



# THE VALLEY LEGION NEWS

Post website: [www.AL233FL.org](http://www.AL233FL.org)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL)  
 District website: [www.AL5thDistrictFL.org](http://www.AL5thDistrictFL.org)  
 Email: [info@al233fl.org](mailto:info@al233fl.org)

**Palm Valley Post 233**  
**560 N. Wilderness Trail**  
**Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082**  
**904-785-7484**

Canteen Hours:  
 Monday -Thursday 4:00pm - Close  
 Friday 8:00 am - Close  
 Saturday 11:00am - Close    Sunday 9:00am - Close



Commander  
Dan Wortman



President  
Kathy Helmly



Commander  
Howard Sheble



Director  
Robby Bacom

*Legionnaire meetings, second Wednesday each month, 7:00pm*  
*Auxiliary meetings, second Monday each month, 6:30pm*  
*Son's meetings, third Monday each month, 7:00pm*  
*Rider's meetings, third Sunday each month, 12:00pm*

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## Commander's Corner

A special thanks to Ronnie and Sylvia , Jerry , Roy, Jeff , Mike and myself who helped with the driveway and Doreen for her generous donation in making this happen for our new driveway. An all day affair but a job well done!

Two weeks ago I had the COO of carrier and a major distributor of HVAC equipment at the post we can get a whole new system with no duct work a five ton system for 3055.00 . That is an 8000.00 dollar system. Now we need donations from everyone at the post so now is the time to help out.

Hopefully we be having a major fund raiser in the near future for more Improvements at the post so stay tuned .

And last but not least we are still having negative chatter at the bar by a few sour members talking negatively about Volunteers working in the kitchen - Were they helping were they Volunteering ??? It has got to stop we are a family of all Volunteers so lets keep the family atmosphere her. If not we are going to start writing you up !!!

Finally lets keep growing and keep going forward to make our post better.



## Auxiliary President's Report

Hello Legion family I'm looking forward to working with each of you! I believe working as a team we will be unstoppable. Our Focus will be the aims and purposes of the ALA. Ladies you are beyond awesome, let's everyone remember to be kind to one another.

June Community Service project was hosting the Palm Valley Story Telling documentary. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in making it a success!! Members did a fabulous job of cooking, setting up, serving and clean up, over 75 meals were sold.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> of July basket was simply fantastic everything you need for a festive outing. Thank you Sylvia Bass for putting it together. Funds received from this basket will benefit the many charities we support.

Thank you to everyone who attended installation, we had a great ALA turnout!

COMING SOON an ALA/Pavilion Fundraiser!! We will begin selling engraved plates, these plates will be placed behind the bar in the Pavilion, they can be engraved with anything you would like examples are but not limited to "in memory of", "in honor of" or simply your name. Pricing at \$50 for silver and \$70 for gold.

### Dates to remember:

August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm – Executive Meeting

August 13<sup>th</sup> is our 5<sup>th</sup> District meeting at Post 319 at 2:00, I encourage all to attend.

August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 is our General Membership General Meeting please attend as we plan the course for the coming year. Our 5<sup>th</sup> District President Madam Molly Main will join us.

August 19<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm – Monthly Ladies Luncheon Come out and enjoy great fellowship!!

August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am – ALA monthly breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Amy Blair is our point of contact; please contact her to assist. Our June breakfast was a huge success selling over 25 meals! Thank you to the ladies that made that happen new ALA member Caroline Merillat did a great job Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup>. I thank everyone so much for coming out and supporting our charities.

Stay tuned!! We are looking forward to a great year!!Respectively SubmittedFor God and Country

Kathy Helmly  
ALA Unit 233 President

## Auxiliary Membership Goals

ALA Unit 233 ended the 2016-2017 term at 100% with a total of 34 Jr. members and 166 Sr. members. THANKS to all who renewed your membership or those that brought new members to our Unit. Welcome to all the new members that join this past year.

