

# AMERICAN LEGION

## AUXILIARY

### Dept. of FL - 6th District The REDDY 6th News

#PassionForVets

#HeartsAsOne

August, 2025

#### CAROL'S WORDS OF WISDOM



##### Hello 6th District

Thought I would introduce myself to the Dynamic 6<sup>th</sup> District Units.



My name is Carol Pirone-Udell, and I have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for the past 24 Years both in NY and now in Lady Lake Florida Unit 347. I have held many positions from mostly all committee chairmanships, Secretary, County Positions, and in Florida I was Unit President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Member at Large and VA & R chair for both Unit and District. I also was Department Chair for Past Presidents Parley In 2016-17. I Was the 6<sup>th</sup> District President and was awarded the District President of the Year award.

I am eligible under my Dad from WW2 (Army), My first Husband Thomas Pirone, (Army) Vietnam who died from Service Connected Injuries, and Alden Udell, who was also a Vietnam Vet (deceased).

My passion is for our Veterans who sacrificed their lives to give us our freedom.

I will be available to all units in the district if you need help or have questions. You can reach me at my email [nycarol2u@aol.com](mailto:nycarol2u@aol.com) or by Phone (914) 373-9947.

I look forward to visiting your units and if you have any events, if available, I would love to attend.

Let's make the 6<sup>th</sup> District the best in Florida and continue the great job and success our past 6<sup>th</sup> District President Penny Kanbara had during her 2 years. I have big shoes to follow.

#PassionForVeterans

#HeartsAsOne

##### Inside this Issue:

Page 2

- Unit 19

Page 3

- Unit 112

Page 4

- Unit 183

Page 5

- Unit 219

Page 6

- Unit 286

Page 7

- Unit 330

Page 8

- Unit 331

Pages 9—10

- Unit 347

Page 11

- Program Feature—Leadership

Page 12

- Program Feature—Membership

Page 13

- Program Feature—VA & R

Page 14

- Make Everyone Feel Welcome

Page 15

- The Chaplain's Prayer

Page 16

- School of Instruction

Page 17

- Legion Family USA 250 Challenge

Page 18

- 2025-2026 Department Chairs

Page 19

- District Calendar of Events

Page 20

- District Chairman's List



# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

### Stories From Our Units

Page 2

#### ORLANDO UNIT 19

Evelyn DeRouin-Davidson, Junior from Unit 19, went to the Youth Equestrian Development Association's national competition in McDonald Tennessee, June 2-9. She flew to Atlanta to meet her coach and get the horses ready to travel.

Her responsibilities included feeding, brushing, putting on bridles, saddles, warming up the horses, cleaning their stalls, and hosing the horses down at the end of the day. She also had to decorate two stalls for a competition. She will have more than 60 hours of community service.



## WHAT DID YOUR UNIT DO LAST MONTH?

**Send your articles to [necolbert @ usa.net](mailto:necolbert@usa.net)**

**BY the 20th of every month**

**To be included in next month's newsletter**

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

Page 3

### WINTER PARK UNIT 112

Boy what a summer we've had!



In late April, one of our dear sisters passed away after a long battle with cancer so our charter was draped in her honor.

We finished off the school year with Americanism Essay Contest and Scholastic Achievement Award medals and certificate presentations at five local elementary schools.



One of our Juniors, who was also one of our Girls State delegates, competed in a swim meet in Ocala and took 2nd place in the Women Senior 50 Breast competition.

One of our members visited Nashville in June and participated in the Music Remembers Project by writing and recording a message for the family of a fallen service member.



We have enjoyed celebrating the birthdays of the branches of the military with birthday cakes. We celebrated the Army's birthday at the Post's June meeting and we will celebrate the Coast Guard's birthday at our Joint Post and Auxiliary meeting in August where our Girls State delegates and the Boys State delegates will give their presentations.



July saw the installation of our Unit officers in our traditional joint Legion Family Installation ceremony. Since many of our officers for the entire family live out of the local area, those officers were installed via Zoom. We were recognized for achieving 117% membership for 2025.

