

# Legion News

Volume 16, Issue 4

'Smoke Free Post'

September 2016

Publisher: Roy Havekost







Memorial Garben



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** MIA's POW's

#### Commander Dan Wortmann ~

I would like to thank our great brothers and sisters of Post 233 who continue to help with Thursday Bingo and Taco Tuesday's each week. Your efforts are helping to keep our doors open, but just barely. Unfortunately, we had another bad month financially and have again had to rely on our savings to meet our monthly operating costs. We cannot continue to operate like this any longer, we need everyone's help. We need to sponsor events to support our Legion programs, which in turn brings in the necessary revenue to pay for our monthly operating costs. Let's all take a stand and volunteer to sponsor an event. Legionnaires, come to our next meeting on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and be counted by helping with some new ideas for events and by volunteering. If we can put on a minimum of 1 large event each month, we can turn the tables on our financial status. We need your help and we need it NOW!

The canteen hours of operation can be changed back if more members-guests would show their support by frequenting our Post regularly. This is your home Post, show us that you care and want it to be successful. We need all of the help we can muster. Here is hoping we can have a great September and beyond.

For God and Country,

## Dan

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

We have problems at the post. I have spoken with visitors to the post and their exact words were "it seems like the post just doesn't care " and " we never know when the post is going to be open or closed". We are sending the wrong message. I think we do care. We just have a horrible way of showing it. I think we should be open during the days. We need to find activities to bring people in. I know we closed to save money, but I guarantee we will not make any money being closed!

For God and Country,

# Jim

Law and Order Awards ~

Sunday, September 11th at 10:00am, join us for a buffet breakfast as we honor Detective Samantha English and Firefighter Robert Harper with the Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Near 2016 awards.

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

I hope to see everyone at our Americanism Event on Sunday, Sept. 4 from 2 p.m until 7 p.m. We will be doing a flag retirement ceremony at 2 p.m., followed by live music by Collage and a shish kabob meal for a \$10 donation. Come out and celebrate with all entities; proceeds from games will support Post 233 Boys State and other programs. The next week, Sunday, Sept. 11, will be our annual Law and Order Awards event. Join us for this important celebration of our local heroes and enjoy a buffet breakfast. Please consider volunteering for an upcoming Legion dinner or breakfast; volunteers benefit from half-priced meals and a drink tab during working hours. Do you have a favorite meal you'd like to see prepared? Please let me know! Could you make a side for a meal or a breakfast dish one Sunday AM? Could you sponsor a meal with a donation? There are many ways to get involved in Your Legion.

For God and Country,

#### Susan

## Adjutant Ted Veber ~

Football @ Palm Valley/Ponte Vedra American Legion Post 233! We "kick off" our 2016/17 Jaguar series of events at 1:00 on Sunday Sept.11th versus the Green Bay Packers. Our Post Team, including the talented Celeste singing the pre-game National Anthem and our very own Vana starring during the raffle drawings, will be back again. We're planning on a season long series of fun events. Fantastic raffle prizes, free munchies, 1/2 price drinks after all Jaguar touchdowns and "Opportunities" to win \$\$\$. Come on out, enjoy the fun, bring food to share and your friends. Ask about our Jaguar Touchdown Total Game. And please remember your attendance and participation supports the charities and programs Post 233 sponsors.

If you haven't paid your 2017 member dues please do so now. We need approximately 75 member renewals, transfers or new members in order to reach our 55% Goal by September 1. Doing this now, of course, qualifies you for the fantastic "Early Bird Dinner" which will take place after the first of the year.

For God and Country,

# 7ed

Legion general meeting minutes are archived online at: www.al233fl.org/minutes.htm

#### ALA President Linda Williams ~

I would like to make a shout out to Caroline Merillat! I saw you vacuuming the window seals at Post 233! Thank you! 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 everyone for a making it through a Long Hot August —

The ALA Members would like to THANK all of Post 233's MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND GUEST'S for helping ALA Unit 233 – "STUFF THE POST" with School Supplies for our Children! We started out asking for 5 Backpacks and ended up giving out 13 – Fully Packed Backpacks to the children. 6 Backpacks went to St. Johns County Sheriff's Officers. (ShAdCo). 7 went to Helping students from 12 grade to Kindergarten! We are still collecting for future local school children's needs. You can drop off school supplies at Post 233/Auxiliary. Thank you, God Bless You!

