



AL233FL Newsletter



Volume 26

'SMOKE FREE POST'

May 2016



Our Post Home



Memorial Garden



Commander Louis 'Pappy' Martin Pavilion

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, 6:30pm

Rider's meetings, first Sunday each month, 11:00am

Canteen hours:

MON-FRI: 4:00 pm until 9:00 pm hrs.
SAT: 11:00 am 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:

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 

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NEVER FORGET ~ POW's & MIA's



2015

OFFICERS

2016



**Commander
Sonny Kirkwood**



**1st Vice Commander
Jim Durnal**

**NO PICTURE
AVAILABLE
AT THIS TIME**

**2nd Vice Commander
Susan Severson**



**3rd Vice Commander
Bob Bleak**

**NO PICTURE
AVAILABLE
AT THIS TIME**

**John Schumm
4th Vice Commander**

**Vacant
Chaplain**

**Finance Officer
CDR Sonny Kirkwood**

VACANT



**E-Board
Maury Lazenby**

**NO PICTURE
AVAILABLE
AT THIS TIME**

**E-Board
Bob McAfee**



**SAA
JR Mathis**



**E-Board
Ted Veber**



**E-Board
Mike Williams**



**Judge Advocate
Roy Havekost**

**NO PICTURE
AVAILABLE
AT THIS TIME**

**E-Board
Dan Wortmann**



**Auxiliary President
Kathy Helmly**

AUXILIARY:
1st Vice President Linda Williams
2nd Vice President: Kathy Church
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
Howard Sheble**



**Rider's Director
Kevin Terranella**

RIDERS:
Dir. Kevin Terranella
Treasurer Kathy Church
Secretary Virna Waldron
Chaplain Linda Williams
Road Capt. BJ Atkins
SAA Betty Bacom
Historian Virna Waldron

Bartenders:

Pam, Debbie, Patty, Carline, and Anita

SAL:
1st Vice Cdr. Roger Akey
2nd Vice Cdr. Jason Bass
SAA: Mike Shaar
Adjutant-Vacant
Chaplain Will Hurley
Historian John Gabbard



Commander's Corner:

Family of Post 233,

Nominations and election for Post Officers is upon us again! This Monday you will be voting in a new Commander and Officers. We have several positions vacant to include the new Commander. If you want to get involved with your Post, let me know so that we can get you on the ballot!

We have installed the new Point of Sale Program in the Social Hall. However, due to vandalism of the CAT5e cable, we were unable to install the system in the Pavilion. A police report was filed.

I would be remised not to discuss the following concerns I (and my officers) have experienced/witnessed this past year:

- When I ran for Commander and my platform was to run the Post as a business and put in place procedures, policies, and infrastructure that would help the Post operate in the positive.
- Previous Finance Officer reported for over three years that the Post has been losing money. Based on that revenue trend, we had to make some decisions that would reduce our overhead costs (i.e., Post hours, daily lunches and payroll reductions). Note: The Post has experienced a positive cash flow year to date.
- This success has come to fruition due to the hard work of numerous individuals. I, personally, have contributed over 40-50 hours a week at the Post, cooked and prepared over 50 meals and donated hundreds of dollars of my own money to keep the Post operating. Unfortunately, this success has come with some “naysayers” about me and several officers and has created a Post environment that has become toxic. Example: A few SAL members have voted not to cook Friday dinners/Sunday breakfasts when they are obligated to because of not wanting to support me and my officers. This decision and behavior contradicts what the American Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders represent. This behavior is detrimental to the good of the Post, members/guests and potentially could be catastrophic to the Post’s financial future.
- For those folks who have supported me and stood with me in the line of fire – I thank you from the bottom of my heart. For the “naysayers” and anti-post commander folks, I pray for you and forgive you.
- The Post’s building continues to have structural/rodent issues that I have made aware to the Executive Board and General Assembly.
- In closing, I ask you to watch JoelOsteen.com’s message this past Sunday about “naysayers” and critics. I thank you for this opportunity and wish Post 233 nothing but “Fair Winds and Following Seas.”

For God and Country,
Sonny Kirkwood, Commander 2015-2016



2nd Vice Commander's Corner:

Need cooks and volunteers to schedule more events – please call the Post if you are interested (904) 285-2484.

