

AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

Dept. of FL - 6th District The DYNAMIC 6th News

#BuildingTheHouse #MembershipsTheKey

April, 2025

PENNY'S WORDS OF WISDOM



Happy Spring! By the time this newsletter gets published it will be right at the Deadline for your year-end reports. I have received so many so far and let me tell you that the work our wonderful units in the Dynamite District 6 have done is nothing short of spectacular! I would also like to give a huge congratulations for the District on achieving over 100% membership!!! WOO HOO.

Although our Unit Reports are due April 1 (Remember, deadlines are real!!) , there is still time to apply for National Awards. All of the criteria and deadline information is on the National Website : <https://member.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form> (after you log in with your membership number)

As we start to transition into a new year, let's not forget that we still have work to do. Many units are getting their delegates and alternates ready through orientations and paperwork for Girls State . 1st and 2nd Rounds of Nominations are going on and elections will be soon. I would like to remind everyone to please be courteous to all new incoming officers, remember you were that person once. Please plan for smooth transitions and be there to answer any questions they may have. For those that are taking on new roles, it's an exciting time for everyone.

Some housekeeping items: Please make sure that Department has your recent IRS 990 Form or other annual report, a recent copy of your annual SunBiz updates, your Department of Agriculture Permit, and if you submit sales tax to the Department of Florida. Please make sure these forms go to treasurer@alaf1.org

A few key dates to remember:

Our District Constitutional Conference will be held on Saturday May 10th at Post 80, St. Cloud. Registration is at 9:30 am and the meeting starts at 10 am .We need to have all units attend so the new District President and Delegate and Alternate to National Convention can be elected.

Department Convention will be June 12-15th at the Hilton Orlando in Lake Buena Vista.

Department Workshop is Friday, July 25 & Saturday, July 26, 2025 at the Altamonte Hilton.

Thank you again for all that you do.

For God and Country,

Penny Kanbara
District 6 President
407-879-2528
district6president@alaf1.org



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The DYNAMIC 6th News

Stories From Our Units

WINTER GARDEN UNIT 63

Celebrating Women of Service



We welcome & celebrate our newest Penpal; Senior Airman Zoe Fetzer by sending her a card with a box of her favorites.

St. Baldrick's Shave Event Fundraiser

With sincere appreciation; Vice President; Kathy Weisner, Treasurer; Wendy Lavery, Sgt-at-Arms; Sue Lowrie volunteered with President; Lynn Bodell at the St. Baldrick's Head Shave Event; March 15th at the 10th Annual Crooked Can Celtic Festival.

A special thank you to Paul & Kathy Weisner for their fantastic fundraising. Grateful for our wonderful shaves and people who donated money online or in person. Together with the community we raised \$2,800.00 for life-saving childhood cancer research.

Our event page is active for fundraising through December 31.

[St. Baldrick's Shave Event 2025](#)

Kind regards,

Lynn Bodell

Unit 63 President, 2024-2025

Cell: 407-562-6205

#buildingthehouse

American Legion Auxiliary Strong

WHAT DID YOUR UNIT DO LAST MONTH?

Send your articles to necolbert@usa.net

BY the 15th of every month

To be included in next month's newsletter

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WINTER PARK UNIT 112

The extra effort President Marge spent contacting our local high schools about identifying qualified candidates to interview for our Girls State delegate positions, we interviewed eight amazing young ladies at the end of February. From this group, we selected two



delegates and two alternates to represent our Unit this summer.

At our March meeting, we welcomed



two new members to our Unit—Karen, one of our Girls State alternates and her Mom, Sara, joined our Unit. We are thrilled to have them as part of our Unit.

We also selected our Nominating Committee at our March meeting and they have already held their first meeting to identify candidates to serve as our officers for 2025-2026. After the willingness of our candidates to serve is confirmed, the slate of officers will be presented at our April meeting where nominations from the floor can be accepted. Elections will be held during our May meeting and our installation should be in July.



One of our members regularly attends the Department VA&R Zoom sessions. During one of those sessions early in the year, an idea was presented to recognize our Post veterans with a birthday cake to celebrate the dates each branch of the military was established. Our Unit adopted this idea in October, and each month with a service branch birthday, we have provided a birthday cake for the Post's meeting. In March, we celebrated the birthday of the American legion.

