



Palm Valley Post 233  
 P.O. Box 2494  
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004  
 904-285-2484

# The Valley

## Legion News



Dan Wortmann, Legion Commander  
 Jim Whaley, SAL Commander  
 Linda Williams, ALA President  
 Kevin Terranella, ALR Director

Volume 16, Issue 2

'Smoke Free Post'

July 2016

Editor: Dan Wortmann

Publisher: Roy Havekost



Our Post Home



Memorial Garden



Commander Louis 'Pappy' Martin Pavilion



Website: [www.AL233FL.org](http://www.AL233FL.org)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL)  
 Email: [info@al233fl.org](mailto: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 ~

June has been going along very smoothly with a lot of good things happening with the start of an Oyster roast, Luau, a low country boil and of course last week's steak night with 70 plus dinners. Great job by all!

We had quite a few members from Post 233 attend the State Convention, a good showing by all!

Also, the fence repaired in the back and I spent some time at the post fixing all of the bar stools and the fence outside by the pump. We are not going to let this Post fall apart!

On Thursday, July 23rd we were present for the monthly K9s for Warriors graduation and presented the warriors with certificates of recognition. We have been participating in the graduations now for about 5 years. There were 6 warrior/dog teams in this class.

Last but not least, I want to take the time to say we can do better every month with volunteering and having social events such as bingo and Texas holdem and how that is growing every week, great job guys and gals !

Thank you to everyone !

*Dan*

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### Adjutant Ted Veber ~

We're still collecting non-perishable items for the 5 Star Center. This non-profit organization provides transitional housing for homeless post 9/11 returning veterans. Our donation box, designed and created by Barbara Green's Alden Road School children, is located in our post near the meeting room door. Cash donations are also welcome. Commander Dan Wortmann and I plan on making our 2nd delivery to the center in mid July. If you haven't had a chance to contribute items, or would like to make another contribution to this very worthy cause, please do so when you can.

*Ted*

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### 5<sup>th</sup> District Monument Committee ~

The Veterans Administration National Cemetery Administration has given the nod to the 5th District for placement of the American Legion Family 5<sup>th</sup> District monument at Jacksonville National Cemetery. This project was started over a year ago and will now finally come to pass. A date will be decided for the unveiling ceremony later this year for everyone to attend.

The 5<sup>th</sup> District Monument Committee:

*PDC Tom Gora, Bob Brewster and Roy Havekost.*

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### Roster of Officers ~ 2016-2017

#### Legion ~

Commander Dan Wortmann  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Jim Durnal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Susan Severson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Caroline Merillat  
4<sup>th</sup> Vice Commander Robby Bacom (PC)  
Adjutant/ E-Board Member Ted Veber  
Sergeant at Arms Mike Williams  
Finance Officer Ben Mathews  
Chaplain Warren Rauhofer  
Historian/Judge Adv. Roy Havekost (PC)  
E-Board Members: Maury Lazenby, Ted Veber, Bob McAfee, Bob Bleak, JR Mathis, Sonny Kirkwood (PC).

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#### Auxiliary ~

President Linda Williams  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kathy Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - open  
Secretary Linda Mathis  
Treasurer Allyson Bass  
Sergeant at Arms Sylvia Bass  
Chaplain - open  
Exec. Committee: Barbara Turley, Jodi Mons, Kathy Pafford

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#### SAL ~

Commander Jim Whaley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Roger Akey  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Steve Danzig  
Adjutant Howard Sheble  
Sergeant at Arms Mike Shaar  
Chaplain Randy Cottle  
Historian John Gabbard

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#### Legion Riders ~

Director Kevin Terranella  
Assistant Director Robby Bacom (PC)  
Road Captain BJ Atkins  
Secretary Virna Waldron  
Treasurer Kathy Church  
Chaplain Linda Williams  
Sergeant at Arms Betty Bacom

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Jim Durnal ~

On a recent Friday night I had the privilege of helping in the kitchen. It was a successfully Friday night meal. Chef Mike and a handful of volunteers put out 70 steak dinners in an hour and a half. Thank You to all who pitched in that night. When we came in the kitchen was not clean. Dishes had to be washed and trash taken out. Trash should NEVER be left in the kitchen and dishes should always be cleaned before you are done in the kitchen. We heard many comments both good and bad. Yes, we ran out of steaks. Next time we will have some more. We operate on a first come first serve basis. Reservations only give us an idea of how many we need. It does not guarantee you will get a steak if you come in late. If you have a comment or complaint or suggestion please write it down and give it to your server. Do not come into the kitchen during service and try to discuss it. Please remember we are volunteers and this is not a full scale restaurant.

