



Palm Valley Post 233
 P.O. Box 2494
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The Valley

Legion News



Dan Wortmann, Legion Commander
 Roger Akey, SAL Commander
 Linda Williams, ALA President
 Kevin Terranella, ALR Director

Volume 16, Issue 3

'Smoke Free Post'

August 2016

Editor in Chief: Dan Wortmann

Publisher: Roy Havekost



Our Post Home



Memorial Garden



Commander Louis 'Pappy' Martin Pavilion

Post website: www.AL233FL.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL

District website: www.AL5thDistrictFL.org

Email: info@al233fl.org Post telephone: 904.285.2484

BINGO every Thursday night: **7:00pm**

Canteen hours:

MON-FRI: 4:00pm until ?? hrs.

SAT: 11:00am until ?? hrs.

SUN: 9:00am until ?? hrs.

(St.Johns County - closing hour is 2:00am daily)



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



Palm Valley Post 233

560 N. Wilderness Trail

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Legionnaire meetings, first Monday each month, 7:00pm

Auxiliary meetings, second Monday each month, 7:00pm

Son's meetings, third Monday each month, 7:00pm

Rider's meetings, third Sunday each month, 12:00nn

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NEVER FORGET ~ POW's & MIA's

Commander Dan Wortmann ~

Here we go. I would like to thank Ted for putting together our food distribution to the 5 Star Veterans Center. Last week we delivered \$450.00 worth of food, Outstanding!

A reminder for all that football season is just around the corner and we are going to have a great Jags season so come on out and watch the games at the Post on our big screen TVs, and help us grow !!!

We had a small problem with our flag pole with the rope breaking on Saturday. This was fixed with the help of St. Johns County fire dept showing up after stopping by the station and asking for a little help. Within 10 minutes they were there setting up their ladder truck and putting in the new rope donated by the Bass's, Ron and Sylvia. Called JR Mathis to put the hooks in right and with the help of Linette Straight they got it done! A job well done by all!

Last month I presented 8 certificates to the K9s graduates, show your support this coming Thursday at 5:30pm for the July graduation.

Here's hoping for another great month at the Post.

For God and Country,

Dan

1st Vice Commander Jim Durnal ~

No report this month, family first, Dee and Jim are ecstatic with the birth of their new grandson Dustin.



Adjutant Ted Veber ~

The Department of Florida membership renewal goal for September is 55%. That means that we must have 255 member renewals paid and sent in before that date.

The Post monthly general meeting minutes are posted online at www.al233fl.org/minutes.htm. Please review them prior to the next meeting so we can suspend the reading to save time. If there are any corrections or omissions they will be made prior to a vote to accept as posted.

For God and Country,

Ted

2nd Vice Commander Susan Severson ~

We should pat each other on the back in regards to how we pulled together as a Post Family for a successful 4th of July event. But it takes more than one successful event a month to keep our Post solvent. We must keep the momentum going: please consider coming in a couple of Friday nights a month. Right now we have great attendance on the nights Collage plays, but our other steak nights have not been as good. I am always available to receive feedback; please let me know what we can do to improve your experience at the Post.

We are continually "tweaking" to improve our processes to better serve you. I would like to return the Wednesday night dinners; we had to suspend them because our costs exceeded what we could recoup in sales.

I would also like to see Trivia return to the Post, but the last time we tried Trivia (3 weeks in a row), no one showed up. Please contact me directly if you have any input regarding either Wednesday nights or Trivia and how we could make these a success at Post 233.

For God and Country,

Susan

Judge Advocate Roy Havekost ~

What is an oath? We all take one when we become officers in the American Legion Organization. Simply stated, an oath is a solemn promise, pledge, a word of honor to conscientiously perform the duties of a particular office to which one was elected or appointed.

Here at Post 233, our constitution and by-laws describe the duties of the various officer positions and appointments. When seeking to be elected to an office, you need to become totally familiar with those duties, and be willing to perform those duties above and beyond at all times, even times when you may face adversity. The leadership at Post 233, *ie* all elected and appointed officers must work together if we are to succeed at our goals and objectives.

We must always exhibit a positive attitude when in our public's eye. Any misunderstandings or differences between members need to be worked out in strict privacy. Let's lead by example...a GOOD example!