We contacted the eight elementary schools with whom we work about the Scholastic Achievement awards. Nell has requested the names of one boy and one girl from the 5th grade class to be recognized as of Scholastic Achievement award recipient for 2025. We are looking forward to making these presentations in late May.

We are exploring the idea of collecting underwear and socks for one of our local schools that has quite a few unhoused families. Our goal would be to deliver what we collect to the school at the beginning of the school year.

The Military Officers Association of America, Orlando Chapter, has again asked for our assistance in helping them get a grant from the National Auxiliary Foundation to support their Creative Arts program for Veterans.



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FRUITLAND PARK UNIT 219

Unit 219 in Fruitland Park recently hosted their 50's - 60's Dance to benefit Boys and Girls State.

The Auxiliary had a packed house and they jitterbugged to DJ Diamond Dave until late into the evening.

They raised \$1770. for Girls State and \$1770. for Boys State.

The Pink Ladies made a special appearance.



Does your Unit have a special event coming?

**Please send your information to the 6th District
Legion webmaster, Bob Colbert, so it can be
posted on the Legion Family website.**

Email - bcolbert@usa.net

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LADY LAKE UNIT 347

Recognized by Lake Sumter State College
Supporting Nursing Students through Scholarships



Unit 347 was honored as the "Donor Spotlight" by Lake Sumter State College for their generous support of 12 second-year students with scholarships. This recognition highlights the significant impact the unit has made in fostering education and providing opportunities for future nurses.

Maureen Caswell, President of Unit 347, and Kathy Allen, Treasurer, were present at the college for a special video shoot prior to the dinner. During their visit, they expressed the importance of supporting the nursing program and emphasized the critical role of scholarships in helping students achieve their academic goals.

The 8th Annual Scholarship Dinner, which took place on March 6, 2025, was a momentous occasion attended by Maureen Caswell, Kathy Allen, Lois Bass, and JoLinda Spears. This event celebrated the achievements of the scholarship recipients and underscored the community's commitment to enhancing educational opportunities.



The dedication and generosity of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347 have made a lasting difference in the lives of many students, ensuring that they have the resources and support needed to succeed in their nursing careers. This recognition by Lake Sumter State College is a testament to the unit's unwavering commitment to education and community service.

Women's Veterans Luncheon Presented by American Legion Auxiliary Veteran's Memorial Unit 347



Auxiliary Unit 347 hosted its 31st Women Veterans Luncheon on March 10, 2025, to honor women of service during Women's History month. Each year, The Auxiliary honors the service and sacrifice these women made during a time when the presence of women in service were far and few between. More than 88 female veterans attended. Many of the women veterans belong to the Tri-County Women's Veterans group, Post 347 and/or live locally in Leesburg and Ocala.



Heath Davenport from the American Legion Post 347 Judge Advocate gave a presentation on what has changed in the military with various branches over the years. Vanessa Thomas, Florida Department of Veteran Affairs - Women Veterans' Coordinator, spoke on various benefits for women veterans.

The Auxiliary served a hot meal for lunch along with fabulous charcuterie boxes for each guest. Each of the veterans in attendance received a patriotic umbrella as a parting gift.



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Program Feature of the Month

GIRLS STATE

Girls State is GRREATT!!

All Delegates and Alternates along with their Parent or Guardian are REQUIRED to attend an Orientation to complete their registration.

Saturday, April 12th
American Legion Post 286
529 Fairlane Ave
Orlando, FL 32809
Registration 9:00 am
Meeting 9:30 am

Sunday, May 4th
American Legion Post 219
194 N Fountain St
Fruitland Park, FL 34731
Registration 9:00 am
Meeting 9:30 am



Girls State is GRREATT!!

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Program Feature of the Month

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CHILDREN & YOUTH

Month of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child. Please remember to wear purple on April 18th.