The Auxiliary Monthly Meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month (September 12, 2016 at 7 pm). If you need more info please contact me at lindaw186@bellsouth.net

Sept. 7th the Auxiliary will be cooking Wednesday Night Cook Book Dinners the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every Month. Sept. 7, 2016 at 6:30-8:00 pm.

September 10, 2016 - Mark your Calendar – ALA "STEAK - B-I-N-G-O" @ POST 233 - 6:30-8:00PM - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Want to have fun? Some killer Steaks .... The Auxiliary Breakfast is the  $4^{th}$  Sunday of the month (September 26, 2016 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am).

Don't forget our next 5<sup>th</sup> District Meeting September 11, 2016 at 2pm ~ Post 88 – 3662 Spring Park Rd., Jax, FL 32207

Sept. 11, 2016 - Don't forget Auxiliary Member Celeste Sheble is supporting Post 233'S NFL Volunteer TEAM by singing the National Anthem! Go Jag's!

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.

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

As always please keep our Service Men and Women here and afar, family, friends and our community in your prayers.

For God and Country,

Linda

#### ALR Director Kevin Terranella ~

Taco-bout our Terrific Taco Team of Kathy, Betty, BJ and Jeff. One hundred and forty-three that's 143 Taco meals served! Save a bun eat a Taco!

Annual Legacy Run kicked off on Sunday, August 21st out of Indianapolis, this motorcycle ride will travel over 1,300 miles through seven states. Why? "The American Legion has offered its support to the children of fallen post-9/11 servicemembers through this scholarship. Beginning with the 2017 award year, The American Legion expanded the scholarship to include children of VA-rated, post-9/11 veterans with a disability of 50 percent or higher. Our organization remains committed to honoring the memory and service of our fallen and disabled comrades by ensuring their children are afforded the best possible educational opportunities. Despite the best efforts of our federal and state governments to offer financial aid, an everbroadening gap in funding is still notable. Through its American Legion Legacy Scholarship, The American Legion is able to ensure the children of our fallen and disabled, post-9/11 veterans are able to cover the cost of their educations, including graduate school."

Follow the run on facebook "National American Legion Riders"

#### 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 <a href="mailto:bartenderpost233@yahoo.com">bartenderpost233@yahoo.com</a> .

Riding for God and Country,

Kevin



## SAL Commander Roger Akey ~

As many of you know, I have assumed the position of Commander as a result of provisions of our Constitution and By-laws. If you would like a copy of our documents, please contact me on my cell, 904-868-6866 or at <a href="mailto:roger.akey@comcast.net">roger.akey@comcast.net</a> and we will see you get them for your review. I think it would be good for all of our members to be familiar with the purpose of our organization and the mechanics of how we function. We are a program of the American Legion but have our own guidelines and rules.

We conducted our first monthly meeting on our regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month with a very poor turnout. Despite that, we made it through our agenda successfully. It is amazing to me that we have 128 members and just a hand full show up for the meetings. These are generally the same members who volunteer for most events such as dinners and bingo. Your leadership generally comes from the volunteers so the more who participate, the more events we can produce and the better leaders we can rely upon.

Starting this year, when you renew your membership, we want your email address. I was going to send out an initial greeting to all but discovered, we do not have everyone's email. Please help us keep you informed.

When you read the Preamble to our Constitution you will see words or terms such as "uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States", "maintain law and order", "perpetuate Americanism", "preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and forefathers", "inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation", "safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy" and "adopt to letter and spirit all of the great principles for which the American Legion stands" and to assist to carrying on for God and Country. We are all in this together and should work together to create a model Squadron and Post. Fundraising is an important aspect of our program but we can also help by getting more people to attend our functions and use the canteen.

