



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

The Valley

Legion News



Dan Wortmann, Legion Commander
 Roger Akey, SAL Commander
 Linda Williams, ALA President
 Kevin Terranella, ALR Director

Volume 17, Issue 1 **'Smoke Free Post'** **January 2017**
Editor in Chief: Dan Wortmann **Publisher: Roy Havekost**



Our Post Home



Memorial Garden



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-THU: 4:00pm until ?? hrs.
 FRI: 8am until ?? Breakfast & Lunch served
 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
 Since February 2014

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

In this issue:

Page 1	Index (Nostalgic photos of yesteryear have been placed throughout the newsletter)
Page 2	Commander, 1 st -2 nd Vice Cdrs. reports
Page 3	Adjutant & ALA reports
Page 4	ALA cont'd. & SAL reports
Page 5	ALR & SAL Adjutant reports
Page 6	E-Board, Website & Canteen Reports
Page 7	BINGO & Past Cdrs. Club reports
Page 8	Paid advertizing, business cards
Page 9	Cowboy Night 2017 Event Flyer
Page	



NEVER FORGET ~ POW's & MIA's

Commander Dan Wortmann ~

Here we are in the month of Dec. and the end of the year is closing fast. We are ending the year on a good note! We hosted some really good Christmas parties and birthday parties with much success.

We went to another K-9 graduation and after talking with them we have decided that Post 233 will host a special April 2017 graduation ceremony. This will be the 5 year anniversary of when we started hosting the Warriors graduations. Please come out and support them every month at Camp K9 and be sure to attend in April.

Finally, I can't say thank you enough for all of the help at the Post the last month. We are going to have a good close out for the year.

Wishing a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy and safe New Years to all!

For God and Country,

Dan

2009 ~ Post 233 roof replacement in progress



1st Vice Commander Jim Durnal ~

To all members who have yet to renew your membership for 2017, your current card expires on December 31st. Our bartenders will be checking member cards on January 1, service will be denied in the absence of a 2017 member card.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For God and Country,

Jim

2nd Vice Commander Susan Severson ~

2016 is in the rearview mirror and that means a season of New Hope and New Beginnings is upon us. It is my sincere desire to see the kind of successes we had in November & December continue into the new year. We can do it with your help!

As I head into my final 6 months as your 2nd Vice Commander, I have some great meals and entertainment on tap, and I hope you'll not only come out and enjoy, but that you will invite many friends to join you. Please be sure you are looking at our Facebook page, the weekly newsletter email, and the website events calendar for up-to-the-minute updates.

If you didn't have a chance to come out and listen to some of our new entertainment in 2016, stay tuned! I have Post favorite "Collage" booked once a month and we have added a new favorite, "Highway Jones", who will also be playing once a month. Another new band in the rotation is "Overstreet", led by Barry Overstreet. And on Saturdays, Chrissi will continue with karaoke nights, thanks to the generous support of the SAL. Whenever possible, we are now offering a small meal on Saturdays. More volunteers will help us keep that up; if you can volunteer to provide a meal, either with your labor or your financial donation, please contact me.

Happy New Year, and I'll see you around the Post!

For God and Country,

Susan

2010 ~ Post 233 Oyster Roast



Department Membership goal for

January is 85%, renew now!

Adjutant Ted Veber ~

The post membership renewals are currently just over 65% and we need to be at or over 85% in January. We need your support, so please renew now.

There will not be Sunday football at the Post on Christmas Day, we will resume again on January 1st 2017.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

For God and Country,

Ted

ALA President Linda Williams ~

The American Legion Auxiliary would like to wish you ALL "A Happy New Year" Post 233!

Please join me in a moment of prayer for the loss of our veterans, members and loved one's who have passed away this year! May they all rest in PEACE! And may their families find Peace.

Please read till the end! Look what WE HAVE DONE IN JUST 6 MONTHS!

As I, Linda Williams, ALA Unit 233 President close my eyes and reflect on the year 2016; I am astonished to see what our mighty Post 233 VOLUNTEERS have done! As Commander Dan Wortmann said to me, Linda I want it to be about "FAMILY" So on that note I started making our game plan for the year! FamilyFamily...Then our new ALA State President Kelli Becraft, Action Plan is revealed "Navigating the course for veterans and their families!"