Please remember our Children & Youth picnic on April 5th at Post 117 in Palm Bay. Please see our flyer on Page 15 of this newsletter. We also need baskets for the picnic

If your Unit would like to do the Military Child's Table, the ceremony is on the following two pages:

We need Baskets



Lisa Hoyland: childrenyouth@alafl.org

Children & Youth Picnic
Saturday, April 5 from Noon to 5pm



American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Dr SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909



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Program Feature of the Month

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American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony

C&Y chair: (or Youth #1)	<p>"We will begin today with a ceremony to honor our military children."</p> <p>"Our United States military members answer the call to service every day as they defend freedom around the world. That service often comes at a great personal sacrifice, not only for the service member, but also for their family, their children.</p> <p>"When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq, he said, 'Please don't send cookies, care packages, or socks. Just help take care of our children.' Our country has always supported its military in times of war through community efforts. We have a great capacity to care for the home front. Now is the time for a new Victory garden. In this garden, we can tend to the needs of the military child.</p> <p>"Today we would like to present to you the Military Child's Table Setting, inspired by the POW/MIA ceremony to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our military children.</p> <p>"The Potted Flowering Plant symbolizes that they may flower and flourish where planted.</p>
Youth #2	<i>Enters carrying Potted Flowering Plant and sets on table</i>
C&Y chair: (or Youth #1)	<p>"The Hand Spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new location any place in the world at a moment's notice, where they become fully immersed in the culture, make new friends and acclimate themselves to a new school.</p>
Youth #3	<i>Enters carrying Hand Spade and sets on table</i>

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American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

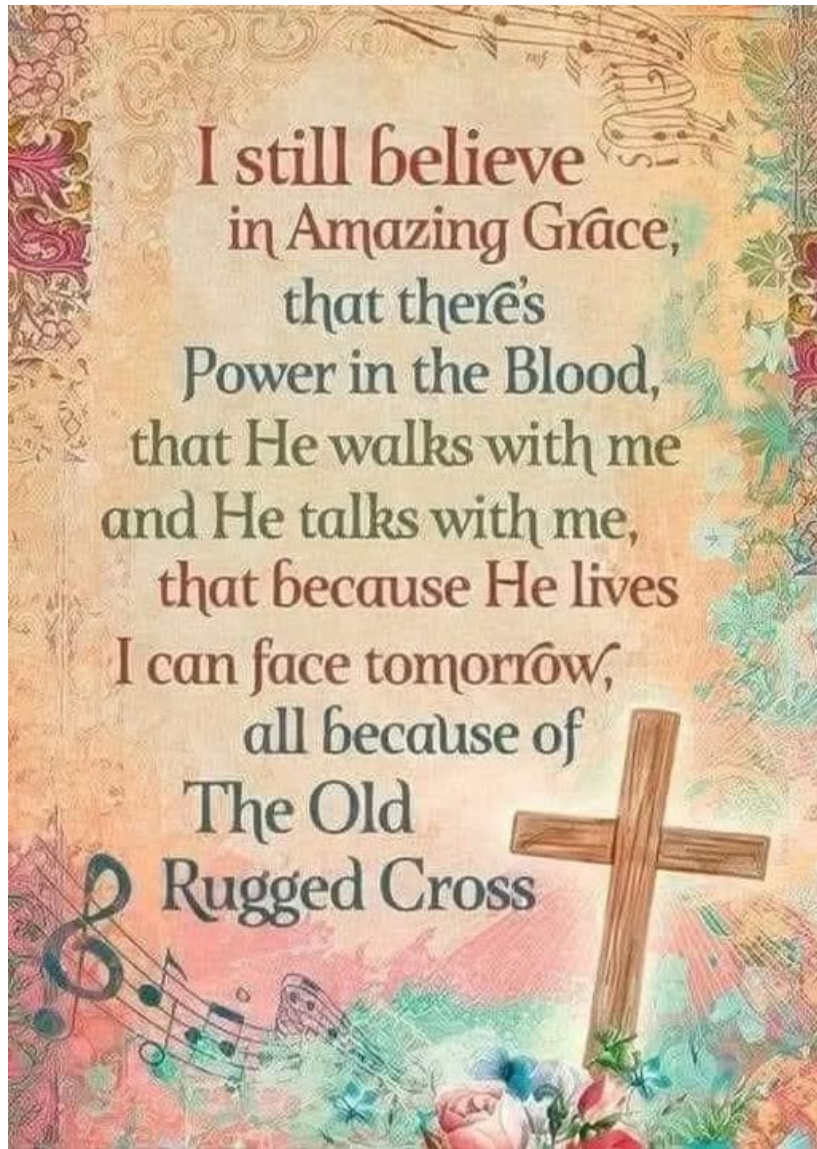
C&Y chair: (or Youth #1)	<p>"The Birthday Cake and Unlit Candles...</p> <p>"Baseball Glove and Ball...</p> <p>"and Ballet Slippers represent the fact that sometimes special occasions are missed by one or both parents while serving their country.</p>
Youth #4, 5 & 6	<p><i>Enter carrying Birthday Cake and Unlit Candles...</i></p> <p><i>Baseball Glove and Ball...</i></p> <p><i>and Ballet Slippers and set on table</i></p>
C&Y chair: (or Youth #1)	<p>"The Family Photo depicting a child or children with their uniformed parent represents the foundation of our country's strength...</p>
Youth #7	<p><i>Enters carrying Family Photo and sets on table</i></p>
C&Y chair: (or Youth #1)	<p>"families united in their commitment to national service and willing to make any sacrifice, both at home and abroad...</p> <p>"to ensure that our flag continues to fly free."</p>
Youth #8	<p><i>Enters carrying US Flag and sets on table</i></p>
ALL	<p><i>Amen.</i></p>