As an example, our successful Bingo Program not only has raised funds to perpetuate the games but has given us funds for our charity donations. Secondary to that, Thursday nights have become one of the best revenue nights for the Canteen. The SAL and the Post both benefit.

Let's all get active and make this Post a great one.

For God and Country,

Roger

The Post 233 calendar of events is online at: http://www.al233fl.org/ecalendar.htm

**BINGO** every <u>Thursday</u> night: 7:00pm

#### Canteen news ~

We are excited to welcome everyone back from their Summer travels and see some old familiar faces again. September kicks off a wonderful time of year at 233. The cooler weather means more events, runs and parties in our fantastic pavilion and backyard. Tuesdays and Thursdays continue to grow, thanks to Taco Tuesday/Texas Hold Em and SAL Bingo night. Our Friday lunch will be starting again September 16<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for a Palm Valley Burger and a draft beer for \$8 from 11:30-2:00. Please join us Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, for Labor Day event and Flag retirement ceremony from 2-6pm. Chicken, Shrimp and veggie Kabobs, yellow rice and Asian Coleslaw served beginning at 2. Entertainment by Collage from 3-6 pm.

September 11<sup>th</sup> brings back the crowd favorite of Football @ Palm Valley/Ponte Vedra American Legion Post 233! We "kick off" our 2016/17 Jaguar series of events at 1:00 on Sunday Sept.11th versus the Green Bay Packers. Our Post Team, including the talented Celeste singing the pregame National Anthem and our very own Vana starring during the raffle drawings, will be back again. We're planning on a season long series of fun events. Fantastic raffle prizes, free munchies, 1/2 price drinks after all Jaguar touchdowns and "Opportunities" to win \$\$\$. Come on out, enjoy the fun, bring food to share and your friends. And please remember your attendance supports the charities and programs Post 233 sponsors.

For God and Country,

Pam

#### Social Media ~

American Legion Palm Valley Post 233, always online:

Our website: www.AL233FL.org

Our Facebook groups:

Legion: <a href="www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL/">www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL/</a>

Auxil.: https://www.facebook.com/groups/264057610291208/

Sons: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAL233/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAL233/</a>

Riders: https://www.facebook.com/groups/alr233/

Past Commanders Club:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/PastCommandersClub233FL/

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.

# Past Commanders Club Roy Havekost ~

The next Club meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the meeting room. Come early and have breakfast before the meeting. On the agenda will be discussion for a PC Club event at the Post in the near future. Don't forget the \$25 gift card raffle, you must be present to win if your commander number is drawn.

For God and Country,



## Judge Advocate Roy Havekost ~

Resubmittal of Post 233 CB&L for 2017 continues to be a work in progress and should be on the general meeting agenda for early next year.

A Navy buddy of mine sent me this bit of Navy humor in an email. While reading it I thought of the pot holes in our parking lot.

"The rain was pouring and there was a big puddle in front of the door just outside the American Legion Post. A ragged old retired Navy Chief was standing near the edge with a fishing line in the puddle. A curious young Air Force officer came over to him and asked what he was doing. "Fishing," the old Chief simply said.

"Poor old fool", the Air Force officer thought to himself, and he invited the old Navy Chief into the canteen for a drink.

As he felt he should start some conversation while they were sipping their drinks, the haughty Air Force Officer asked, "And how many have you caught today?"

"You're number eight," the old Navy Chief answered."

For God and Country,



# POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot



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

BINGO every Thursday night: 7:00pm

#### Kitchen Manager ~

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone that has volunteered to work with the different entities in the kitchen for meals. Those that have stepped up to the plate have also been really making a conscious effort to keep our kitchen clean and have not been wasteful. This reflects in the amount of supplies I have to replenish. This saves each entity money.

FYI – We were recently inspected by the Health Dept. and passed with a few minor corrections to be made. These have been completed or are in the works. The inspector also gave us some helpful tips as well. Thanks to Howard Sheble and Jim Whaley for being at the Post during this unannounced annual inspection.

