



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  
 Kathy Helmly, ALA President  
 Kevin Terranella, ALR Director

Volume 16, Issue 1

'Smoke Free Post'

June 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 ~

First I want to thank the members for selecting me to be the Commander for 2016-17. I appreciate your vote of confidence. I also want to thank everyone who attended the installation on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our first fundraiser was held on Memorial Day weekend (Sunday) and was a great success. Just a big thanks for all who helped inside and out. The raffle people and the bands for all of their free music they played it was a great start to a great year Post 233 is going to have !

I have made arrangements to attend the annual Department convention in Orlando in June and will be attending necessary training classes for my position. More on this in the July newsletter.

I look forward to your continued support during my term, God bless you all and thanks again.

*Dan*

## Adjutant Ted Veber ~

I've been a Legionnaire for over 30 years and consider it an honor to be named Post Adjutant by our new Commander Dan Wortmann.

If all of us continue to work together ,as a team, the profitability of Post 233 will be assured. I'm an Army veteran and also serve as a member of the Post Executive Board.

*Ted*



### 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.**

Comments and reports are expected for the newsletter from all officers by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the current month for publication in the next months issue.

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

Your information contribution is welcomed and appreciated, not only from our officers but also any of our members.

Thank you, *Dan*

## 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 Rohouser

Historian/Judge Adv. Roy Havekost (PC)

E-Board Members: Maury Lazenby, Ted Veber, Bob McAfee, Bob Bleak, JR Mathis, Sonny Kirkwood (PC).

### 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

### 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 Will Hurley

Historian John Gabbard

### 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

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

I am happy to report that we finished last month at 102.685% membership. Once we attend the convention and receive our membership cards for the 2016-17 year, we will again be accepting dues. Just a reminder that the new officers that were installed in May must pay their dues as soon as we receive the new cards. This change is a result of the early installation of officers as opposed to previous years with installations being held after the convention.

*Jim*

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

I came down to Florida in July of last year, I transferred from Northville, MI Post 147. I was a bartender as well as Legionnaire as I am here at Post 233. I also currently work full time at the Mayo Clinic.

I served 5 1/2 years in the Army as an Airborne qualified Preventative Medicine Technician. I look forward to working to help re-build membership here!

*Caroline*

### From the House Committee ~

The 2016-2017 House Committee will consist of the following Legionnaires; Bob McAfee, Bob Bleak, Maury Lazenby, Ted Veber and JR Mathis. There will also be two appointments each (TBD) from the Auxiliary and the Sons. The Director of the Riders will also have a non-voting seat on the committee, per House Rules. The chairman of the committee will be Bob McAfee.

Upcoming events: flyers for upcoming events are posted on our Facebook pages for, Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders. For a calendar of events check the website at

<http://www.al233fl.org/e-calendar.htm> .

Event applications and pavilion rental agreements can be obtained at the canteen bar. These applications must be preapproved by the House Committee. The House Committee will meet on the last Monday of each month at 6:00pm.

*Dan Wortmann, Commander*

### News from the Canteen ~

The new POS system is up and running and all bartenders have been trained on the new system. The inventory control portion should be completed by June so that finance reports can be more accurate in this area.

Florida Legislature passed HB7099, and it was signed into law by the governor to become effective July 1, 2016. The law now will exempt military service organizations from food and drink tax to our members. This will result in a substantial monthly savings.

*Pam*

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

A massive THANK YOU to Post 233 minions who made the Oyster Roast a fantastic success!! Pam Behrendt's Jello Shots are a force to be reckoned with. Commander Dan Wortmann's oysters were plentiful & delicious. Kathy Church, Betty Bacom, and myself cranked out over 60 plates of food from the kitchen. Mike Eatmon and his lovely wife Debbie kept those oysters rolling off the hot coals and onto everyone's plates.