For God and Country,

Roy

3rd Vice Commander Caroline Merillat ~

Our Post won an award for for 100% or higher membership for 2015-2016: Kudos to us! I love seeing new faces around our Post, and I hope each and everyone of you heartily welcomes any guest you see. Let's keep our new members coming back! Our Florida leadership reminded us at Convention again and again: we must be grooming a new generation of members to take over the management of our Posts. Many of our Commanders and executive staff are well above retirement age and cannot be expected to "hold down the fort", if you will, forever. The American Legion at the national level, as well as at the department level, has been investigating the "hows" and "whys" a new generation of Legion members might be encouraged to join their local Legion Post. The top three responses from all research was; 1) family oriented events, 2) emphasis on physical activities like 5Ks (walk or run), bike rides, etc., especially when done in conjunction with veteran-support fundraising activities (i.e. a 5K to raise funds for K9s for Warriors) and 3) a non-smoking environment. We need acceptance and encouragement from our current members for new ideas and new members as well as a conflict free environment to keep a welcoming feel to our club. If we are to keep the purpose of the American Legion alive this is very important! I welcome input and support from you, my Legion family, to grow membership at Post 233.

For God and Country,

Caroline

Past Commanders Club Roy Havekost ~

The club invited Greg Byrd and Shannon Oberholtzer to the Post for a complimentary breakfast on July 3, 2016. Both of these gentlemen are general managers of the Publix Stores at Nocatee and Palm Valley respectively. The club also presented them with Certificates of Recognition for their continued support of the American Legion by their weekly donations of bread and baked goods to the Post for redistribution to needy veterans, seniors and others in need within our community.

The Past Commanders Club meets monthly on Sunday mornings. We will continue to recognize businesses in the area that show support to our veterans and our Legion programs.

For God and Country,

Roy

ALR Director Kevin Terranella ~

Post 233 Riders have been on the move!

June 24 ~ Kathy Church traveled to Panama City (Post 392) to do a presentation for MIAP.

June 25 ~ ALR 401 "Ride 4 Life 4 Vets" Virna Waldron participated in the benefit ride for a local Navy Veteran who has Leukemia.

June 26 ~ Installation of Officers

July 9th ~ ALR 316 Biker Rodeo and Gun Raffle, Kathy and Virna were there to represent our Chapter, they raised over \$10,000 to benefit JAX Veterans Resource & Reintegration Center.

July 23 ~ Titusville (Post 1) Verna attended the Memorial Service for Tony D. Mirabella (Eastern Area Chairman on American Legion Riders).

If you missed the article on www.legion.org, read below: Legion Riders hit 2,000 Chapters Nationwide.

Growth is nothing new to The American Legion Riders. Each year the Riders have broken records for funds raised during the annual Legacy Run. That extended to last summer, when the Riders brought in more than \$1.2 million for the fund that provides college scholarships for the children of parents who died while on active-duty military service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as the children of post-9/11 veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

But the Riders aren't growing just in terms of money they've raised. Recently, the number of American Legion Rider chapters hit 2,000 nationwide. Since March 31 alone, 115 chapters have been formed – an average of more than 40 a month. The Riders continue to be the fastest-growing program in The American Legion.

PLEASE JOIN THE RIDERS AT THE FOLLOWING:

- Riders host breakfast the 3rd Sunday of every month 9-11:30AM.
- Riders host TACO TUESDAYS! Eat more Tacos!
- ALR General Membership meeting is the 3rd Sunday of every month at 12PM and all are welcome.
- Join us on Facebook @American Legion Riders Chapter 233 Palm Valley Florida or tweet us @ALR233FL
- For membership information contact Kathy Church at bartenderpost233@yahoo.com

Riding for God and Country,

Kevin

ALA President Linda Williams ~

Where did July go to? I would like to make a shout out to Linda and JR Mathis! Welcome back we missed you! As Linda and JR walked into the Post they immediately began cleaning the POW Table (Just sad I didn't notice how dusty and dirty)! Bravo to you both for your dedication to Post 233 and your service! I would also like to Thank Everyone for doing an amazing job at keeping the Post clean. I ask if you see something please help us out! Every little thing that Post 233 volunteers do, "MATTERS"!!! Hat's off to a successful Fourth of July Celebration by all the ENTITIES! Working together for the GOOD OF THE POST to celebrate our freedoms that our veterans gave and continue to give to us every day!

The Auxiliary Monthly Meeting is the 2nd Monday of each Month (August 8, 2016 at 7 pm). If you need more info please contact me at lindaw186@bellsouth.net. August 3rd the Auxiliary will start cooking Wednesday Night Cook Book Dinners the 1st Wednesday of every Month. Pending the House community. The Auxiliary Breakfast is the 4th Sunday of the month (August 28, 2016 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am).

Don't forget our next 5th District Meeting will be at AL Post 316, Atlantic Beach. August 14, 2016 at 2pm.

By coming to Post 233 you support the Post and the women of the American Legion Auxiliary unit 233 to make a difference in the lives of all Americans. We educate our children, organize our community events and help our nation's veterans through legislative action and volunteerism.