The language at the bar needs to improve. I am not at the post a whole lot, but when I am, I am hearing too many F bombs and abusive language toward females. I would like the bartenders to bring back their cuss jar and you should have no problem filing it up.

We all need to support our Commander. Don't bash him. As a Past VFW Post Commander, I can tell you it's like having a target painted on your back.

For God and Country

*James*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Caroline Merillat ~

The new 2016-17 membership cards are in. Let's try to meet the Department's monthly deadlines on membership renewals and reach 100% before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Caroline*



The next meeting of the Past Commanders Club of Palm Valley Post 233 will be held on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30am in the meeting room.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Susan Severson ~

Thank you to all who have pulled together in recent weeks to ensure that our Post continues to move forward in a positive way. Our entities recently held a planning meeting and we have worked out a new rotation schedule for meals at the Post. I would like to be able to tell you that the Legion will be hosting the Wednesday night dinners again, however I cannot. I just do not have the support of enough Legion volunteers to be able to support two Wednesdays, two Fridays, and one Sunday of meals. I would love to bring back our Wednesday night meals; please let me know if you can volunteer and/or sponsor a meal. The Legion is responsible for two Friday dinners a month: the 2nd and the 4th, and one breakfast - the first Sunday of the month. On Friday, June 17, the Sons were able to pull together a steak dinner and serve over 70 meals despite the fact that most Post leadership was attending the conference in Orlando. The Legion could experience this success, too! If you are willing and able to cook steaks - or at least willing and able to learn - we would love to have you in the Post kitchen!

Speaking of the Post Kitchen: please remember that the kitchen is off-limits to everyone except kitchen staff and volunteers. Please do not enter the kitchen at any time. The bartender or the person working as cashier can address any issues or questions you may have. It is simply too busy in the kitchen for interruptions.

Please remember that everyone working is a volunteer and doing their best and let's be respectful of everyone's time and efforts. I am always available to discuss any event questions or concerns you may have: (904) 382-6802.

*Susan*

### 4<sup>th</sup> Vice Commander Robby Bacom ~

Have a happy and safe summer, keep young children a safe distance away when using fireworks. Enjoy the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at our Post, we will be having hot dogs, burgers and the fixin's. See you there!

*Robby*





### **ALA President Linda Williams ~**

Please help me welcome in our ALA 2016-2017 new officers: President Linda Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Kathy Church, Secretary Linda Mathis, Treasurer Allyson Bass, Sgt-at-Arms Sylvia Bass. Our Executive committee members are Barbara Turley, Kathy Pafford and Jody Mons. Our House committee member Angie Kees and our Membership Chairman is Kathy Church. I am looking forward to working with our new team and I want to get many more Auxiliary members involved in our events and programs.

I would like to thank the Auxiliary Officers, Committee Chairs/members who served in 2015-2016 and the members who supported us throughout the year. Together we had quite a successful year thanks to all who worked so very hard. As Auxiliary members, I urge you to read and learn more about the Auxiliary its purpose and goals. I am excited to get started on important programs and have fun with it.

I look forward in working very closely with our 5<sup>th</sup> District President Robin Walker and officers. As Past President Kathy Helmly said "Let's give them something to talk about"! Now let's start having fun and make 2016-2017 the most memorable year ever.

As always please keep our military members and families in your prayers.  
For God and Country,

*Linda*

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### **ALR Director Kevin Terranella ~**

**BIG RIDER THANK YOU:** to all the volunteers who helped with the Luau. Especially want to recognize Don Mills and Ben Mills for putting in long hours to make the delicious grilled Hawaiian Chicken & Hawaiian Char Siu – Glazed Smoked Pork.