Our members attended both the Department Convention in June and the Auxiliary Workshop in July and we are looking forward to kicking off our first project for the fall, our own version of Tushies and Toes, where we will be collecting socks and underwear for one of the elementary schools we support. Our Junior member is also an NJROTC student at Winter Park High School and she is coordinating collection efforts at the school to support our newest project.

And finally, we just learned that we have been awarded another \$2500 grant from the National Auxiliary Foundation that will support the Orlando Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America!

WHEW!!!

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

# The REDDY 6th News

Page 4

## FERN PARK/ALTAMONTE UNIT 183

The new officers for Unit 183 include:

### ALA Unit 183

#### List of Officers and Chairman 25-26

Name	Postion
Pam Baumbach	President
Ashton Dotson	1st Vice
Wendy Lavery	Secretary
Jeannell Lambert	Chaplain
TK Wildrick	Treasurer
Brittany Parks	Sgt-at-Arms
Brittany Parks	Historian
Amy Martin	Parliamentarian
Heidi Rosenzweig	Members-at-Large
Marilyn Hench	Members-at-Large
Bonnie Koontz	Members-at-Large
Amy Martin	Membership Chair

#### Program Chairs

Ashton Dotson	AEF
Pam Baumbach	Americanism
Ashton Dotson	C&Y
Pam Baumbach	Community Service
Wendy Lavery	Constitution & Bylaws
Vacant	Education
TK Wildrick	Girls' State
Vacant	Juniors
Pam Baumbach	Leadership
Vacant	Legislative
Vacant	National Security
Vacant	Past Presidents Parley
Wendy Lavery	Poppy
Wendy Lavery	Public Relations
Brittany Parks	Veterans' Affairs

**Congratulations to these incoming Unit leaders!**



# **Dept. of FL - 6th District**

# **The REDDY 6th News**

Page 5

## FRUITLAND PARK UNIT 219

### 2025-2026 OFFICERS

#### Office

#### Phone #

#### Email

President Clay Norman	817-991-9349	cell	clay.norman@me.com
Vice President Dara Oliver	321-543-1069	cell	alamemberdoliver@gmail.com
Treasurer Jean Mayer	862-268-5726	cell	greg112170@gmail.com
Secretary Diane Rousseau	352-430-4714	cell	flfrogs@aol.com
Chaplain Debra Riggs	407-466-1056	cell	riggsdeb56@aol.com
Sgt-at-Arms Ranee Kelly	863-600-7173	cell	kellyrane3@gmail.com
Historian Sheryle Hackman	850-819-4006	cell	s1heaven@yahoo.com

#### Members at Large:

Brenda Carter	352-255-6043	cell	spikelovemama@aol.com
Reta Hoernis	352-989-7636	cell	rst936@aol.com
Soyna Wilcock	540-494-3745	cell	soynawilcock51@gmail.com

Past President Toni Stainbrook	352-617-8908	cell	tunage63031@yahoo.com
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Membership Chairman Becky Eberly	513-907-4982	cell	Eberly_r@yahoo.com
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**Congratulations to these incoming Unit leaders!**

**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](mailto:bcolbert@usa.net)**

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

Page 6

ORLANDO UNIT 286



# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

Page 7

### MID-FLORIDA LAKES UNIT 330

Pictured below is Miss Lake County along with Unit 330 President and 6th District President Carol.



# Dept. of FL - 6th District

# The REDDY 6th News

Page 8

## ORLANDO UNIT 331

Pictured below are the new officers for Unit 331.



Congratulations to these incoming Unit leaders!

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

Page 9

### LADY LAKE UNIT 347



The 2025 Veterans Day Lunch organized by Unit 347 was a resounding success, thanks in large part to the dedication of Barbara Kyle and her team of volunteers. Despite the unpredictable spring weather, which necessitated moving the Memorial service into the American Legion Hall, the Auxiliary rose to the occasion with grace and efficiency. On May 30th—the official Memorial Day—176 veterans and their guests were welcomed into the warm embrace of the hall. Tina Burgess arranged to have two

Gold Star parents speaking on the loss of their sons at the luncheon. The setting, while indoors, was a fitting tribute, filled with the symbols and stories that define the American Legion's rich history. Flags adorned the walls, and tables were thoughtfully arranged to foster camaraderie among attendees. The soft hum of conversation, punctuated by laughter and the sharing of memories, created an atmosphere of both reflection and joy.