WE ARE STUFFING THE POST WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES and BACK PACKS! We need your help our box is empty! Anything welcome! Let's help our community school children! STUFF THE POST – STUFF THE POST – School starts August 10th!

Volunteer it feels GREAT! 10 minutes, 1 hour whatever you can do we'll take it! As they sayIt takes a VILLAGE to have a small but Mighty Post!

As always please keep our Post family, friends and our community in your prayers.

For God and Country,

Linda



Social Media Roy Havekost ~

Our website continues to operate effectively, we are pleased to report that we receive over 34,000 visitors annually, with page views exceeding more than 75,000 annually. If you haven't been to our site you can visit it at www.AL233FL.org.

Our Facebook group is also operating effectively by showing viewers our daily events, photos of past events and gatherings at the Post, as well as important information for our veterans. The group currently has 650 members signed on to receive notifications of postings.

You can join our Legion group at:

www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL/ .

The rest of the Post 233 Legion Family is also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/264057610291208/> for the Auxiliary Unit 233;

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAL233/> for the Sons Squadron 233;

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alr233/> for the Riders Chapter 233;

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PastCommandersClub233FL/> for the Past Commanders Club.

As many of you already know, I have been the Post webmaster since 2007, I have held the position of District Social Media Chairman now for the past 4 years and Department of Florida Social Media Chairman for the 3rd year. This year I have been nominated to The National American Legion Media & Communications Commission as the Department of Florida representative. This appointment is an honor for me and I will take pride in representing not only the Department but also Post 233 in this undertaking.

For God and Country.

Roy

Canteen news ~

For those that I have not had the pleasure to meet yet, I am Pam Behrendt and I assumed the Canteen Manager position December 6, 2015. With my background in accounting and restaurant and bar industry, I have enjoyed my almost seven months at Post 233 and have since become a member of the Legion, as well as the ALA. We have implemented a point of sale software recently that is streamlining the day to day operations and bookkeeping processes. The credit card machines have been approved and should be installed this week. We should be accepting debit cards at the bar within a week. In addition, as of June 30, we are now exempt from paying sales tax on food and beverages sold. With everyone traveling and on vacation, summer has been a relatively slow time at the legion. Looking forward to cooler weather and lots of great events in our outside pavilion and backyard. We have several upcoming events in the works and I encourage everyone to volunteer to help in any way that you are able. Our continued growth depends on everyone working together and we are always in need of an extra set of hands in the kitchen weekly. I am looking forward to working with our Commander and the newly installed officers to make 2016-2017 the best year yet for Palm Valley Post 233.

Pam

From the BINGO Staff



Once again, I can report that our bingo game program continues to be successful and growing. Each week we have increased the number of players mostly from non-members who live in the area, Nocatee and from other legion posts. Our signs are working by inviting guests to play. Unfortunately, less than 25% of the players are members of Post 233.

We have paid out prizes over the last 5 meetings in the amounts totaling \$450, \$450, \$500, \$600 and \$500 each. The great thing is that we have multiple winners each session. The state allowable maximum is \$750 per session so we are reaching the level where we make a significant profit for our charities. Once we reach the maximum, all additional players provide profit so the more players the better. Of course, the canteen receives benefit of the added people in our Post with increasing revenue each week.

We are reaching the point where we can afford modern equipment to make the games more enjoyable, easier to operate and faster. We are allowed to add a third jackpot paying up to \$250 if we have time. Our goal is to take no more than 2 to 2 1/2 hours so the quicker we can play, the sooner the 3rd jackpot can be added. One of our non-member players, Gary Thompson, heard my comments about acquiring equipment and arranged to have bingo monitor donated by Shy Donaldson. If any of you know either gentleman, please give them a big Post 233 Thank You!

There is no doubt that a party atmosphere is present every Thursday night so come join the fun.

For God and Country

Roger Akey



Miscellaneous Notices ~



To our members:

This newsletter is published monthly and is made available to all of our members via email, as a download or just to view via our website or you can pickup a copy at the Post (for those members w/o internet/email). If any member would like to contribute information to this publication please send your article to newsletter@al233fl.org or drop off a copy in the Commanders mailbox by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next months edition. This is your newsletter, please contribute.

The Post 233 calendar of events is online at:

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

BINGO every Thursday night: **7:00pm**



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 Pam or any of our bartenders for more details. Call 285-2484. Smoking is permitted outside at the outside pavilion bar.

POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot



Come out and show your support at the monthly graduations at Camp K9 in Nocatee



Drive carefully, remember to STOP for the red flashing lights our children's lives depend on this!

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www.NavyToNavy.com

\$25.00 per year to advertise your business card on the monthly newsletter.

Make check payable to American Legion Post 233.

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

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