**KUDOS:** To BJ Atkins along with over a quarter million other motorcyclists who took part in Rolling Thunder in Washington DC to pay tribute and raise awareness of veterans still missing in action.

Kathy Church for raising awareness of the MIAP program in Panama City and at the Orlando convention.  
Virna Waldron for her outstanding job as Riders Historian that directly resulted in our Palm Valley Chapter 233 Medium Chapter of the Year at state convention.

### **SAL Commander Jim Whaley ~**

The SAL had a great steak night on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. Chef Mike and his volunteer staff of Jason and Allyson Bass, James and Dee Durnal, Sylvia and Ronnie Bass, Lynette, myself, and Debbie served 75 fantastic steak dinners to a great crowd while they listened to the music of Ponte Vedra's own Collage Band.

They will be back with us on July 1st as Sonny Kirkwood sizzles the steaks in the kitchen for the event. Volunteers are needed so please let me know if you are available for a couple of hours that Friday.

The back fence has been replaced / repaired thanks to the SAL along with donors Bob McAfee and Will Spence.

Don't forget the July 3rd festivities with music provided by The Maybes who are quickly becoming a favorite of Post 233.

Pam Behrendt has worked tirelessly to ensure a great day.

Thanks again to all who have volunteered and for those who want to in the future.

God Bless America

*Jim*

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### **From the House Committee ~**

Commander Wortmann has appointed me, Susan Severson, as the House Committee Chair after Bob McAfee requested that he be allowed to step down due to personal reasons. I see this as a natural fit since I am already responsible for event planning as 2nd Vice Commander. I am working with all entities to plan more events at our Post, especially community-facing events. We can have three such events per year, and I would like these joint events to focus on fundraising for veteran-support activities like Vet Relief, the Legacy Scholarship fund, and the 5-Star Veterans Center. To this end, I am already advertising for our celebration of the 4th of July, which is being held on Sunday, July 3 from 1p.m. until 7 p.m. I have invited cheerleaders from the Jacksonville Sharks Attack Dance Team to visit our Post during our celebration, and I am approaching businesses in our community to ask for raffle/game prize donations.

If you know anyone I should be speaking to, or you have any input regarding planning of future events, please let me know. Thank you!

*Susan*

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**ALR, cont'd.**

**SAFETY TIP FOR HOT WEATHER:** Tire air pressures are absolutely critical at any time, but when pavement temperatures are in triple digits, under-inflated tires (which are prone to blow-out failures to start with) become a disaster waiting for a place to happen.

**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

Riding for God and Country,

*Kevin*

**Judge Advocate Roy Havekost ~**

The following Florida Dept. of Revenue notice is recopied from the Department of Florida Legion website:



No: 16A01-08

Date Issued:

June 24, 2016

Exemption for Sales of Food or Drink by Qualified Veterans' Organizations

**FLORIDA** Sales of food or drink in Florida for immediate consumption are subject to sales and use tax, unless a specific exemption applies.

**New Sales Tax Exemption**

Beginning July 1, 2016, sales of food or drink by qualified veterans' organizations to members of such organizations are tax exempt when sold in connection with customary veterans' organization activities. To qualify for the exemption, the veterans' organization must hold a current Florida *Consumer's Certificate of Exemption* (Form DR-14) as a nationally chartered or recognized veterans' organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(4) or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code. Qualified veterans' organizations may apply for an exemption certificate by filing an *Application for a Consumer's Certificate of Exemption* (Form DR-5) with the Department. This fillable form is available on the Department's website at [www.myflorida.com/dor](http://www.myflorida.com/dor) under "Forms and Publications."

**Effect of Exemption on Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Registration**

On or after July 1, 2016, a qualified veterans' organization that is registered as a sales and use tax dealer may cancel its *Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Registration* (Form DR-11) if the only reason for holding the certificate is for the sole purpose of collecting and remitting sales tax on sales of food or drink to members of veterans' organizations. The quickest way to cancel a certificate of registration is to notify us online. Go to the Department's website, select "TAXES," and then select "Update Account Information Online."