I started off as American Legion Auxiliary President on July 1st, for the Auxiliary Year 2016-2017. With new Commander's, Director and officers we all tried to pull together and strengthen our membership. Our goal was to bring the Legion Family back together! But, it seems to have pushed some members away feeling unwanted, unappreciated, unloved, uninvolved, but I beg to differ, just a few things WE ALL HAVE DONE together! If it was not for ALL OF THE INITIATIVES AL, ALA, SAL, ALR "WE" as a POST could not have pulled this off.....

Between all the entities approximately 150 meals of some sorts have been cooked in our kitchen at Post 233 from July – December 2016 (6 months) that's a lot of volunteer time! From Taco Tuesday's, Wednesday Night Dinners, Thursday Night Bingo, Friday Night dinners with Entertainment, Saturday Events, Sunday Breakfast every Sunday, NFL Food and snacks, private events for the good of the POST! WOW! We started off July 3rd with the 4th of July Party at Post 233, Family, Food, and Fun! The SAL started BINGO and it continues to grow each month! In August the ALA started

cont'd >

ALA cont'd from pg. 3 column 1

Month! The AL, SAL continues to cook every Friday Night trading Fridays and rocking the Post with great entertainment. Every Sunday an entity cooks breakfast serving up the best breakfast in town! In August we started ALA Post 233'S "STUFF THE POST" with School supplies. We gave 13 fully packed ready to go to school back packs to children of all ages throughout our community. What a wonderful feeling helping children get a better education! Moving on to September, each month we attended meetings with all community veterans councils, cemetery councils, Sheriff's Office (ShAdCo) councils, getting information to pass on and help our veterans and their families. We went to Schools, conferences, conventions, meetings and 5th District meeting, staying involved with current information. We all used Internet networking such as emailing, Facebook, twitter, so on and so forth to obtain new members, educate the public about the AL, ALA, SAL, ALR and are events. We attended the LEGION FAMILY MONUMENT SERVICE at Jacksonville National Cemetery. It's a beautiful stone if you have not seen it, you must put it on the-to-do list. We came together and cleaned the Post from top to bottom for the holiday season! Moving on quickly now into October cooking, cooking, and more cooking, bingo, Friday night steak, then the ALA Halloween Party! What a great time by all! We all as a family had a great time volunteering! Running into NovemberWe are off to Local school Ocean Palms Elementary school. Every year they do a Veterans singing patriot songs and paying tribute to our local, retired and active military veterans. It is a wonderful service to attend. On Nov. 11th we attended the Palm Valley Cemetery annual Veterans Day Service. The Auxiliary President and a Junior member Sarah Paul help set a wreath at the service. Commander Dan encouraged us to be "A United Family at the Cemetery". To show the public we are UNITED and family orientated at the American Legion Post 233. After the cemetery service, we went back to Post 233 for the Annual Veterans Day Luncheon. Once again we all pulled together and made this very special for every veteran who attended. We moved on to Fall conference down in Orlando, for 2 days, back to 5th district meeting on Sunday at 2 pm, while planning the Thanksgiving Dinner menu! Everyone pulling together, we had enough food to feed a small army! Turkey and all the fixings! Post 233 members, brought in enough food to fill 6 big Food boxes packed to the top, 3-boxes of food had turkeys, and 3 boxes of food had \$25.00 gift certificate to Winn-Dixie to get turkeys. Post 233 members stepped up and brought in a lot of food! Once again WE ALL STEPPED UP! Cooking, cooking and more cooking Now we are in December? What ...I can't slow down ... Thursday Bingo, Friday Johnny Bravo and Steaks, Monday Sawgrass party of 200, Post 233 members working hard for the good of the POST! Tuesday, Taco Tuesday inside sold (83 tacos) outside private boat parade party of 25 sold outside (81tacos).