The bartenders Caroline, Debbie, and Anita made sure all had cold drinks in hand. It was a wonderfully successful and FUN day at Post 233! If I missed your name, I apologize - but this thank you is for you, too! Dee and James Durnal, Jim Whaley, Howard Sheble, Roger Akey, Linda Williams. It takes a great team!

Legion Steak Cooks needed at least two times a month! Call me at 904-382-6802.

*Susan*

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

I look forward to working with the new slate of officers and those officers that were re-elected. I will help out whenever and wherever I can.

*Robby*

### SAL Commander Jim Whaley ~

I am a new transfer to Post 233 this year and would like to say a few things about myself.

I was born in Charleston WV and moved to St. Petersburg FL at age 12. I grew up and went to school on the Gulf Coast and have lived in Florida most of my life with brief stints in Nashville TN and Tybee Island, Ga.

My father was a WWII veteran and served this country in the US Navy. He was interned at the Bay Pines Veterans Cemetery in 2009.

This will be my 10th consecutive year as an S.A.L. member and I look forward to many more years as being a productive and loyal member to the American Legion Post 233.

Thank you for your vote of confidence for this elected position.

*Jim*

The Post 233 calendar of events is online at:

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

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

## ALR Director Kevin Terranella ~

CONGRATS:

To ALR Chaplain Linda Williams now to be ALA President!!

HAIL AND FAREWELL:

The Riders sending out a big THANK-YOU to Commander Sonny Kirkwood for his leadership in providing a vision for the future and his relentless pursuit of getting our Post financially stable.

WELCOME NEW ALR MEMBERS:

Jeff Tupper (AL)

John Gabbard (SAL)

UPCOMING EVENTS/POKER RUNS:

Riders invite all to join Celebrity Chefs Aloha Don and Hani Ben on the grill for a Luau on 11 June, 2016. 5-9PM. Grilled Hawaiian Chicken or Hawaiian Char Siu – Glazed Smoked Pork, and all the fixings. Come on out and get Lei'ed!! Entertainment by DJ Danny Schneider let's Dance and Karaoke!

SHARE THE ROAD! TIPS FROM THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL:

1. Passenger car drivers must allow greater following distance behind a motorcycle.
2. Drivers also must show extra caution in intersections. Most crashes occur when a driver fails to see a motorcyclist and turns left in front of a motorcycle.
3. Drivers should never try to share a lane with a motorcycle. Always give a motorcycle the full lane width.
4. Motorcyclists should avoid riding in poor weather conditions.
5. Motorcyclists should position their motorcycles to avoid a driver's blind spot.
6. Motorcyclists must use turn signals for every turn or lane change.

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*

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**POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot**

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## ALA President Kathy Helmly 2015-16 ~

It's hard to believe but this will be my last newsletter as your ALA President. At installation the gavel will be passed to Linda Williams as your new ALA President Elect. Linda is very passionate about the Ladies that make up the Auxiliary and will be an amazing President, carrying on the vision of those that preceded her.

I was blessed with not only amazing ALA members, but a fabulous team consisting of, Linda Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Kathy Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Debbie Eatmon, Secretary; Ally Bass, Treasurer; Patty Williams & Sylvia Bass, Sergeants at Arms; Linda Mathis, Historian; Celeste Sheble, Chaplain; and Board members Dee Durnal and Angie Kees.

As your President, my goal was to have fun informative meetings and show my appreciation to each of you, not just at the end of my term but throughout it. Thank you to the many that let me know that goal was achieved.

The amazing Ladies of the Auxiliary are a force to be reckoned with! Whatever they did, they did it passionately from simply decorating the post to assisting the other entities and of course the wonderful meals, side dishes and bake sales!!

THANK YOU to all members who have supported me completely and worked so diligently to accomplish everything we achieved this year...the team work was outstanding.

Twelve members collectively reported 4,398.55 volunteer hours, \$4,603.09 of personal donations and logged 16,468.5 miles. We collected \$126,912.86 in coupons, 136 box tops and 85 soup labels.