I have been the Membership Chair for Unit 233 for the past twelve years and I love every minute of it and I look forward to this year's goals again. This year our Past President, Linda Williams, has decided to join me as my back up on membership. YES!!!!

Now we into our 2017-2018 Term. Although we have not officially heard from the ALA Dept. of Florida as of yet I would bet that our goal for this term will be 210 members. So it's time to get busy again. Although Linda and I process the paperwork part of membership, membership is everyone's responsibility. We need every member to work on membership with us.

Per the American Legion Auxiliary National, if we do not continue to bring in new members to our Units, the AL Auxiliary could cease to exist in the year 2030. This being due to members that pass away, those who do not renew their membership and lack of new members. We can't allow this to happen.

We have the 2018 membership cards and you can now start mailing in your 2018 dues of \$25.00. Please write your member ID # on the memo line and 2018 dues. We will mail your card out to you as soon as we receive your dues.

Please mail your check to:           ALA Unit 233  
  PO Box 51138  
  Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join our Legion Family. If you get a veteran to join the Legion then their spouse can join our ALA Unit. You can sign up your grand or great granddaughters as a junior member. Unit 233 pays for Jr. membership until the age of 18.

There are many programs that our Jr. members can get involved with.

This year we will have do a membership drive out in the community and we will be asking for volunteers to assist with this. Please let me know if you would like to join in.

Please feel free to contact Linda Williams or myself if you have any questions regarding Membership.

For God & Country

Kathy Church  
ALA Unit 233 Membership Chair

## Post Adjutant

AL 2018 Membership Drive-We all know, or should know, Membership Dues are the lifeblood of our organization. Let's meet our goal of 50% by September 6th. All legionnaires who renew their membership prior to then will be included in a raffle; first prize is \$100. There'll also be a nice consolation prize. Anyone sponsoring a new member or transfer will receive an extra raffle ticket. Our entity members are eligible to participate in this incentive program. Legionnaires sponsoring new members are included in the current Department and National Award Programs. Let's achieve this initial goal! The raffle will take place on Sunday Sept.10th at 3:00, the "kickoff" of our 2017-18 Jaguar Sunday Football Events begins that day at 1:00 with our Jaguars playing at Houston. If you have any questions fell free to call me at 904 501 8255.

For God and Country,  
Ted Verber  
Adjutant

## SAL's Commander's Corner

The SAL wants to thank, whole-heartedly, the members of all our entities who helped with our successful July meals and activities: Patty Williams, Roger Akey, Kathy Church, Cleeste Sheble, Katie Workman, Betty Bacom, Robby Bacom, Kevin Monger, Mike Shaar, Torsak Vimoktayon, Daniel Dean, Brenda Cowgill, Rita Connolly, Todd Kleven, and Milk Klim. Our whole organization owes you a HOO-Rah for your efforts!

For God and Country,  
Howard Sheble  
SAL Commander

## Words from the Riders

### ALR CHAPTER 233 WANTS YOU!!!!

**Did you know that AL Post 233 has a Riders Chapter?? Did you know that as a member of the Legion, Auxiliary or the SAL you could join our Chapter?? Did you know you DON'T have to have a motorcycle to join ALR 233??**

#### WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS?

We are formed to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as a family oriented motorcycling activity for members of the American Legion Family.

We will uphold the principles of The American Legion and conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the department, post, or other duly constituted governing body.

Our members will avoid any perception of being a motorcycle or "biker" club or gang. Rather, the focus of membership is for the enjoyment of motorcycles and comradeship and furthering Legion programs in the community.

We will strive to improve the public's perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of service to one's community, state and nation through the sport of motorcycling.

#### **"WE ARE THE 70 MILE/HOUR AD FOR THE LEGION RIDING DOWN THE HIGHWAY"**

Currently ALR 233 continues to support our Post by holding TACO TUESDAY every Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:30pm. This is the same night as TEXAS HOLD'EM.

We also serve breakfast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month with our special of Country Fried Steak, two eggs, grits, toast and fresh fruit for an \$8.00 donation. We also serve all other menu items.