cont'd on pg.4 column 1



ALA cont'd from pg.3 column 2

Wednesday night ALA cookbook dinner, Thursday "Men's Party of 90" Steaks on the outside grill, and SAL BINGO on back their Cook Book Dinners every 1st Wednesday of the inside of the Post we also had visitors our State of FL ALA President Kelli Becraft, 5th District President Robbin Walker, and Department Constitutional Bylaws Pat Devine joined in on the BINGO Fun! The men's party also donated dinner to the ladies 1-lb steaks with all the fixings! Friday Night steak night entertainment Collage and private birthday party outside! WOW! Moving on to Sunday, Breakfast for special Dignitaries State of FL AL Commander Joe Magee, State of FL ALA President Kelli Becraft, 5th District Commander Fred Matthews, 5th District President Robbin Walker, and Department Constitutional Bylaws Pat Devine came to Post 233 for our very famous breakfast buffet! After serving our guest's we were off to Post 129 for our 5th District meeting at 2pm. On to Dec. 16th we had our Post 233 annual Christmas Adult Party with our Ugly Sweater Contest. All entities stepped up and pulled it all together! Can't stop yet ...Dec. 17th ALA Annual Children's Christmas Party with Santa and Elfie, and our Palm Valley Fire Department. We had 32 children attended and received a gift and goodie bag from Santa! What a great time by all! While some of us stayed behind to see Santa and the children open their presents, others went to the Jacksonville National Cemetery to help place Christmas Wreaths on the veteran's graves. Over 246 motorcycles and cars help escort the Wreaths Across America Trucks to the National Cemetery for placement....What an amazing sight! As we wind down for the year 2016, we will have our ALA Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 25th. God Bless all and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all Faiths! The ALA Members would like to THANK all of Post 233's MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND GUEST'S for helping ALA Unit 233 – have a very successful 2016 Year! Thank you, God Bless You ALL!

January the Auxiliary will be cooking Wednesday Night Cook Book Dinners the 1st Wednesday of every Month. Next one is January 4, 2017 at 6:30-8:00 pm.

The Auxiliary Monthly Meeting is the 2nd Monday of each Month (January 9th, 2017 at 7 pm). If you need more info please contact me at lindaw186@bellsouth.net.

The Auxiliary Breakfast is the 4th Sunday of the month (January 22nd from 9:00 am to 11:30 am).

Don't forget our next 5th District Meeting January 8, 2017 at 2pm ~ Post 250, 3939 County Road 218, Middleburg, FL 32068.

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.

cont'd >

ALA cont'd

Volunteer it feels GREAT! 10 minutes, 1 hour whatever you can do we'll take it! As they sayIt 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

SAL Commander Roger Akey ~

December was yet another busy month for the SAL. As you may know, the SAL is responsible for two Friday night dinners, the third Wednesday dinner, breakfast at least twice a month on Sundays and we operate our Thursday night Bingo Games as well as providing support for the Sunday NFL (Jaguars) game day. Also, we are now sponsoring Saturday evening karaoke which will help Canteen profits.

It is that time of year to pay your dues. Our reported membership level is now at approximately 50%. We know the renewal cards were late in arriving but we need you to step up and get your 2017 dues paid as soon as possible. Last month, we voted to modify our dues structure. SAL dues have increased to \$35 beginning November 12, 2016 for the rest of the year. So, in future years you have an incentive to pay early to save money and qualify for the Early Bird benefit. See Howard, our Adjutant, with your payment.

Remember, if you have not paid your dues by January 1st, your Canteen privileges will be suspended. Don't let that happen to you.

Communication is important so when you pay your dues, please give us a current email address so if it is necessary to provide additional information, schedules or in case of emergencies, we will have the ability to contact you.

We certainly appreciate all of you who volunteer to help at our events. Last year we had 123 members so we should not have to beg anyone for help. If you could volunteer just one time a year, we would have all the help we could use. Failure to participate is your loss. We have a quality SAL Squadron and you can be a part of it by attending our meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7PM and volunteering when you can.

Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season!