June 13, 2016 at 7:00 PM will be my last meeting as your President and would like to see as many as possible in attendance. The Installation celebration will be June 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM, please come to installation and show your support for Madam President Linda Williams and her team.

Thank you all for entrusting me as your 2015 – 2016 President, it was an honor that I will forever cherish.

*Kathy*



## Other Post reports ~

### Roy Havekost - PC, Judge Advocate, Historian:

Welcome to the start of the 2016-17 term of office. This year I have been elected to the office of Post Historian. I would like to thank everyone for their vote of confidence. Actually I have been performing some of the duties of this office by maintaining the Post website, [www.AL233FL.org](http://www.AL233FL.org), for the past 8 years. Since I cannot be at all of the Post events, I ask other members if they would kindly take photos at these events and upload them to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL/), thank you. This helps tremendously with maintaining our history.

Commander Dan Wortmann has appointed me his Judge Advocate for this term, and I will keep him abreast of any new Legion developments or changes that may take place during his tenure. As part of my duties I will also begin drafting some necessary changes/updates to our Post by-laws as required by Department, every three (3) years. These changes will be brought to the general meeting for review and passage.

This term I will again be wearing a couple of other 'hats' for the Legion. At the Department level, I have been asked by the lead candidate for Commander, Joe Magee, to again be the Department Social Media Chairman (3<sup>rd</sup> yr.), if he is elected in June, to which I agreed. I will again be the 5<sup>th</sup> District Social Media Chairman and Webmaster (3<sup>rd</sup> yr.) for 2016-17. At the Post level, I will continue to be the Chairman for the Law & Order Awards Program (5<sup>th</sup> yr.) and also Chairman of the Past Commanders Club (2<sup>nd</sup> yr). There are a couple of new Legion programs that started this past year. One is Women Veterans Advocacy, this would be a great opportunity for one of our female Legionnaires to chair. The other new program is the Youth Law Cadet program. This program sends a qualified youth between 16-18 to attend the FHP Academy for 6 days to experience the same training as our State Troopers. Since we have a couple of active Law Enforcement members in our Post, this could be an opportunity for one of them to chair this program. If any member wants to donate some of his/her time, there are many other program chairs open, just contact me or Commander Dan if you are interested or want more information.

Once again, I will stress the importance of training classes offered by the Legion, not only at the Convention in June or the Conference in November, but also during the year at the Area and District levels. Everyone needs to remember that we are a National Organization and being such are governed by a set of rules and regulations that we need to follow. Our officers and members have an obligation to familiarize themselves with the organization, its' purpose and goals. We are the largest Veterans Service Organization in the country, of 'VETERANS HELPING VETERANS', and just like when we were on active duty, we always need to have each others' backs and that camaraderie needs to continue, right here at POST 233!

A Proud Veteran,  
For God and Country,

*Roy*

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**POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot**

### Roy Havekost – Past Commanders Club, Chairman

The mission statement of the Past Commanders Club is that we are a social gathering of past commanders of Post 233. We will always show **honor** and respect to all fellow veterans. As a **fellowship** of elite legion members, we will take **pride** in the accomplishments at our Post. We will apply our knowledge and know-how in **mentoring** new commanders, and act as an Advisory Committee, if needed. We will show **support** of any and all Legion programs that are undertaken by Post 233 membership.

In addition, the commanders look to show recognition outside of the Post to any business that shows its' support of veterans and to the objectives, programs and goals of The American Legion. This past month a '*Certificate of Recognition*' was presented to the Simon Property Group at the St. Johns Town Center Mall in Jacksonville, for the placement of three reserved parking spaces, marked for Military Veterans only.

The PCC meetings had been held on Wednesday evenings, but are being changed to the first Sunday of the month at 11:30am. This will allow our members to come early for breakfast prior to the meeting. Due to 5<sup>th</sup> District Constitutional Conference on June 5th, there will be no meeting in June and the next PC Club meeting will be July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*Roy*

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## 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.**

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

~ Paid advertizing ~

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Make check payable to American Legion Post 233.

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

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