinners, or Friday nights, please do not hesitate to contact the Post. We will gladly show you the ropes in the kitchen and appreciate any and all help. If you sign up to help in the kitchen, your meal is either half price, or you may receive some drink chips.

Rita Connolly, Canteen Manager

Trivia: What was Douglas Fairbanks Jr's. claim to fame as an officer in the Navy during World War II?

Answer: He was the founder of a group of Naval Special Warfare sailors...the Navy Beach Jumpers. This elite group was responsible for tactical cover and deception ops from 1943 to 1972. Read more about the Beach Jumpers at <http://www.BeachJumpers.com>



SAL: Greetings Men,



MEMBERSHIP: We are so close to the 100% membership mark I can taste it! You can pay your renewals (\$30.) in cash or check “American Legion – S.A.L.” Please put the payment in an envelope (along with your current phone number, mailing address and email) marked “Attention: Jim Crutchfield” and give it to the bartender on duty. Or, you can send the check to: Jim Crutchfield, 560 N. Wilderness Trail, Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082. Please include your phone number, current address and email.

Our April “Wednesday Night Dinner” Chef Mike Shaar, along with the usual suspects, served up Braised Short Ribs with all the fixins. It was delicious (as always!!) Thank you all for a delish meal. We do this once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. Please help us by volunteering at least once a year. That is not asking too much, is it? Even if you can’t help us at least be there to buy a meal and support your Squadron and Post. Or, if you cannot afford the time to volunteer you can always contribute as a Gold Sponsor with a \$100 donation. This will help to pay for the food and someone to cook it. You also have the privilege to decide on the menu (within reason!) The next S.A.L. dinner is Wednesday, May 20th. Any ideas?

This is the time of year that we elect our officers for the 2015-16 year. All positions are open. We will hold a “secret ballot” election at the May meeting. You are all encouraged to attend this meeting to elect YOUR officers.

Mother’s Day is Sunday May 10th and the S.A.L. is hosting a pancake breakfast (in lieu of the usual Sunday breakfast) where Mom’s breakfast is on us and all others make a small donation of \$7. This is also the Sunday of “The Players” at Sawgrass so why not treat Mom to a breakfast of pancakes, eggs, link sausage and fruit before you head to the tournament. There will be happy hour prices on Mimosas and Bloody Marys as well! Plan to be there and spread the word.

There are many other events and fundraisers planned so keep your eyes on the newsletter, visit the website (www.al233fl.org) or better yet, come in to your Post and have a drink and see what is happening! We are on Facebook so if you are a social media aficionado go to “Sons of The American Legion Squadron 233” and join the group. This is a convenient and fun way to stay informed.

Now is the time to give back! Our Post needs all of us to step up and support it in some way. That can be accomplished by volunteering to help in fundraisers and meals, making a financial donation, showing up for meals, fundraisers, events, etc. or just stop by for a friendly drink and visit.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our Squadron or Post 233 issues, or are not receiving my email updates, please contact me on my phone (904-233-0976) or email (flagman49@yahoo.com) – or better yet, attend the monthly meeting and share your thoughts and ideas with all of us! The next meeting is Thursday, May 21st @ 6:30pm.

Always be mindful that it is a privilege to be a member of the Sons of the American Legion. As male descendants we are honoring our fathers and forefathers who have served in the Armed Forces, and in many cases gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. If the same names keep showing up in this column it is because the same people are doing the volunteering.

For God & Country

Jeff “TEX” Ward, Commander – Squadron 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?



SAL:



The SAL would like to thank Georgia Barnes for her generous Wheel of Fortune donation, and Chef Mike Shaar for preparing and serving our monthly Wednesday night dinner of delectable Beef Short Ribs. The SAL also sends a hearty thanks to Big John for repairing and installing new electrical boxes for our front security floodlights at Post 233. In addition, we give Kudos to Eddie “the Plumber” who recently found and repaired the ills in our men’s restroom pipes. It is this spirit and generosity that makes our Post so successful!

For God and Country

Howard Sheble
SAL 1st Vice Commander

SAL:



Let me introduce myself...

My name is Howard Sheble and I'm running to be your next Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Commander. I have been a member of the SAL for over 12 years, to include Posts 176 (Springfield, VA) Post 37 (St. Augustine, FL) and Post 233 (Palm Valley, FL). I have held leadership positions to include:

- SAL Adjutant (Post 176)
- Current SAL 1st Vice Commander (Post 233)
- Volunteered for numerous events, Wednesday and Friday night dinners.