For God and Country,

Roger



ALR Director Kevin Terranella:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our Terrific Post 233 Taco Team served up a record smashing.....drum roll.... trumpets..... 163, that's ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THREE Tacos in just one evening in December. Kathy, BJ, Betty and Jeff are killing it!!!! (And they sure could use some help hint –hint- hint when they request for volunteers).

Anyone in good standing at our Post 233 AL, ALA, and SAL is eligible to be a rider. Only sense of humor required, no motorcycle required. Contact Kathy Church our membership director if interested.

Post 233 riders joined up with nearly 300 other patriotic bikers escorting the trucks carrying wreaths to the Jacksonville National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. It was extremely foggy ride so a big THANKS and thumbs up to our state and local law enforcement for ensuring a safe ride.

On February Post 233 Riders will be holding our annual charity event to support Fisher House. We welcome donations from AL, ALA, and SAL in support of this charity event. Please support your Post 233 riders and Fisher House by signing up and doing the ride in your car or bike. Everyone who registers for the ride will be eligible for door prizes and raffle. See post bulletin board for event details and registration.

FLORIDA HELMIT LAW:

Anyone 16 years of age but less than 21 years of age must wear a Department approved helmet when operating or riding upon a motorcycle. Persons at least 21 years of age may ride a motorcycle without a helmet if they can show proof of medical insurance coverage in the amounts of at least \$10,000.00 that will pay for injuries they may incur in a motorcycle crash. A separate motorcycle medical insurance policy card or other forms of health insurance coverage will suffice, such as employee group or private health insurance cards. Law officers shall make final determination if proof of insurance is acceptable. Per s. 316.211 FS.

A GOOD RIDER HAS BALANCE, JUDGMENT, AND GOOD TIMING. SO DOES A GOOD LOVER.

SAVE THE DATE:

January 1st. Blessing of the bikes bloody Mary breakfast and fun run at AL Post 283 in Arlington 0830.

January 20-22 First ALR Florida Summit at Cocoa Beach FL

February 18th Post 233 ALR annual charity event to support Fisher House

February 26 - March 3 Florida State Legacy Ride starting at Post 347 Lady Lake FL (near The Villages) and ending at Post 283 Jacksonville

March 3-5 Florida State Rally hosted at Post 283

[cont'd >](#)



ALR cont'd

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. - For membership information contact Kathy Church at bartenderpost233@yahoo.com - Stay connected: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/alr233/> ~ <http://www.facebook.com/groups/alr5thDistrictFL/> ~ <http://www.alr5thfl.org/> tweet us @ ALR233FL
- Virna Waldron – Secretary 817-791-3583 mobile
Kevin Terranella – Director 904-657-7298 - mobile

Riding for God and Country,

Kevin

2011 ~ Post 233 floor replacement project



SAL Adjutant Howard Sheble ~

The SAL is closing 2016 with our most successful year at Post 233. This has been accomplished by across-the-board all entities volunteers. We sincerely thank all of you for your help and time in volunteering to make this happen.

We feel our blueprint for success both financial and operation wise is working very nicely and this could not have been accomplished without everyone from Post 233 contributing to that success--Kudos!

In 2017 let's all continue to support our Post and resolve to move forward with a positive outlook and renewed effort for the success of our operation to serve our Veterans.

For God and Country,

Howard

Executive Board welcomes new member

David Boyd ~

I was born in England as a naturalized citizen in 1954, and came to the states with military father and traveled the country.

At age 16, I moved to Connecticut and met my future bride, Kathy, in high school. At age 18, in 1972, I joined the Marines and within two years married Kathy.

While in the Marines I was a mechanic on F-4s and F-18s and retired in 94.

In 1996 I was hired on with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and worked patrol in the Mandarin area for 20 years whereby I recently retired.

We currently have two children and three grandchildren of which one is in the Marine Corps, one in the Army, and one in high school. Kathy and I reside in Del Web where I wait patiently for Kathy to retire so that we can travel the USA in our RV.

For God and Country,

Dave

2012 Pavilion revitalization upgrade



Website, Roy Havekost-webmaster ~

As of this publication the Post website has been visited by more than 33,448 individuals. These viewers have read over 69,711 pages of information that is currently posted on the website.

