

AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

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

#BuildingTheHouse #MembershipsTheKey

May-July, 2025

PENNY'S WORDS OF WISDOM



Hello to the Dynamite District 6 Members,

We have had a great year this year with membership, and I would like to personally thank you for all you do and for your membership. We fell a little short as a District in reaching the 105% , but several units were well above that, you should celebrate those accomplishments!

I would also like to thank all that came out to our District Constitutional Conference held at Post 80 St. Cloud. We had a great turnout and heard some really amazing reports from our District Chairman. I feel honored and proud to have served this wonderful District for two years. I have not only made some great friends, but those friends have become family. I will always be here if you need any help, please feel free to reach out.

I am very proud of our accomplishments as a District this year, raising over \$3,400 for Girls and Boys State Transportation at our District Picnic, the amazing newsletter that Nell Colbert puts out for us, and having the honor of our own Department President being from our Dynamite District 6. We held our torches high and led the way through the ALA programs, branding, public relations and treating each other with respect. I love watching everyone grow and look forward to great things from some units that are getting their feet wet and expanding.

I want to thank you all for your support and welcome Carol Pirone -Udell as your incoming District 6 President. I know she will run circles around me, and she will be a wonderful resource for anyone that needs assistance. A past District President and a member of Unit of 347 Lady Lake, she has held multiple positions at the Unit and District Level. Please help me welcome Carol to take over the gavel for the mighty torches!

In closing, I would like to share a few photos of the great Purse auction that was held with Units 183 and Post 80 in St. Cloud—see page 4 for pictures. All proceeds benefited Operation 300, and I am proud to say we raised over \$4000! To those that came, donated, or shared the event, thank you for making it the best one yet. Love to all and keep reaching for the stars. We are Florida Proud!

For God and Country,

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

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Stories From Our Units

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ORLANDO UNIT 19

Junior Lily Jessen and Renee Jessen volunteered at United Against Poverty cleaning and stacking shelves.

Junior Lily Jessen took the tickets for Shrek the Musical for the Beta Club and was elected Secretary for the Junior National Honor Society.

Junior Evelyn DeRouin-Davidson received the Youth Hero Award from National.

Glen Arden Heights Civic Association, researched survey property lines at the City of Altamonte Springs, updated the Bylaws which will come under committee review this week.

Accounting for the Down Syndrome Foundation, Joanne Wood

Blessed Trinity served food to the homeless multiple times, Joanne Wood.

National Night Out Meeting, Joanne Wood

Memorial Day Service at Greenwood Cemetery, City of Orlando, May 23, 2025

Coming up!

Evelyn DeRouin-Davidson will be attending the Youth Development Equestrian National Event at the Tri-State Expo Center in McDonald, Tennessee assisting with the horses June 2-9. I'm sure she will send me pictures. She is flying there by herself and will be met by her coach at the airport.

Officers for 2025-2026

President—Kathleen DeRouin

1st Vice—Catherine Lindner

2nd Vice—Dolly Rodemeyer

3rd Vice—Debra Tedesco

Secretary—Deborah Foster

Treasurer—Kathleen DeRouin

Chaplain—Rhonda Barkman

Historian—Terrie Jaime

Sgt-at-Arms—Thelma Gates



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

Our Nominating Committee met after our March meeting and the following slate was presented at our April Meeting:

- President—Marge Berrios
- Vice president—Terry Berrios-Guariglia
- Secy-Treas—Nell Colbert
- Chaplain—Debi Shannon
- Sgt-at-Arms—open
- Historian—open

Our elections were held during our May meeting and our slate was unanimously approved. Congratulations to our new officers who will be installed at a joint Legion Family event in July.

We continue to celebrate the birthdays of our military service branches by providing a birthday cake in the months the branch was formed. The next birthday celebration will be for the US Army in June.

We also discussed another service project for the fall called “*Tushies and Toes*” where we will be collecting NEW socks and underwear for students at Eastbrook Elementary. The school is thrilled to be the recipient of our latest project. Our newest Junior, Karen, is an NJROTC student at Winter Park High School and she will be coordinating collection efforts at WPHS for the NJROTC Unit. More information about this project coming in the next newsletter.



May was a busy month for our Unit with school medals presentations at five elementary schools. We presented Scholastic Achievement medals and certificates at five schools and Americanism Essay medals and certificates to students at two schools.



And of course, there was Poppy distribution for Memorial Day. We partnered with Oviedo Post 243, who does not have an Auxiliary Unit, to distribute Poppies at the cemetery



owned and operated by the First United Methodist Church of Oviedo.