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The Chaplain's Prayer



If your Unit has suffered the loss of one of your members, please remember to notify both our District Chaplain, Paula Fox, and the Department Chaplain, Karen Marks.

Email Karen at chaplain@alafl.org and Paula at foxnails1282@aol.com

The Member Data Form should be completed for each member who has passed and included with your emails.

The Member Data Form should also be emailed to Department Membership at membership@alafl.org so that National's records can be updated.

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Happy Spring - Happy April from your Historian Dara.

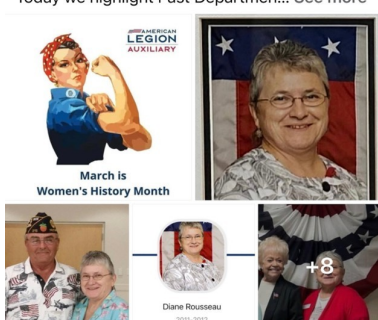
We all know that Units should have sent their reports to their Districts on or before April 1st and Districts are now getting their reports to Department by April 15th.

BUT Historian Awards are not due until May 1st. Please check the website for instructions and specific guidelines.

"If you lived it today, tomorrow it becomes our history - so I'm sure everyone has a story to tell."

I hope that you also got a chance to see the Facebook page for Women's History Month this past March, with many of our 6th District Leaders, Dual Members and Officers highlighted with their Auxiliary story. It is not too late to submit one of these as a "Members Remember" project. You can ask easy questions and write their Auxiliary story or history.

Day 4 #WomenInHistory 2025 #FLALA
#WomenInALAHistory #WomensHistoryMonth
Today we highlight Past Departmen... See more



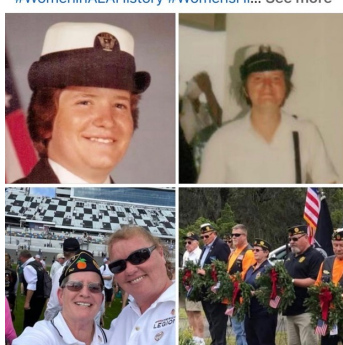
Day 11 Day 5 #WomenInHistory 2025 #FLALA
#WomenInALAHistory #WomensHistoryMonth
Today we Honor Peggy Hearlson. P... See more



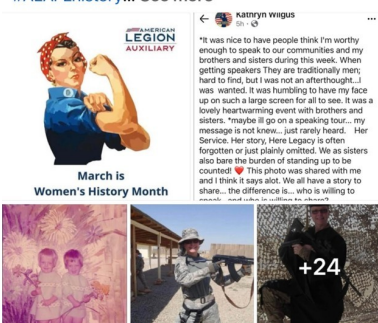
Women's Veteran Luncheon at
American Legion.
Admin Mar 10 · See more



Day 9 #WomenInHistory 2025 #FLALA
#WomenInALAHistory #WomensHi... See more



Day 19 #WomensHistoryMonth 2025
#WomenInALAHistory #WomenInHistory
#ALAFHhistory... See more



On Day 4 - we highlighted: PDP Diane Rousseau,

Day 5 - PDP Peggy Hearlson,

Day 10 - we celebrated all Female Veterans at Unit 347,

Day 9 we honored Lois Halliday and

Day 19 - was for Kathryn Wilgus; all ladies from the 6th District.

These stories can be as long or as short as you'd like. Just take the time to write their story. Have you ever thought about writing about your mentor?

Some of the questions that could be asked are: (and please be very detailed it makes for an interesting story!)