In 2017 the website will celebrate its' 10th year online, the entire cost of which has been donated by PageAuthors Web Design Co. of St. Johns, FL.

Wishing everyone a prosperous, happy and healthy new year in 2017.

For God and Country,

Roy

2013 Law & Order Awards & Fish Fry



Canteen report ~

I am happy to report that the month of December has been extremely busy around Post 233, with all entities pulling together to provide fun nights and holiday memories for both members and guests.

We were honored to host the Employee Christmas Party for 200 Sawgrass Country Club employees on December 5. Along with the Men's Club Holiday Party on the 8th, the Post 233 adult and Children's parties, a 50th birthday celebration and Kenny Holliday's annual party, we have been full of the spirit of the season around Palm Valley.

We are excited to welcome new bartender Kelly Dillon on board. Kelly is now cooking breakfast and lunch on Friday's at the bar, beginning at 8 am. We are looking forward to 2017 being another fantastic year at Post 233.

Looking forward to a prosperous and happy New Year for all.

Pamela Behrendt, Canteen Manager



The Post 233 calendar of events is online at:

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

POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot

BINGO every Thursday night: 7:00pm





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

From the BINGO Staff ~

December was a good and profitable month for our Bingo Program! The Canteen continues to benefit from our active Thursdays.

Our base of participation has been stable week to week and it allows us to be profitable. Furthermore, it allows us to make our players happy with our payouts. This month, we paid out \$500.00 the first week, \$500.00 the second week and \$350.00 the third week. On December 8th, we had a lucky first time player. A young lady by the name of Linda won the second, third, sixth and seventh games. She took home \$350.00. Yes, she enjoyed herself and brought a friend the next week.

There will be no Bingo on December 22nd. We will be playing Bingo on the 29th.

Most evenings begin with most people enjoying our light meal for a donation of \$3.00 and drinks from the Canteen. Once the games start, most seem very quiet as they want to concentrate but soon the room comes alive and a party atmosphere takes over the room. By the time we play games six and seven, it becomes very loud and people actually cheer for one another. Lots of laughs can be heard.

Let's 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. We have ordered additional signs so, hopefully, our area visitors will increase.

Our team consisting of Howard Sheble, Patty Williams, and our bartender, Debbie, keeps the evening moving. Everyone has a good time and the Canteen benefits. Come on out and join the fun. See you soon.

Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season.



For God and Country
Roger Akey



American Legion Department of Florida
Annual Convention
Marriot Orlando World Center
Orlando, FL
June 29 to July 2, 2017

2014 National Commander Dan Dellinger visits Post 233



Past Commanders Club Roy Havekost ~

The first Sunday in January 2017 is New Years Day. All Past Commanders may sleep in late this day as there will not be a Past Commanders Club meeting. The next meeting will be February 5th, 2017.

Have a happy and healthy New Year.

For God and Country,
PCC Chairman

Roy



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 www.NavyToNavy.com

\$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.

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



2011 Chef Mike & Company ~ Prime Rib Early Bird Dinner



AMERICAN LEGION 233

560 N. Wilderness Trail Palm Valley Ponte Vedra Beach 904-285-2484

7th ANNUAL COWBOY NIGHT

Saddle up partners...it's time for another rootin' and tootin' evening with Dakota Don, Beaumont Ben and the Laredo Ladies

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28th 6:30pm til ??



BBQ PORK BUTTS cooked onsite by Dakota Don & Beaumont Ben will be served up with all the fixins by the Laredo Ladies. ALL for a small donation of only **\$10.00**

Food service will begin at 6:30pm til 9:00pm (or until we sell out)

Entertainment by Wanda and Big John from 7:30pm til ??

Come and experience the best BBQ in all of Palm Valley. Bring your best gal, guy and partners enjoy a fun filled rootin' tootin' evening

Due to the popularity of this event we ask that you RSVP with the number of members and guests that plan on attending. We need a count so we will have enough food and fixins

RSVP by January 15th, 904-285-2484. Leave your name and count with the bartender.

WE NOW ACCEPT



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