

# 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

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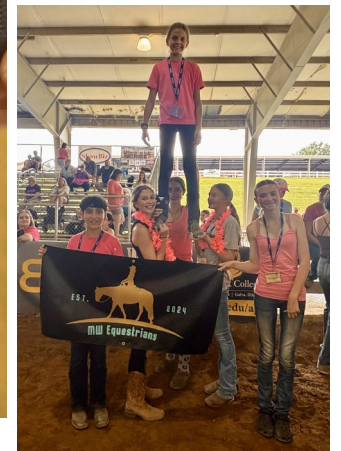
## The REDDY 6th News

### Stories From Our Units

#### 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**

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## The REDDY 6th News

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### 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!!!

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### 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!**





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## **The REDDY 6th News**

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### FRUITLAND PARK UNIT 219

#### 2025-2026 OFFICERS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Email</u>
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 Rancee Kelly	863-600-7173 cell	kellyrancee3@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
Membership Chairman Becky Eberly	513-907-4982 cell	Eberly_r@yahoo.com

**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**

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ORLANDO UNIT 286

AMERICAN LEGION PINE CASTLE  
MEMORIAL POST 286 FAMILY  
INVITES YOU TO OUR

**back to  
school  
PARTY**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST  
2<sup>ND</sup> 2025, 2-4 PM**

**AMERICAN  
LEGION POST 286**

407-859-1460  
529 E FAIRLANE AVE, ORLANDO, FL 32809  
POST286CHILDREN@GMAIL.COM  
PLEASE EMAIL TO CONFIRM YOUR  
CHILD'S SPOT AS SPACE IS LIMITED



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### MID-FLORIDA LAKES UNIT 330

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





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### **ORLANDO UNIT 331**

Pictured below are the new officers for Unit 331.



**Congratulations to these incoming Unit leaders!**

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### 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 patriot-

ism 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.

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### 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



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### Program Feature of the Month

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#### 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@alaf.org](mailto:leadership@alaf.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@alaf.org](mailto:leadership@alaf.org)  
#PassionForVets



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## The REDDY 6th News

### Program Feature of the Month

#### MEMBERSHIP



**ALA FLORIDA**  
★ **MEMBERSHIP** ★

*Share Your*  
**STORY**

**HeartsAsOne**

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:

**ALAFLE MEMBERSHIP**

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



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### Program Feature of the Month

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#### VA & R



#### Veteran's and Affair's 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 veteran's 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** *Page 14* **The REDDY 6th News** **MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME!**



**REMEMBER TO ADDRESS  
YOUR MEETINGS AND  
AUDIENCES WHEN  
SPEAKING TO LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN. WE WANT ALL  
TO FEEL WELCOME ❤️**

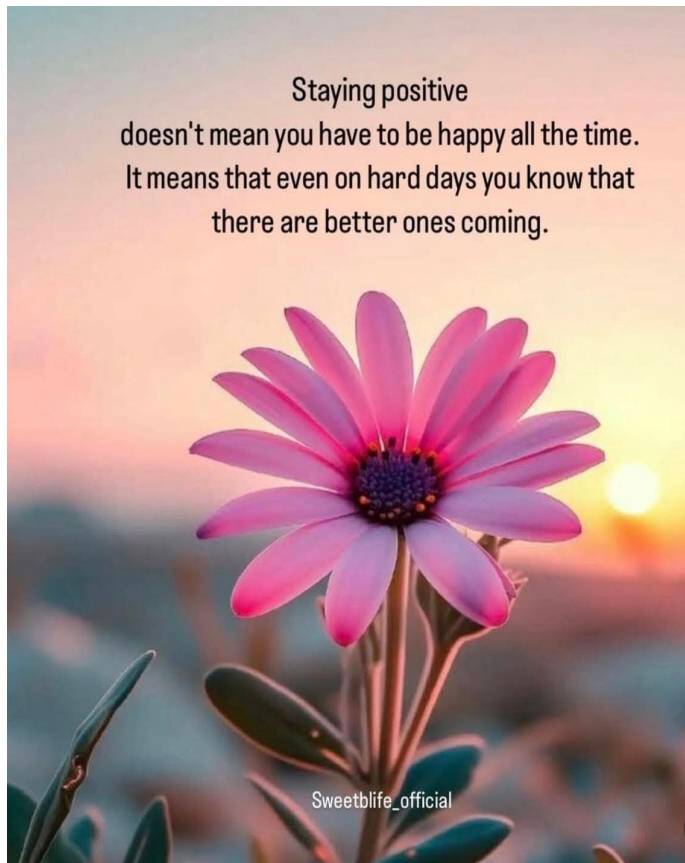


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### The Chaplain's Prayer—Karen Marks



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@al afl.org](mailto:chaplain@al afl.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@al afl.org](mailto:membership@al afl.org) so that National's records can be updated.

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**Leadership**

**VETERAN'S AFFAIRS**

**AEF**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH Juniors**

**Community**

**Legislative**

**National Security**

**Historian**

**Membership**

**Girls State**

**Education**

**C & B**

**Americanism**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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

**We Are Family**

The American Legion Family

Made with PosterMyWall.com



# Dept. of FL - 6th District

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## The REDDY 6th News

### Legion Family USA 250 Challenge



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>

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## 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	



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### **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

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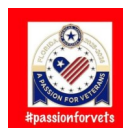
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### 2025—2026 District Officers and Chairmen

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>

**#PassionForVets**



**#HeartsAsOne**