What Unit did you begin your start? (Unit/City/Department)

What Unit do you belong to and where are you a member now? (Unit/City/ #)

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When did you join the American Legion
Auxiliary and have you transferred Units (if so why; did you Move, get married etc.?)
Who did you join under? Be specific please - i.e.: Spouse, Paternal Grandfather, Mother, Sibling, Maternal Grandmother ...etc....
Why did you decide to join?
Tell me about your Family - please name them, if you feel comfortable. Are they Legion Family members?
Who was someone that made you decide to stay in the Auxiliary or what made you continue your membership?
Do you have a mentor in the ALA?
Please list whom and be specific about them, what role did they serve, how did they entice you, what did they do?
What did you want to get out of the Legion family?
What is your favorite part of belonging? What is your educational background?
What is your work background?
What is your favorite ALA Program or committee? And why?
What was one of your most significant achievements either a contribution as a Chairman or what did you do specifically for an event or program?
What are you most proud of as an Auxiliary Member?
Was your Auxiliary Career a traditional one or did you start at a Leadership role right away?
How far have you reached in Leadership and have you met your personal goals?
As Department President, what was your pin, your motto, your colors and your project?
Who have you served under (in the ALA Department President or National) and in what capacity did you serve with them?
What position or role do you aspire in becoming?
Is there an event you wish you could bring to your area?
What else do you think we should know about you personally or professional.

And ** PLEASE share any photos from the past to the present that you would be willing to share.

There are plenty of Awards given for many different History projects - I hope each one of you will submit and have the bragging rights to represent your Unit or the 6th District.

HISTORIAN AWARDS -

Best Written Unit Senior History (1) in each of the 6 Groupings

Best Written District Senior History

Member Remembers - Certificate given for every submission, also sent on to National

Celebrating Women's History – Female Veteran Project - Certificate given for every submission

Best Written Unit, District & Department Junior History

Best Pictorial Unit, District & Department Junior History Book

DEPARTMENT AWARD - The Voorhis Award – Best Pictorial Sr. History Book for Unit or District. Certificates given for each electronic submission.

Thank you all for submitting your reports and I'm looking forward to reading your award submissions and histories. Also don't forget about the new pictorial history book called the Voorhis award given to someone who completes a photo scrapbook.

I thank you again for your support this year as not only your district but department and National historian.

Dara Oliver, American Legion Auxiliary,

Unit 219 Member - 6th District & Department FL Historian 2023-2025 National Historian 2024-2025

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2025 6th District Picnic

Thank you all that came out to support the District 6 Family Picnic held @ American Legion Old Glory Post 183 in Fern Park . It was a big success and it could not have happened without all of the generous donations towards the food and baskets ! It was by far the best by year we have had in a long time . The Cornhole tournament host by Post 243 Oviedo is always a highlight and the Auxiliary team of Patsy and Penny made it all the way to the final round - losing out to Post 53 .

The band Triple Play entertained the crowd on a perfectly sunny day . Squadron 183 member John took guests on boat rides around the lake while TK Wildrick had the riders racing horses and selling her famous strawberries !

We couldn't have done this without it being a tremendous team effort . Thank you to all involved !

Enjoy the photos !



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2025 6th District Picnic



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American Legion
Department of FL
Presents

Inspire Empower Educate
CHILDREN & YOUTH
FLORIDA LEGION

Kids Zone

Raffles
50/50
Poker Run
Stops TBD

Children & Youth Picnic

Saturday April 5th 2025
12pm - 5pm

Music by
Doc Holiday

American Legion
Post 117
189 Veterans Dr
Palm Bay, FL
32908

1/3 Pound Burger or 1/4 pound Hot Dog \$10
Kids under 12
1/4 Pound Burger or Hot Dog \$5
All Meals Served with Sides

Questions: Contact
AL Dept C&Y Chairman
Rick Johnson 954-242-4496
MaryAnn Spellman 917-834-5763

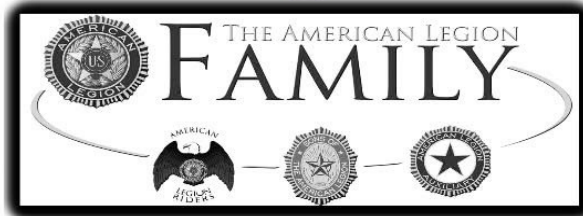
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American Legion Post 55



Car and Truck Show

Mission BBQ

1225 E HWY 50

CLERMONT FL 34711



All proceeds benefit
SLHS NJROTC

Saturday , April 26th 9-3pm

AWARDS: Best of show, Ford, Chevy, Mopar, Import, Rat Rod, Truck, People's choice, NJROTC choice, & Mission BBQ choice.