ALR members continue to volunteer at the Post for other meals, events, building and yard maintenance, etc. Most importantly we join other Chapters within in the 5<sup>th</sup> District on Poker or Fun Rides to support many veteran and community organizations. **WHY NOT JOIN IN ON ALL THIS FUN!!!!**

If you wish to become an ALR Chapter 233 member please feel free to contact any one of our Officers:

Director: Robby Bacom  
Assistant Director, Jeff Tupper  
Road Captain, BJ Atkins  
Treasurer/Secretary – Kathy Church  
Chaplain, Linda Williams  
Sgt-At-Arms, Betty Bacom.

Our yearly dues are \$25.00.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Church  
ALR Chapter 233 Treasurer/Secretary



Social  
Media



The following information was distributed throughout the district relative to the district social media sites.

To all 5<sup>th</sup> District Posts, the District website has been redesigned for a more optimum performance and easier navigation of recent and archived information. The website is located at: [www.al5thdistrictfl.org](http://www.al5thdistrictfl.org) and should be visited on a regular basis ( at least twice weekly ) for important information and bulletins that will be posted. The website is now mobile ready for both smart phones and notebooks as well as laptops and desktop computers.

This year for those of you who also are engaged with Facebook, the District has a new Facebook GROUP which will basically mirror the "BULLETINS" page of the website with the postings of important bulletins in this Facebook group. The GROUP is located at: <https://www.Facebook.com/groups/AL5thDistrictFL>. This GROUP is also available on mobile devices.

If your Post is having an event and you wish to distribute flyers, please post the flyers to the District Facebook PAGE at:

<https://www.Facebook.com/5thDistrictDeptOfFlorida> in addition to your own Post page. Do not ask to post the flyers to the District group, ONLY THE PAGE. You can also bring copies of the flyers to the monthly District meetings and hand them out.

Post 233 members feel free to join the District Group to be kept apprised of important information.

For God and Country,  
Roy Havekost, Social Media Chairman

## MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

"It's The Right Thing To Do!"

The purpose of the Missing in America Project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. To provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for those forgotten heroes.

### NATION WIDE PROGRESS AS OF JULY 25, 2017

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,098**

**Cremains Found - 15,140**

**Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,445**

**Veterans Interred - 3,162**

### FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF JULY 15, 2017 (5 years)

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 124**

**Cremains Found - 9**

**Veterans Interred - 155**

**Spouses Interred - 72**

**Dependents - 1**

**Call to Honors - 13**

MIAP-FL is in need of volunteers to reach out to funeral homes, research paperwork to locate veterans, spouses and dependents of veterans. If you would like to join the Florida Team please contact me at my info below.

MIAP-FL also is in need of funding to be able to continue with our project. If you would like to make a donation to us please make your check out to Missing In America Project and mail it to my home address. You can also go to our website at [www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us) and donate via PayPal. Click on Florida.

Thank You,

Kathy Church  
Florida State Coordinator  
101 Bowles Street  
Neptune Beach, FL 32266  
(904) 219-3035  
[miapjax@yahoo.com](mailto:miapjax@yahoo.com)

## From the 5th District Vice Commander

Roy Havekost, 5<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander –

This year, 2017-2018, Department will be shaping up the troops for the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of The American Legion during the 2018-2019 term of office.

Commander Steve Shuga is a stickler for following protocol and so right he is. Protocol is used for a reason, why; it's the terms and a system of rules that we all agreed to when we became Legionnaires.

Remember, we are all The American Legion, and our actions display how serious we are about our involvement in the organization. Officers, remember you are the leaders at your Post...lead by example.

Here are just a few do's and don'ts that everyone should brush up on.

### DON'T:

- \* eat with your Legion cap on. This is done out of respect for all Fallen comrades.
- \* Wear Ball Caps of any kind at meetings. The only official headgear at official meetings is the Legion cap.
- \* Expose others to personal matters (personal, medical or financial issues) on Social Media.
- \* Blurt out remarks etc. at meetings, raise your hand and be recognized by the chair first.
- \* Place pins or patches etc. on the right side of the Legion cap, this is considered hallowed ground.