Sometime in the very near future, I would like to get a volunteer cleaning crew to help with doing a major kitchen and pantry cleaning. This is for the duties that are not included in our contract with Janney King. We need to take all of our steel tables outside to be properly washed and the walls need to be cleaned once the equipment is moved out of the way. I will keep everyone posted to this date.

Our Canteen Manager, Pam, and I will be meeting with a Janney King rep the week of Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> to review our contract and to get the cleaning crew up to speed on what they should be doing for us. The bartenders have also been given weekly cleaning tasks to do when they can.

One last note: If you have a high school student that needs to put in community service hours for school please send them my way. We can always you extra help on meal nights to wash dishes and help serve. We have other light duties that we can use them for.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Church



#### 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 <a href="mailto:newsletter@al233fl.org">newsletter@al233fl.org</a> 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.

#### From the BINGO Staff ~

Once again, I am pleased to report another successful month for our bingo operation. For the last 3 weeks we have paid \$600 each week in prize money. Last week due probably in part to the last week of summer and the starting of school, we paid out \$450 of the possible \$750 allowed by law. I was recently asked by an Executive Board Member, what's in

it for the legion? My answer was quick and direct. The Canteen benefits from the players being present every Thursday evening and in fact, Thursday is consistently the best revenue day for the legion. The key to financial success is to put bodies in the seats. We have done that and will continue to do so.

People often ask how much does it cost to play. The first five games have 3 ways to play; \$1per card per game; a 3-pack which is 3 cards per game for \$10 or you can buy the 9-pack which is 9 cards per game for \$20. Obviously, the best chances are with the 9-pack but it costs more to play. In Game 6 (cover all), you may play for a \$1 per card or a card of 2 chances for \$2. The \$2 card also allows for you to give us your name and we draw for a \$10 buy in next week. Game 7 (cover all) cards are \$5 each. There are opportunities for every budget.

We have a party atmosphere on Thursday nights so come join us. We have had a different winner for each game for the past two weeks. The week previous to that however, a young lady by the name of Georgia, split on one of the early games and won both games 6 & 7. She had a profitable time and a lot of fun that night!

We begin selling cards at 6:30 and the games begin at 7:00 PM. We usually are done by 9:15 to 9:30 PM. Don't forget we have a light dinner for a donation of just \$3 as well as your favorite beverages available from the canteen served by one of our favorite bartenders, Debbie.



For God and Country

Roger Akey





## **SEPTEMBER 4, 2016**

2:00 - 6:00 PM

Join American Legion Post 233

Fost 233 for our Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony

PURPOSE: To promote American Heritage and provide a Community service by honorably disposing of worn United States Flags. Worn U.S. Flags may be burned or buried with honor and dignity.

Food time 2:00 PM

Chicken / Shrimp & Veggie Kabobs

**Yellow Rice** 

Asian Coleslaw

For a \$10.00 donation





# Entertainment - 3-6 PM



American Legion ~ Post 233 560 N. Wilderness Trail

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 - www.al233fl.org ~ 904.285.2484



Proudly presents our 5th annual:

# **2016 Law & Order Awards**



Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

**Detective Samantha English** 

St, Johns County Sheriffs Office

LEO Alumni: Sid Mickler Stacy Ettel Robbie Robinson



Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter Robert Harper

FF Alumni: Katrina Silvia Casey Lane Art Naidzich Jason Baer

St. Johns County Fire - Rescue

#### Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 10:00am to 12:00pm Join us for a Buffet Breakfast

Meet and greet our local heroes, the first responders.

Event is open to the public, support our heroes.

Meet and greet the American Legion Family of Post 233.









an officially sanctioned Department of Florida American Legion program

w.AL233FL.org www.fi

www.facebook.com/groups/AL233

Post: 904-285-2484

# ALA 1<sup>st</sup> VP / Membership, Kathy Church ~

I am looking forward to our 2016-17 term working under the leadership of President Linda Williams as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice. Linda is very qualified for the position of Unit President. I am here to assist Linda with any task she ask of me.