● Car Corral ● Welcome Party 10am ● DJ 10-3
● Raffles ● Silent Auction items ●

Registration @ 9-11 am, for more info, contact
Mike 407-666-6668 OR John 407-607-6725

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*Fundraiser for President Charlotte Bass's
Special Project Operation 300*

PURSE



AUCTION

FRIDAY MAY 9TH, 2025

AMERICAN LEGION POST 80 ST CLOUD

DINNER FROM 5PM - 7PM

STEAK DINNER MENU FROM POST 80 FROM 5PM-7PM

Purse Auction Immediately Following AT 7PM

***SPECIAL GUEST MODELS MAKING A RETURN
APPEARANCE***

**LOOKING FOR MALE MODELS AND GENTLY USED
HIGH END PURSES**

Call or Text Penny 407-879-2528

1019 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE ST CLOUD 34769

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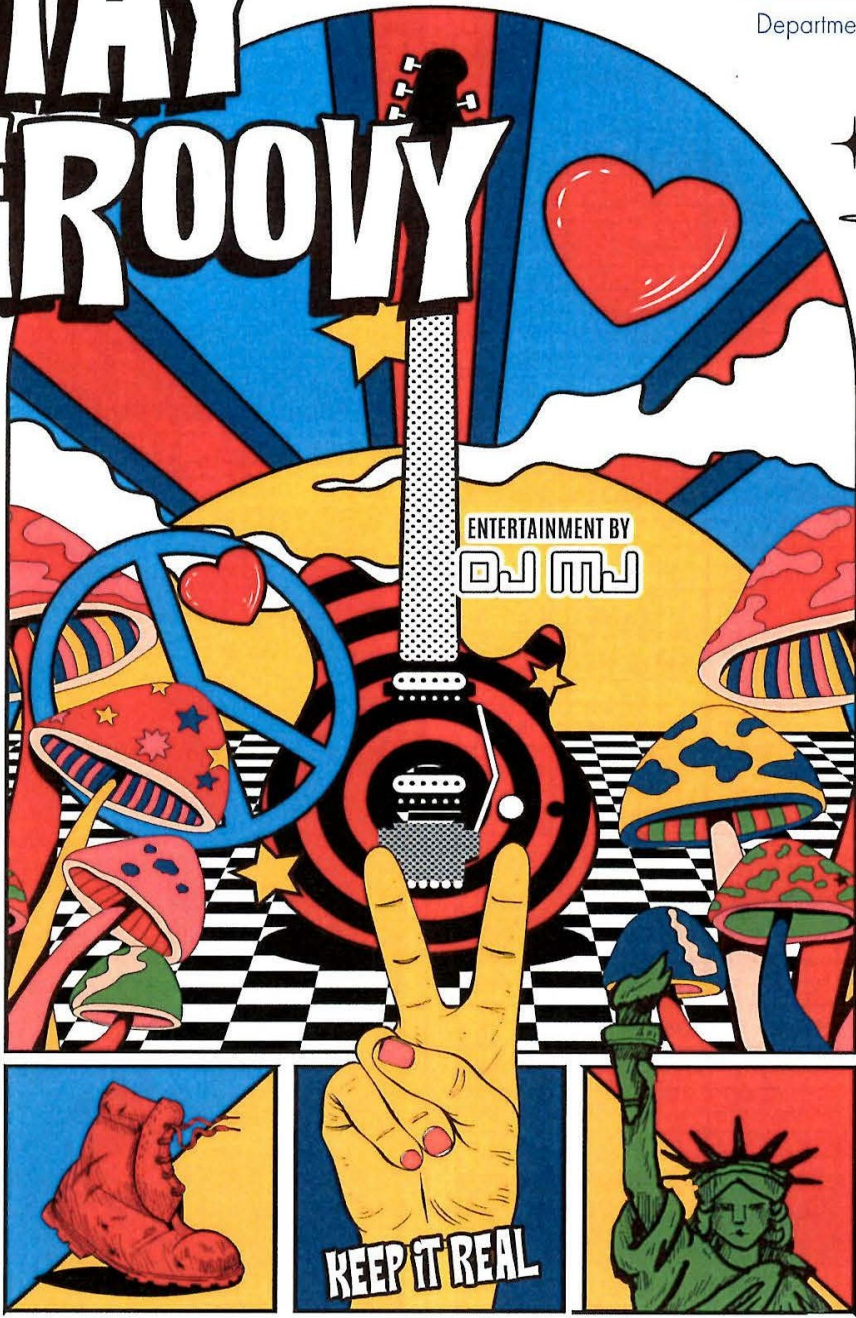
Looking for gently loved purses for this great fundraiser! if you have any, please bring to the District meeting or contact Penny for pick up . 407-879-2528