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FERN PARK/ALTAMONTE UNIT 183

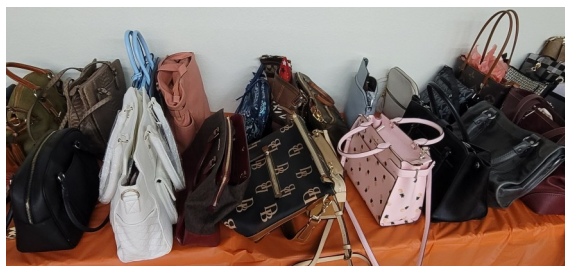
Unit 183 had the honor of presenting two scholarships to Lake Howell High School Students. The scholarships were the first ever to be awarded by the Debbie " Momma D " Dorton Memorial Scholarship. Each of the two recipients were given \$1500 each towards their higher education goals in culinary and hospitality management careers. The scholarship was in honor of former member Debbie Dorton who was taken away too early from COVID. Her love of cooking and entertaining is carried on by the legacy of these scholarships.



Unit 183 is also pleased at their joint efforts with Chapter 183 and Chapter and Unit 55 in the 4th Annual Tushies and Toes run in February. It took a while to get all those socks and undies counted but in total we had: 6 pairs of slippers, 1 pair of sneakers, 2 bras, 15 t-shirts, 788 pairs of socks and 300 pairs of underwear. We were able to purchase fifty-six \$25 gift cards for Target and the donations were split between Michigan Avenue Elementary in St Cloud and Laureate Elementary in Orange County.



Our purse auction was also a great success! We had loads of fun with our awesome models.



Thank you to all that participated in these great events.

Our officers for next year include:

President- Pamela Bombauch

1st Vice - Ashton Dotson

Secretary - Wendy Lavery

Treasurer - Treva Kay Wildrick

Executive Board - Marilyn Hench, Bonnie Koontz, Heidi Rosenzweig

Chaplain- Jeannell Lambert

Historian - Brittany Corfman Parks

Parliamentarian- Amy Martin

For God and Country,

Penny Kanbara

District 6 President

407-879-2528

district6president@alaf1.org



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FRUITLAND PARK UNIT 219



On Sunday, May 4th, Unit 219 in Fruitland Park hosted a homecoming celebration for their member Dara Oliver who is serving our 2024-2025 year as National and Department Historian. The Unit provided a delicious luncheon for over 70 guests that included Auxiliary members from near and far, family members, and neighbors from Love's Landing.

Dara was pleased to have many of her mentors in attendance, including four PDPs from Florida and one PDP from New York! {Florida PDPs: Fran Carlton 1985-1986, Shirley Fraser 1995-1996, Diane Rousseau 2011-2012, Peggy Hearlson 2012-2013, and New York PDP Cathleen MacInnes 1991-1992}

Throughout the afternoon, there were also several surprise guests at the event. Many attendees spoke about Dara and gave her pieces of advice and encouragement for future leadership.



Also, Unit President Toni Stainbrook and Unit Secretary Diane Rousseau presented Dara with a 40-year service pin and certificate.

Dara was very overwhelmed with joy and pride that so many people came to congratulate and applaud her service. She thanked everyone for attending and coming a far distance. She especially thanked her Daddy for his military service and for joining the Legion so she could gain her membership. She also thanked her mother-in-law MaryAnn for encouraging her to be an active Auxiliary member and her husband Kevin for allowing her to pursue her passion within the American Legion Auxiliary.

It was a wonderful event honoring and thanking a very dedicated Auxiliary member. CONGRATULATIONS DARA! We are all Very Proud of You!



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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MID FLORIDA LAKES UNIT 330



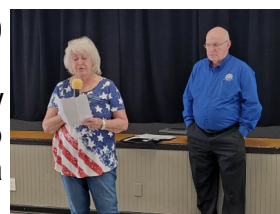
We are unit 330 located in Mid Florida Lakes, Leesburg. Our unit may be small, but our footprint is large in Lake County. Our dedicated members are always working to help our veterans and spreading goodwill throughout the community.



This past year has been highly successful under the guidance of our President, Susan Sanborn, and her committees. No opportunity to raise funds to support our good works ever passes us by.



We held a Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon attended by over 60 veterans and their wives. After lunch we welcomed Alan Hayes, our guest speaker. Alan is a retired Coast Guard Dentist. He now is in the position of Supervisor of Elections in Lake County. Bob Colyer, Vice Commander of Post 330, presented Mr. Hayes with a gift and there was a question-and-answer time.



We honored our member, Judy Iby, who passed away in January by presenting a scholarship check to a student in the nursing program in Lake County. Upon retirement after 30 years as a nurse, Judy gave many hours of her time supporting veterans and the elderly. Our recipient, Brittany Horvitus is not only a wife and mother but she also works. She has excellent grades and looks forward to being a nurse.



We also honored a member, Millie Kelly, who devoted many hours to VA&R. Millie spent long hours making collections of clothes and blankets to take to our homeless veterans. She was also a dog owner. A plaque has been placed in her honor at the dog park.