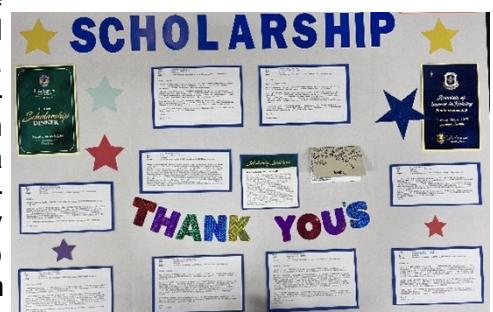
Every year, communities across the nation come together in a show of solidarity, remembrance, and support for those who have served in the military. Among the many traditions that unite people in this cause, the distribution of the red poppy stands out as a vivid symbol of both sacrifice and hope. This year, under the inspired leadership of new chairs, Deb Stanley and Varena Timm, Unit 347 orchestrated a highly successful Poppy Drive. Unit 347 has a proud tradition of advocating for veterans, supporting military families, and fostering patriotism in the local community. The Poppy Drive is a cornerstone of their annual efforts, providing vital financial resources designated entirely for programs benefiting disabled veterans.



Through fundraising and outreach, the Auxiliary ensures that the needs of those who have sacrificed for their country are neither overlooked nor forgotten.



Unit 347 Auxiliary has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to education and community support through its recent contributions to Lake Sumter State College. With a spirit of generosity and a vision for empowering future healthcare professionals, the Auxiliary has made a profound difference in the lives of nursing students and the wider community. Unit 347 Auxiliary had presented Lake Sumter State College with \$36,000, specifically designated for 12 second-year nursing students. This substantial scholarship support underscores the organization's recognition of both the financial challenges faced by students and the vital importance of nursing education.



For many recipients, this financial assistance represents not just an opportunity, but a lifeline and is often the decisive factor that enables them to complete their studies and pursue their calling in healthcare. In a memorable moment that exemplifies the Auxiliary's ongoing commitment, President Maureen Caswell surprised the school community by presenting an additional contribution of \$10,000 to benefit the next group of nursing students. This gesture not only reinforces the Unit's dedication but also serves as an inspiration for continued philanthropy in the region.

At the June meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347, a heartfelt moment unfolded as President Maureen Caswell recognized the remarkable contributions of one of the unit's own—Jeanie Tieskoetter. Over the past two years, Jeanie's hands and heart have combined in a mission of warmth and gratitude, knitting Afghans for veterans as part of the VA&R Program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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# Dept. of FL - 6th District

# The REDDY 6th News

Page 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

## LADY LAKE UNIT 347



For Jeanie Tieskoetter, service goes far beyond words. In two years, she has lovingly crafted 54 Afghans—and the number continues to grow. Each stitch represents hours of dedication, each completed Afghan a tangible expression of appreciation for the veterans in the community. Jeanie's goal is as ambitious as it is compassionate: she aims to ensure that every veteran in the three largest assisted living facilities supported by Unit 347 receives one of her handmade Afghans. Through her work, she brings comfort and recognition to those who have served.

In honor of Jeanie's unwavering commitment, President Maureen Caswell presented her with a certificate and a bouquet of flowers at the June meeting. This gesture of appreciation was witnessed by the membership, who were also shown a copy of a special nomination. President Caswell has put forth Jeanie's name for the prestigious Department of Florida Unit Member of the Year award. This nomination represents not only Jeanie's personal achievements but also the spirit of service that she embodies, and she never asks for reimbursement on her supplies for the Afghans.

The results of the Department of Florida Unit Member of the Year award will be announced at the upcoming Convention in July. Regardless of the outcome, the recognition of Jeanie's ongoing efforts stands as an inspiration to all members. Her dedication has made a lasting impact on the lives of local veterans and serves as a shining example of the values upheld by the American Legion Auxiliary.