Hard as it is to believe it is time for all of us to pay our 2017 dues. The amount of our dues is still \$25.00. We keep \$8.50 in our Unit checking account with the rest going to ALA Dep.t of FL & ALA National. Please send your check made out ALA Unit 233 and mail to my home address listed below or you can drop it off at the Post handing to the bartender on duty. Another option is for you to pay on line, create an account and pay your dues. I will then get a notice from Dep. that you have paid along with a check for our \$8.50. I will then put you card in the mail to you.

At the close of books in May 2016 we ended the year at 100% with a total number of 200 members. We have been given a 5% increase in goals by the ALA Dept. of FL which means we need to end the 2017 term with a total of 210 members. Now that sounds like we only need 10 more new members, however we have to account for two members that passed away in 2016 and for 26 members that have not renewed for two years that will be dropped from our roster if we can't get them to catch up. So in reality we actually have to get 38 new members to join this year or 26 members to pay back dues and 12 new members to make 100% again.

# I KNOW WE CAN REACH 100% IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM!!!!!.

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to joi ALA Unit 233. If you are not sure who is eligible to become an Auxiliary member please feel free to ask me. Eligibility can also be found on the above mentioned website. If you have a daughter or granddaughter under the age of 18, we can sign them up as a Jr member and our Unit will pay their dues until they turn 18. We need more Jr members to become active in our Unit. They are never too young to get them started. They are the future of our Unit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy

# MIAP Florida, Kathy Church, Coordinator ~

Nation Wide Progress as of 8-16-2016
Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,997
Cremains Found - 13,465
Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,126
Veterans Interred - 2,807

Florida Progress to Date as of 8-24-16

**Funeral Homes Visited - 115** 

**Cremains Found – 756** 

**Veterans Interred – 106** 

Spouses Interred – 45

Dependents Interred – 1

Missions Pending - 40

**Cremains returned to loved ones - 2** 

As always I would like to thank the AL Family for their continued support to MIAP.

ALR Chapter 392, Panama City, held a raffle of 3 guns for MIAP-FL and made a very generous donation to us. I had the opportunity to enjoy July 4<sup>th</sup> with the AL 392 family to receive this check and another one from their SAL Squadron. We have a team starting in that area which will be led by ALR David Shaw. The first service in that area will be at the newly opened Tallahassee National Cemetery.

We continue to be in search of volunteers in all areas of Florida. We are currently trying to work get with other funeral homes in our local area to work. This coming week I will be talking with State Attorney, Angela Corey, as she has stated the Medical Examiner's Offices have many unclaimed and she is going to assist us with getting in the door at these locations.

Our next service which will be our 10<sup>th</sup> service for Florida will be at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth, FL. We will inter 20 veterans/spouses and we are in the planning stages for this service. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> service in that area.

I am still waiting on the arrival of an industrial printer from MIAP national. I will be able to print flyers (with permission from MIAP) for the AL Family. We will only charge to cost to print flyers and if you supply the paper we will only charge for the toner. I will let everyone know when this printer has arrived and ready for use.

MIAP does have a Combined Federal Campaign # which is 76243 if anyone would like to donate via payroll deduction through their place of employment.

The volunteers of MIAP also continue to support other veterans' organizations in Florida attending their events when possible.

Once again a hardy THANK YOU to all who support MIAP.

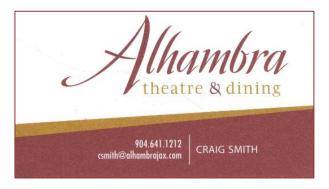
# Kathy

MIAP-FL State Coordinator www.MIAP.us

#### Paid advertizing ~









# INVESTMENT EXECUTIVE Phone: (904) 645-8350 | Cell: (904) 254-4334 11949 Arbor Lake Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32225 steven.barnett@investfinancial.com Registered Representative of INVEST Financial Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC. INVEST and its affiliated insurance agencies offer securities and certain insurance products.







\$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.

ADVERTIZE YOUR BUSINESS CARD ON THE POST TV FOR ONLY \$75.00/YR. Ask the bartender for details