### DO:

- \* remember to salute the colors when entering or leaving a meeting.
- \* Dress for success; wear proper attire when attending meetings, local, district or department.
- \* Be friendly and welcome people that come into your Post, new people and regulars.
- \* Use the Officers and Ceremonies Guidebook as a reference. Open and close all meetings properly.
- \* Remember to properly recognize all VIP attendees at your meetings, ie district, state and national. Also announce your own Post officers in attendance.
- \* Wear your Legion cover at all official meetings.
- \* Do your very best to exhibit a positive attitude at all times...YOU ARE THE AMERICAN LEGION.

Upcoming events within the district: August 26<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) there will be a district training session at Post 283 on Fort Caroline Rd from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Post officers are urged to attend, but the class is open to any member wishing to attend.

The next Department of Florida Legion College class will be held on September 7-9, 2017 at Dept. headquarters Orlando. Apply online at [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org) . Prior attendance at an ALEI course is a prerequisite.

The fall conference will be held at the Renaissance Sea World in Orlando on November 2-5, 2017. Plan to attend and signup for some training classes that will be offered. Be sure to specify American Legion Conference when making your reservation, to obtain the discounted room rate.

Department of Florida Commander Steve Shuga will be making the annual District visit from November 19-25, 2017. Brush up on protocol, so we can shine!

For God and Country,  
Roy Havekost  
5<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander



July was another very successful month for our Bingo Program. During July, we awarded \$2500 to our players. Not counting our July 27<sup>th</sup> evening, we have paid out thus far in 2017; the sum of \$16,128 and the canteen has done over \$9904 on Bingo nights. As a result, the Legion and our participants have received over \$26,032 in benefits from our Bingo Program so far this year.

We are very pleased to announce that June 22<sup>nd</sup> was the best night we have had since we began back in March of 2016! We paid out \$700, which is just \$50 short of the maximum payout allowed by law. In July, we met that goal twice in the month.

We are very pleased that the ALA will provide the meal on the first Thursday of the each month and on the third Thursday; Kathy Church will provide a meal for the benefit of the MIA program. Come join us and help two programs at the same time.

Let's continue to build our Bingo Program so please participate, invite your friends and/or neighbors. We are open to the public for Bingo so no need for you to be present if you encourage others to participate.

Our team consisting of Howard Sheble, Patty Williams, Dan Deon and our bartender, Debbie, keeps the evening moving. We could use additional volunteers. Another Verifier, a substitute Caller and a substitute Cashier would be helpful. Please contact Howard Sheble or me if you are interested.

I want to give a special thank you to Todd Kleven for substituting for me on July 20<sup>th</sup>. He did a great job and the evening was very successful.

While in New York City, we were privileged to see the Broadway show, "Bandstand". It is a musical about returning veterans from WW2 and their struggles much like today. A group of them formed a band, which helped to usher in the "sock-hop" era. Their morals kept them from winning a contest to be on national radio but they won the hearts of all the fans. The cast has won several awards already and if you have a chance, you must see it. I am sure this very pro-veteran show will hit the road soon, so don't miss it if it comes to the area.

Remember, everyone has a good time at Bingo and the Canteen benefits.

Come on out and join the fun and maybe share in the payouts. See you soon.

For God and Country,

Roger Akey

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

MARTINI MONDAY

TACO/TEXAS HOLD 'EM TUESDAY

BINGO THURSDAY

DINNER AND MUSIC FRIDAY

1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH-FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND FOOTBALL (STARTING SEPTEMBER)

## News from the Canteen and Kitchen

Hello American Legion Post #233! My name is MILK KLIM and I am the new Canteen Manager and Second Vice. Some of you I have met and the rest of the membership I hope to meet real soon. We have some amazing events and special evenings lined up over the next few months. I hope everyone will get involved by attending, volunteering, or donating to the programs we are running to help local veteran charities and families.