**WHAT DOES YOUR UNIT  
HAVE COMING UP  
NEXT MONTH?**

**Send your articles to [necolbert@usa.net](mailto:necolbert@usa.net)**

**BY the 20th of every month**

**To be included in next month's newsletter**

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

### Program Feature of the Month

Page 11

#### LEADERSHIP

Happy August everyone. I am passionate about being named the Department of Florida Leadership Chairperson for the 2025-2026 year. This year my main focus is on training and mentoring. For others to be set up for success, it is important that they have the tools at their fingertips and know where to go to do further research.

My chairman's award is featuring a gal named Que. She is a flat cut out that I am encouraging unit Members to create their own Que and share photos of Que with them during meetings, trainings, zoom calls, ALA Academy or anywhere you are learning, mentoring, or inspiring others.

Leadership comes in so many forms, various leadership styles, and challenges. Please join the Leadership Facebook page, ALFA LEADERSHIP to learn more. We will be featuring a segment called *Monday's Mentors*, encouraging our members to submit a short story and photo of someone who has mentored them in their ALA journey. These submissions can be submitted to [leadership@alafl.org](mailto:leadership@alafl.org) .

We will also feature *Survey Says Saturday* - Questions about the ALA and the things you have always wanted to know. Do you have an idea for a question? Please submit them to me, I would love to feature them one week.

I look forward to serving you and if you have any needs or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Penny Kanbara  
Department of Florida Leadership Chairman  
407-879-2528  
[leadership@alafl.org](mailto:leadership@alafl.org)  
#PassionForVets



# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

### Program Feature of the Month

Page 12

#### MEMBERSHIP



Membership Goal for 2026—2024 National Close of Books plus 2% \*

Membership Goal Dates:

75% by 12/1/2025

85% by 3/15/2026

95% by 4/1/2026

100% by May 2026

#### ARE YOU REDDY?



**TALK ABOUT  
IT TUESDAY**

Share your story about why you joined the Auxiliary on the Membership Facebook Group:

**ALAFL MEMBERSHIP**

\* see page 99 in the 2025-2026 Unit guide

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

### Program Feature of the Month

Page 13

VA & R



**Veteran's and Affairs  
Rehabilitation**

### CARING HEART BEAR PROJECT



**Goal is 250 Bears across our state.  
Leading Up to the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our  
Country let us show our veterans we care.**

#### How Can Units Participate.

- Hold a Caring Heart Bear Drive or Run
- Count the Bears collected for end of year reporting.
- (any bear, handheld size, just no detachable parts on bear)
- Members can sew bears for the veterans.
- Donate the bears to veterans in local medical facilities, stand downs, veteran expo's, holidays or any event within your community.
- Take pictures with ALA branding showing how you distributed the caring heart bears.

Contact our Department VA & R Chair, Lisa Hoyland, at:  
[veteransaffairs@alafl.org](mailto:veteransaffairs@alafl.org) for more information

Be sure to follow the Department's VA&R Facebook group

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

# MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME!

Page 14

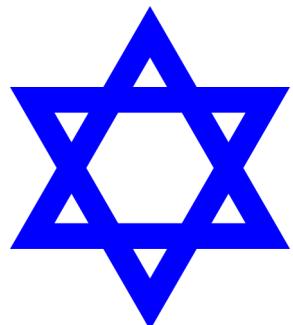
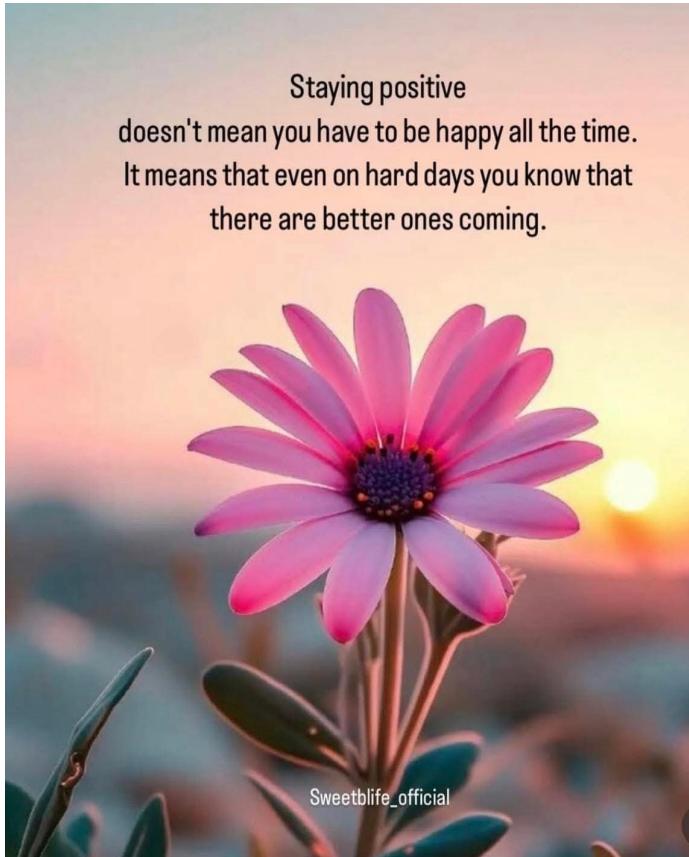


# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

Page 15

### The Chaplain's Prayer—Karen Marks



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](mailto:chaplain@alafl.org) and Paula at [foxinails1282@aol.com](mailto:foxinails1282@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](mailto:membership@alafl.org) so that National's records can be updated.

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

# The REDDY 6th News

Page 16

Leadership

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Americanism

Education

Membership Girls State

Historian

National Security

Legislative

Community

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

AEF

CHILDREN AND YOUTH Juniors

We Are Family

C & B

The American Legion Family

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
6TH DISTRICT PRESENTS

## DISTRICT 6 SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

SATURDAY | AUGUST 30 | 9:30 AM

### LEARN THE PASSION OF THE ALA PROGRAMS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 286  
529 FAIRLANE AVE ORLANDO FL 32809

Made with PosterMyWall.com

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

### Legion Family USA 250 Challenge

Page 17



Join the nationwide movement to celebrate America's 250th birthday with purpose and pride. The **USA 250 Challenge** invites individuals and teams to achieve the goals in some or all three categories — fitness activities, mental wellness and community service. You can choose how to achieve these goals while having fun and supporting our disabled veterans and military families.

**Register and receive your exclusive USA 250 Challenge T-shirt! (Proceeds go to the Veterans & Children Foundation.)**

#### The Challenge Categories:

- **Fitness Challenge** Log 250 miles or hours through walking, running, cycling, swimming, etc. (Team example: 10 members walk 25 miles each.)
- **Wellness Challenge** Achieve the number 250 related to mental and emotional well-being activities. Examples include performing 250 hours of meditation or yoga, conducting 250 Buddy Checks, signing up 250 participants for Be the One training, or Riders could cover 250 miles. (Team example: Five team members each conduct 50 Buddy Checks.)
- **Community Service Challenge** Complete 250 hours of community service or achieve the number 250 related to such an activity. Some examples include collecting and sending 250 care packages to service members, cleaning up gravesites of 250 veterans at a cemetery, teaching flag advocacy to 250 students, and more. (Team example: Post, unit, and squadron members collect items for and distribute 250 care packages for deployed troops.)

**Whether you're a solo participant or part of a team, your impact counts.**

**Registration kicked off July 3. Get involved in one, two, or all three challenges!**

<https://go.legion.giving/usa250challenge/Campaign/Details>

# **Dept. of FL - 6th District**

# **The REDDY 6th News**

Page 18

## **2025-2026 DEPARTMENT CHAIRS**

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN	2025-2026
Joni Taylor	Americanism
Aurora Sanks	AEF
Tammy Zell	Community Service
Rhonna Barber	Constitution & Bylaws
Jenny Arguinzoni	Education
Gail Dupuis	Girls State
Sandy Swafford	Juniors
Penny Kanbara	Leadership
Linda Allen	Legislative
Dawn Davis	Membership
Julie Kay	National Security
Kim Oakes	Poppy
Virna Luke	Public Relations
Ruth Burgess	Risk & Compliance
Janet Woods	Unit Development
Irma Wehrli	Liason
Pat Devine / Diane Rousseau	Resolutions
Linda Teasley / Janet Jefford	Distinguished Guest
Julie Gebhardt	President Page