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STAY GROOVY



COMMANDER'S PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

AMERICAN
LEGION

Department of Florida

FRIDAY ★ JUNE 13, 2025 ★ 7:30PM - 9:30PM

HILTON ORLANDO LAKE BUENA VISTA ★ INTERNATIONAL SOUTH BALLROOM

ENTERTAINMENT BY
DJ MJ

KEEP IT REAL

\$65 TICKETS

Cocktail hour starts at 6:30PM. Dinner is 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Dress-up is optional.
Visit floridalegion.org/banquet for additional information and online tickets.

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2024-2025 District Calendar

Department of Florida Children & Youth Picnic

Saturday, April 5, 2025 — 12n—5pm
Post 117, 189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, FL 32905

Car & Truck Show by Post 55

Saturday, April 26, 2025 - 9 AM to 3 PM
Mission Bar-B-Q, 1225 E Hwy 50, Clermont, FL 34711

Purse Auction Fundraiser for Operation 300

Friday, May 9, 2025
Dinner from 5-7pm—see flyer on Page 16
Post 80, 1019 Pennsylvania Ave, St. Cloud, FL 34769

6th District Family District Constitutional Conference

Saturday, May 10, 2025 - 10 AM
Post 80, 1019 Pennsylvania Ave, St. Cloud, FL 34769

Department of Florida 2025 Convention

June 12-15, 2025
Orlando Hilton Lake Buena Vista, 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Department Auxiliary Workshop

July 25 and 26
Altamonte Hilton
More information to follow on room blocks

American Legion 2025 National Convention

August 22-28, 2025
Tampa, Florida

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2024-2025 District Officers and Chairmen

Position	Name	Email Address	Phone #
PRESIDENT	Penny Kanbara	district6president@alafl.org	407-879-2528
SECRETARY	Patsy Sewell	patsysewell13@gmail.com	407-670-8905
TREASURER	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
CHAPLAIN	Paula Fox	foxinails1282@aol.com	407-747-0725
HISTORIAN	Dara Oliver	alamemberdoliver@gmail.com	321-543-1069
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Ruth Cullver	rullver47@gmail.com	727-579-5356
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
AMERICANISM	Wendy Lavery	wlavery23@yahoo.com	321-662-5120
AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND	Marilyn Hench	mwhench@yahoo.com	407-810-7615
CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES	N/A		
CHILDREN & YOUTH	Patsy Sewell	patsysewell13@gmail.com	407-670-8905
COMMUNITY SERVICE	Diane Rousseau	flfrogs@aol.com	352-430-4714

Position	Name	Email Address	Phone #
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS	Nell Colbert	necolbert@usa.net	321-303-7445
EDUCATION	Jennifer Summers	teech2116@yahoo.com	407-953-4397
GIRLS STATE	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES	Jasmine Harris	jasminen710@gmail.com	407-340-2560
LEADERSHIP	Penny Kanbara	gatorpenny@icloud.com	407-879-2528
LEGISLATIVE	Penny Kanbara	gatorpenny@icloud.com	407-879-2528
MEMBERSHIP	Patsy Sewell	patsysewell13@gmail.com	407-670-8905
NATIONAL SECURITY	Laurie Mesa	bballmom94@gmail.com	407-375-0261
PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY	Donna Schneider	unit55president@gmail.com	352-205-6740
POPPY	Robin Shellhammer	rshellhammer@gmail.com	407-247-7177
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Eileen Scates	eileenscates@gmail.com	321-229-2265
V. A. & R.	Carol Pirone-Udell	nycarol2u@gmail.com	914-373-9947

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