Post 233s DR14 *Consumer's Certificate of Exemption* is current and due to expire in March 2018. We will still need to maintain this exemption.

For God and Country.

*Roy*

**Legion Historian Roy Havekost ~**

As many of you know, I attended the annual convention in Orlando last month in the capacity as Department of Florida Social Media Chairman. At the convention I was tasked with teaching a Social Media training session on Friday and I was also a presenter at Saturday's award presentations. My intention as Post Historian was to attend the Historian training session which was originally scheduled to be held immediately after my Social Media class. Due to a last minute class scheduling change three days before convention, both classes now overlapped and I was not able to attend. I will obtain information that was distributed at that class in order to proceed with my duties here. As you may know, the American Legion will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 and Florida will be scheduling many events statewide so all Posts can help celebrate this milestone.

For God and Country.

*Roy*

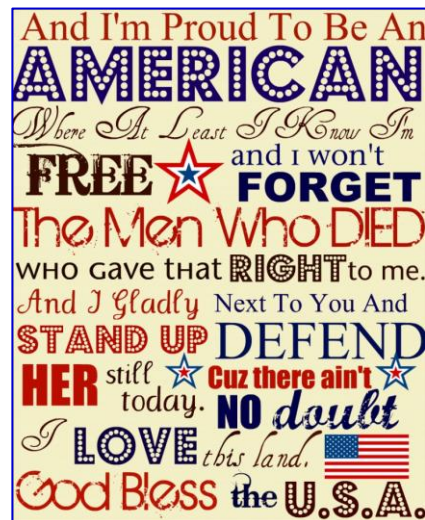
**Finance Officer Ben Mathews ~**

Born in New York City. Graduated from University of Bridgeport, Ct BS in Accounting; and NovaSoutheastern University with a Masters Degree in Accounting. Certified Public Accountant in Florida, Maryland and Texas. Veteran of Vietnam Era with the US Army's Jungle Warfare School in Panama. Member of the Legion for 17 years. Working as a CPA in Jacksonville, and as a Professor of Accounting (online).

Married with four children and nine grandchildren. My wife is a Professor at FSCJ, she teaches Math.

Completed 110 marathons including Boston 18 times. Won the age group in the Gate Run four times, personal record of 56 minutes.

*Benjamin F Mathews, CPA*



## From the BINGO Staff

As many of you know, the SAL of Post 233 started bingo games on March 10, 2016. Four volunteers, Patty Williams, Jim Whaley, Howard Sheble and Roger Akey, have built a very successful, profitable and fun evening for members and guests. The games are on Thursdays with card sales beginning at 6:30PM and games at 7:00PM. We are usually done in about 2 hours. A light food presentation is available starting about 6:00PM for a \$3.00 donation.



Each week has been increasingly popular especially since we have placed placards and signs inviting the public.

The public has enthusiastically supported the games and in fact of the approximate 30 players last night, only 7 were Post members. The Attorney General of Florida issued an opinion letter stating that a Legion with a liquor license may allow the public to participate. The only requirement is that they must sign in and may only stay for a reasonable time once the games end. As a result of this open policy, we have gained new members as well. As I mentioned, we have made a profit every week because we can set the winning payouts according to the amount of intake from the players. The profits from the games must be used to purchase materials and equipment to further the operation or given to charity.

The event has turned into a fun evening for all. We have been able to identify the truly lucky players who win often. One of our member's mothers, Betty Bass, won 3 games in a row two weeks ago but last night, all 7 games were won by different players including a four way split for the \$160.00 game seven. The total payout last night was \$460.00.

The Florida Bingo Statute allows for a maximum payout of \$50.00 for regular games and a maximum of \$250.00 each for up to 3 jackpot games. We play 5 regular games and two jackpots at this time. Come join us to share in the fun and maybe you will be lucky too!

Thank you.

*Roger*



## 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](mailto:newsletter@al233fl.org) or drop off a copy in the Commanders mailbox by the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 and at the outside pavilion bar.

**POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot**