We will be participating in a 4th of July celebration and raising funds by having our annual "Cake Walk". This works like musical chairs. People pay a fee to walk around a table. The person who lands on the winning number wins a cake. This is fun and helps us help the veterans.

Slate of Officers 2025/2026

President Susan Sanborn

Vice President Leona Chandler

Secretary Carol Tucci

Treasurer Cheryl Lundy

Sargent at Arms Linda Ailing/Donna Field

Historian Sandi Neal

Members at Large:

Carol Bushong

Arlene Hughes

Audrey Patterson



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LADY LAKE UNIT 347

Unit 347 Supports Salvation Army of Leesburg: A Story of Community Service and Dedication



In the heart of Leesburg, a vibrant and dedicated community works tirelessly to address the needs of those who are less fortunate. Among these exemplary organizations is Auxiliary Unit 347, which has recently extended its support to the Salvation Army of Leesburg. Pat Morrow, Community Service Chair of the Unit, has been at the forefront of this initiative, coordinating efforts to provide essential food items for the Salvation Army's Food Pantry with the help of Yolanda Fields Chatman who is the social worker that runs the pantry.

The Salvation Army of Leesburg operates a Food Pantry specifically designed to help the homeless, focusing on providing food items that can be prepared without the need for any outside equipment. One-third of the homeless served by the pantry are US veterans. Pat Morrow took the initiative to identify and purchase the required food items. With more than \$1000 worth of groceries, Pat ensured that the pantry's needs were met comprehensively. It was not a solo endeavor; Pat partnered with Lois Bass, a fellow member of Unit 347. Together, they filled their vehicles with the necessary food items and embarked on a mission to deliver them to the Salvation Army's facility in Leesburg. Their arrival was met with enthusiasm and gratitude, as the donated items were promptly loaded onto carts and the ladies were given a tour of the Salvation Army's renovated premises.



Unit 347 has pledged to continue its support for the Salvation Army's Food Pantry throughout the year. This commitment underscores the Auxiliary's dedication to community service and its unwavering resolve to help those in need. By ensuring a steady supply of essential food items, the Auxiliary plays a pivotal role in sustaining the Pantry's operations and addressing the hunger issues faced by the homeless population.

Unit 347 Supports Boy Scout Troop 113



Unit 347 has extended its support to Boy Scout Troop 113, aiding them in their preparation for a camping and hiking expedition to Colorado. This journey, anticipated since the fall of 2023, promises to be a remarkable experience for the scouts. The scouts have been diligently planning and fundraising for their trip, which is estimated to cost between \$50,000 and \$55,000. To alleviate some of the financial burden, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347 generously donated \$2,000. Troop Leader Rob Boyer explained that each scout is responsible for raising \$1,500 to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Over the last 15 months, the scouts have been working after-school jobs and taking on odd jobs for church members and community residents to earn the necessary funds. Their dedication and hard work have exemplified the spirit of the Boy Scouts.

In addition to their fundraising efforts, the scouts have been engaging in rigorous physical preparations to ensure they are ready for the challenges ahead. They have been taking day hikes and conducting gear checks to confirm they possess all the required equipment according to their packing lists. Members of the troop have also been performing leg exercises, walks that involve carrying some of their gear, and climbing the steps at the school stadium. These activities are designed to build their stamina and strength, enabling them to carry their backpacks comfortably during their hikes.

The troop is set to embark on their journey on July 10th and will return on July 22nd. During their time in Colorado, they will hike at Philmont Scout Ranch, explore Pike's Peak Railway, Garden of the Gods, Flying W Ranch, Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, and the Pueblo Cliff dwellings. This trip will provide the scouts with an opportunity to expand their horizons and discover the wonders of nature. The experiences and memories forged during this trip will stay with them and their leaders for a lifetime.

The support from the Auxiliary Unit 347 has played an instrumental role in ensuring the success of this adventure, and the Boy Scout Troop 113 is immensely grateful for their generosity. As the scouts embark on their journey, they carry with them the spirit of community and the values of the Boy Scouts, ready to embrace the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead.



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LADY LAKE UNIT 347 continued from Page 7

Annual Easter Eggtravanza at Snooky Park: A Community Celebration in Lady Lake



Unit 347 proudly supported the annual Easter Eggtravanza held at Snooky Park in Lady Lake on April 12. This vibrant community event brought joy and excitement to children and families alike, with over 1,500 children participating in the festivities. The event ran from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and began with a highlight for the children: the eagerly awaited Easter Egg Hunt. The park was transformed into a festive wonderland, with brightly colored eggs hidden across the grounds, sparking excitement and laughter as children scurried around to collect them.