I am also a Moose member for 6 years and have served as Prelate and Lodge Audit chairman for the Mandarin Moose Lodge. I am a retired Fairfax County High School Teacher (30 years); Baseball Coach (27 years); a Box Office Manager for school activities and athletics (17 years) and I have taught the following courses: accounting, advanced marketing, sports marketing, economics and business mathematics. I have done graduate work at the University of Virginia in Secondary Administration, have written teacher evaluations and served as Business Department chair.

I am married to Celeste Sheble, the current Chaplain for Unit 233 Auxiliary. We have two sons, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

My philosophy as SAL commander would be to involve new and present members in SAL programs, promote our current programs, and to streamline our membership application process.

I hope to have the opportunity to serve as your next SAL Commander, so please come out and vote on May 21st at 7:00pm. Thank you.

For God and Country,

Howard Sheble, SAL Commander nominee

THANK YOU

to the following businesses who have advertised in this monthly newsletter

Auxiliary: Hello Ladies,



My Name is Linda Williams and I am running for ALA 1st Vice for 2015-2016. My qualifications are as follows;

I have been an active member for 5 years now. My 1st year as an ALA member, I stepped up and became 2nd Vice. My second year I was voted in as 1st Vice under Kathy Church. Then I ran and received 1st Vice under Judy Mills. I headed the ALA Executive Committee when I was 1st Vice. I have attended ABC School of Instruction twice, I have attended Department Convention and many District meetings. I Completed the American Legion Course receiving a Certificate. I was on the Committee for Girls State last year. I am currently on the Membership Committee, created and manage our Facebook page, and I generate our Monthly Calendar. I am active with the St. Johns County Veterans Council, of St. Augustine, I have attended the North East Florida Veterans Committee Meeting at Jacksonville City Hall representing the ALA Unit 233. As a dedicated volunteer I have logged in many volunteer hours, and I also take off work to attend ALA Events. I am an ambassador at all times for our American Legion Post and our Auxiliary ladies. I represent the Auxiliary as a member for the MIAP.

If I was called upon to fill in for our President, I feel I am qualified with my knowledge of the ALA.

Our ALA Mission Statement has become my Statement, In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

In our upcoming ALA Election please consider and vote for me as your 1st Vice.

For God and Country

Sincerely,

Linda Williams

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CRAIG SMITH

In appreciation for his years of dedicated service to the American Legion, especially Post 233, I officially appoint our Judge Advocate Ric Smith, COMMANDER for a day, on June 30th, 2015. Enjoy your retirement...Commander.

full cards are displayed below



House Committee:

At the April 26th meeting of the House Committee, Sonny Kirkwood, Commander nominee, presented a proposal for a fundraiser which could potentially raise more than \$15,000. The fundraiser would be known as “Operation Post 233 Opening Doors For You” and will initially run from May 1st to June 30, 2015. The idea was discussed and passed unanimously. For complete details check the Post bulletin board. Sponsors (contributors) in this fundraiser will have their names engraved on a nameplate and added to a plaque that will be prominently displayed in the Post.



MAY BIRTHDAY'S



1	Millie Bristol	21	Carol Lamb
2	Barbara Turley	24	Pat Mosley-Root
3	Van Martin	26	Dee Durnal
4	Victoria Lynch	28	Ann Cook
5	Peggy Chapman	29	Jean Batchelder
7	Robert Parsons Jr.	30	Rick Kapeghian (In memoriam)
19	Tina Reynolds	31	Doug Cope
	Debbie Stewart		Brenda Brooks
			Deane O'Donnell

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.


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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!



APRIL GRADUATING CLASS



Thank you for your service:

Benjamin & Ghost

Brandon & Karma

Keith & Vulcan

Joseph & Triumph

Gregory & Jaxson



**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 N.Wilderness Trail Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.**

**TOP PRIZE THIS MONTH
over \$1,350.00**

MAY 16TH SPRING FLING

KENNYHOLLIDAY.COM



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TRIBUTES

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NIGHT
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**Guests can be signed in.
Cash only.**

Thank you to those who have contributed to this newsletter.

Palm Valley Post #233
The American Legion
560 N. Wilderness Trail
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

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HERE



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