For God and Country,
Susan Severson, 2nd Vice Commander.



3rd Vice Commander's Corner:

I echo Second Vice Susan’s request for more cooks and volunteers!

For God and Country
Bob Bleak, 3rd Vice Commander



4th Vice Commander's Corner:

No input this month.

For God and Country
John Schumm, 4th Vice Commander



Director of the Rider's Corner:

Riding For God and Country,
Kevin Terranella, Director



Auxiliary President's Corner:

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
GOD BLESS AMERICA
Kathy Helmly, President 2015-2016



SAL Commander's Corner:



Sergeant-at-Arms and Past House Committee Chairman:

As we close out our 2015-2016 year at Post 233, I would like to say that it has been a privilege and honor to serve as your Sergeant-at-Arms and House Committee Chairperson. I have enjoyed working with all the entities' members and officers as we tackled the many issues facing our Post this past year.

Reviewing our year, I realize my favorite events were the World War II Luncheon, the POW/MIA Table Ceremony and participating in the K9s for Warriors graduations.

Working with our First Vice Commander, Jim Durnal, and our SAL Commander Howard Sheble, has certainly been an experience! Seriously, they are two wonderful officers who helped me understand the American Legion structure and mission. I enjoyed working with them and consider myself fortunate to call them both my friends.

Our Commander, Sonny Kirkwood, has earned my utmost respect, as I watched him tackle the complex and challenging tasks he faced this year. I have watched him cook literally hundreds of steaks, pull his hair out analyzing the financial mess he inherited, brainstorm ideas on how to raise revenue for the post with his officers, then lead us in prayer at the beginning of our events. After assuming responsibility of Post 233 early last spring, he has slowly but steadily transformed our Post from almost having to close its doors, to the point of seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you, Sonny, our ship is now in much deeper waters!

I enjoy quotes, and this seems appropriate:

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

— [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

There is still lots of work to be done, however, so let's keep passing the torch and keep flying Ole Glory high out front and **MOVE FORWARD COMRADES!**

Ironically, while on our upcoming vacation, on Memorial Day Linda and I have reservations in Medora, North Dakota, staying in the Teddy Roosevelt Hotel at the edge of the Teddy Roosevelt National Park!

As I relinquish my present duties at Post 233 and head off on our vacation: "SOMEONE PLEASE LOWER THE FLAG TO HALF MAST MEMORAL DAY MORNING AND RAISE IT TO THE TOP OF THE POLE AT NOON!!!!" SEE YOU ALL WHEN WE RETURN IN JULY!

Adjutant's Corner:

Current membership is over 100%!

For God and Country,
Jim Durnal, Post Adjutant

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DONN'T WORRY- BE HAPPY!



MAY 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

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

ADVERTIZE 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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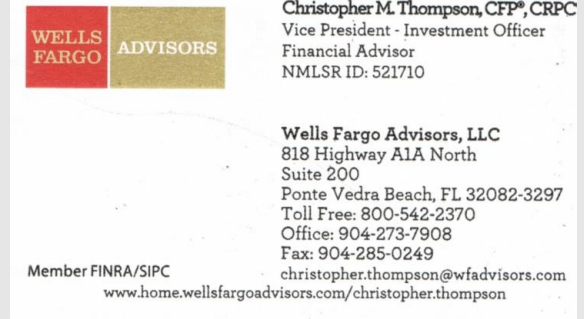
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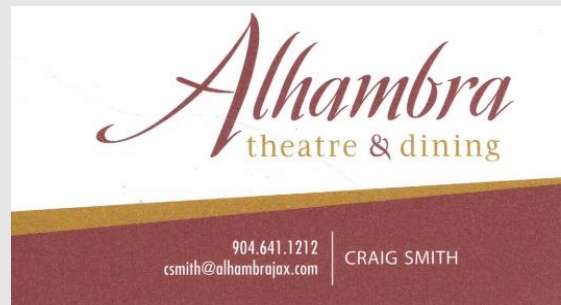
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\$25.00 per year to advertise your business card on both the monthly newsletter and Post website.

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.



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