Our September Charity Focus is K9s for Warriors. We are present at every graduation to honor our Vets for their hard work and service.

Just a few things to look forward to:

☑ M-F LUNCH!!! That's right, you heard it here first. We are now open for Lunch beginning August 1. Chef Kevin, 'The Bearded Chef', will be feeding our hungry membership 5 days of the week. Please come in and try the new menu and specials.

☑ TAIL GATE FEST – SEPTEMBER 2 - Kick of the NCAAF on the back lawn. Drop the gates, we got the grill and beer! The Budweiser and Miller Family of beers are sponsoring us with give away swag, tents and beer tubs. Live Music. Corn Hole & Horse Shoes. So bring your appetite and support your favorite team.

The GATORS take on Michigan @ 3:30pm.

The SEMINOLES go up against Alabama @ 8pm.

☑ FLEA MARKET – The first Saturday of every month from 8am-11:30, weather permitting, we will be holding a flea market open to the public. Rent a spot for \$10 and SELL! SELL! SELL! Or come and BUY! BUY! BUY! I would like to thank the leadership, staff, volunteers, and most of all the members who have been patient during our transition. I have seen many members do amazing things for the love of the post. I cordially invite everyone to participate in our events and offerings and enjoy your Post #233.

It is my mission to let our community know that our Post #233 will be beacon of support for our veteran's and their families.

Remember where you are.

Remember why you are here.

Never Forget!

Milk Kilm

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander/Canteen Manager





## The American Legion Family

Fellow American Legion and friends your Post would like you to consider assisting us in reaching our goal of \$5,000.00 by making a contribution to allow us to improve your Post. The Post is in great need of replacing and updating our air-conditioning. We are being given special pricing as we are a veteran's organization. Any contribution you may be able to give would be greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all our Post family.

Checks should be made to the order of:

American Legion Post 233 and please additionally note "A/C Building Fund" in the memo section and sent to:

American Legion Post 233  
560 N Wilderness Trail  
Ponte Vedra, FL 32082

Thank you,

Dan Wortmann American Legion Post 233 Commander



Roy Havekost, Post 233 Judge Advocate

Remember who we are...remember why we are here! We are The American Legion, the world's largest wartime veterans organization. We have been in existence since March 15, 1919. We are not that far away from our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration year. Now is the time to start shaping up, not only our Post appearance but also our membership. For the past several years, membership has been on the decline. The reason for the most part is that our members are dying and in some part that they are not renewing. Why aren't they renewing? We find that many have become disinterested in their posts. Many feel that some posts have gotten away from what the Legion stands for. That the goals, objectives and programs have become neglected for the most part.

The American Legion was formed by veterans of WWI. It became much stronger after WWII with an influx of new veterans who would eventually take the reins. Then Korea, Vietnam came and more veterans joined. Today, the Legion is being run for the most part by the Vietnam era veterans, but we are aging too and need some relief. We need to enlist the newest era of veterans from the Gulf War to the War on Terror vets. We need to show them "the ropes" before it is too late. We need these newer veterans to keep our organization alive for the next 100 years.

The Department of Florida recognizes this need for new members and is challenging every member to sign up five new members this year. Incentives will be offered through the district and department websites as well as training sessions offered throughout the year. Let's revitalize the Post's interest in Legion programs and projects by recruiting new members and making them aware "WHO WE ARE...AND WHY WE ARE HERE!"

If you see someone wearing a ball cap or T-shirt that indicates that they may be a veteran, ask them, invite them to our Post. Let them know that the Legion is all about veterans helping other veterans. Let them know we have their '6'. We need to be more involved today than yesterday because tomorrow we may no longer exist. Help the Legion stay alive, bring in new members, volunteer when you can, and always show that you are PROUD to be a Legion Family member.

For God and Country,

Roy Havekost

Post 233 Judge Advocate

11 year member (10<sup>th</sup> year an officer)