# **Dept. of FL - 6th District**

# **The REDDY 6th News**

*Page 19*

## **2025-2026 District Calendar**

### **American Legion 2025 National Convention**

August 22-28, 2025  
Tampa, Florida

### **6th District School of Instruction**

August 30, 2025  
9am  
American Legion Post 286  
528 Fairlane Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32809

### **6th District Meeting**

Saturday, September 6th  
Location and Time TBD

### **Department of Florida Fall Conference**

November 21-23, 2025  
Caribe Royale, 8101 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

### **Department of Florida Girls State**

June 4- 12, 2026  
Tallahassee, FL

### **Department of Florida Convention**

June 11-14, 2026  
Caribe Royale, 8101 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

# Dept. of FL - 6th District

## The REDDY 6th News

Page 20

### 2025—2026 District Officers and Chairmen

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Carol Pirone-Udell	<a href="mailto:district6president@alafl.org">district6president@alafl.org</a>	914-373-9947
Secretary	Patsy Sewell	<a href="mailto:patsysewell13@gmail.com">patsysewell13@gmail.com</a>	407-670-8905
Treasurer	Treva Kay Wildrick	<a href="mailto:tkwildrick612@gmail.com">tkwildrick612@gmail.com</a>	407-462-0173
Chaplin	Paula Fox	<a href="mailto:foxinails1282@aol.com">foxinails1282@aol.com</a>	407-747-0725
Historian	Sheryle Hackman	<a href="mailto:S1heaven@yahoo.com">S1heaven@yahoo.com</a>	850-819-4664
Sergeant-At-Arms	Paula Fox	<a href="mailto:foxinails1282@aol.com">foxinails1282@aol.com</a>	407-747-0725
Parliamentarian	Treva Kay Wildrick	<a href="mailto:tkwildrick612@gmail.com">tkwildrick612@gmail.com</a>	407-462-0173
Americanism	Wendy Lavery	<a href="mailto:wlavery23@Yahoo.com">wlavery23@Yahoo.com</a>	321-662-5120
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Marilyn Hench	<a href="mailto:mwhench@Yahoo.com">mwhench@Yahoo.com</a>	407-810-7615
Children & Youth	Patsy Sewell	<a href="mailto:patsysewell13@gmail.com">patsysewell13@gmail.com</a>	407-670-8905
Community Service	Diane Rousseau	<a href="mailto:flfrogs@aol.com">flfrogs@aol.com</a>	352-430-4714
Constitution & Bylaws	Nell Colbert	<a href="mailto:necolbert@usa.net">necolbert@usa.net</a>	321-303-7445
Education	Patricia Halliday		
Girls State	Treva Kay Wildrick	<a href="mailto:tkwildrick612@gmail.com">tkwildrick612@gmail.com</a>	407-462-0173
Junior Activities	Dara Oliver	<a href="mailto:alamemberdoliver@gmail.com">alamemberdoliver@gmail.com</a>	321-543-1069
Leadership	Carol Pirone-Udell	<a href="mailto:nycarol2u@aol.com">nycarol2u@aol.com</a>	914-373-9947
Legislative	Penny Kanbara	<a href="mailto:gatorpenny@icloud.com">gatorpenny@icloud.com</a>	407-879-2528
Membership	Patsy Sewell	<a href="mailto:patsysewell13@gmail.com">patsysewell13@gmail.com</a>	407-670-8905
National Security	Laurie Mesa	<a href="mailto:bballmom94@gmail.com">bballmom94@gmail.com</a>	4067-375-0261
Past Presidents Parley			
Poppy	Robin Shellhammer	<a href="mailto:rishellhammer@gmail.com">rishellhammer@gmail.com</a>	407-247-7177
Public Relations	Penny Kanbara	<a href="mailto:gatorpenny@icloud.com">gatorpenny@icloud.com</a>	407-879-2528
V A & R	Charlotte Bass	<a href="mailto:cmariebass27@outlook.com">cmariebass27@outlook.com</a>	<a href="tel:407-738-3356">407-738-3356</a>

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