Following the hunt, the fun continued with a variety of engaging activities. Children had the opportunity to play games that tested their skills and creativity, create crafts that they could take home as keepsakes, and visit booths where they received candy and other treats. These activities added to the festive atmosphere, ensuring that every child had something special to enjoy. The support of Unit 347 played a significant role in ensuring the event's success. The annual Easter Eggtravanza at Snooky Park is a testament to the power of community and the joy that shared celebrations bring. With more than 1,500 children taking part, it was a day filled with laughter, creativity, and togetherness. The event's success once again highlighted the im-

portance of fostering community spirit and creating opportunities for families to come together in celebration.

Unit 347 's Donation Put to Good Use at Boggy Creek Camp



Unit 347 recently donated 70 bath towels for Camp Boggy Creek campers. This camp makes it possible for children from the age of 7 to 17 who have a serious illness and their families to enrich their physical and behavioral health through a weeklong campout.

Several of the Auxiliary members made a visit to tour Camp Boggy Creek on April 15th. Boggy Creek staff took the group on the tour and explained the various services that are available to those attending the camp. Boggy Creek in Florida is a medical camp where children with serious medical illnesses can experience love, fun, respect, and joy at no cost to their families. The camp is located just a short drive from Orlando, Florida, and spans 232 acres of beautiful tall pines and majestic oaks. For more information on Boggy Creek, please visit [Our Campers — Camp Boggy Creek](#)



Unit 347 Community Shred Day Event

The Shred Day event was reported as a great success, with the Lady Lake Police ex-



pressing interest in making it an annual community tradition after April 15th. The Legion has agreed to support this initiative along with the Legion families. During the event, 850 cars participated, and two Iron Mountain trucks were used. Susan Duncan, National Security Chairman, played a key role in the success of the day, while Tina Burgess, Legion First Vice Commander and Auxiliary VA & R Chairman, was especially commended for her efforts in contacting Iron Mountain and organizing the arrangements. The collective effort of the Legion, Sons, Auxiliary, Riders, and other volunteers contributed to the success of this collaborative "team" effort.



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URGENT INFORMATION FOR GIRLS STATE DELEGATES:

It is extremely important that ALL Delegates (and alternates just in case) receive this information before they get to Girls State on June 19th at FSU.

**Dress Code for the Capitol days are as follows:
No skirts they will wear their Girls State Shirts, long black slacks (no ankles showing), flat closed-toed shoes.**

Absolutely NO printing of Delegate Manuals, Legislative handbooks at Girls State. The Delegates must bring their copies to session.

Reminder No Nuts or products containing nuts

Reminder no cash for GS Store - CC only for purchases.

Thank you so much!

Girls State is GREAT!!

Eileen Wilson

Department Girls State Chair

352-650-6224

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GIRLS STATE BUS SCHEDULE

ALA FL GIRLS STATE

6th DISTRICT

BUS TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE

JUNE 19, 2025 – GOING TO TALLAHASSEE

1st STOP:

American Legion Headquarters
1912 Lee Road
Orlando, FL 32810

SIGN-IN: 6:30 am
LEAVES: 7:15 am

2nd STOP:

American Legion Post 347
699 West Lady Lake Blvd
Villages, FL 32159

SIGN-IN: 8:15 am
LEAVES: 9:00 am

ARRIVES DeGraff Dorm 1:00 pm

JUNE 27, 2025 – RETURNING HOME

PICK-UP DeGraff Dorm 8:00 am

1st STOP:

American Legion Post 347
699 West Lady Lake Blvd
Villages, FL 32159

ARRIVES: 12:00 pm

2nd STOP:

American Legion Headquarters
1912 Lee Road
Orlando, FL 32810

ARRIVES: 1:30 pm

Girls State is GRREAT!!



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Please remember to send your 2025-2026 Officers List and your 2025-2026 Chairman's List to our incoming District President, Carol Perone-Udell at nycarol2u@gmail.com. Carol and her installation team will need your Unit's information before they come to install your Unit leaders. These lists also must be sent to Department (membership@alafl.org)

June 30 is the end of the fiscal year for most Unit's. You can file your IRS 990 form beginning July 1st. Send your 990 Acceptance Page to alaflhq@alafl.org.

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.

Summer Newsletter Schedule

As we discussed at our May District Constitutional Conference, we will not publish a newsletter each month over the summer. Our next newsletter will be a summer edition covering Unit activities in June, July and August. **The deadline for articles and pictures will be July 20th.** Please be sure to share who your new officers are for next year along with flyers for any events that you have coming up in August and September. If you have any questions, please contact our editor at: necolbert@usa.net. Or 321.303.7445. Have a great summer. See you at Convention.



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2024-2025 District Calendar

Department of Florida 2025 Convention

June 12-15, 2025

Orlando Hilton Lake Buena Vista, 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Auxiliary Department Workshop

July 25th and July 26th

Hilton Altamonte Springs, 350 Northlake Blvd, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

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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