

AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

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

#PassionForVets

#HeartsAsOne

January, 2026

CAROL'S WORDS OF WISDOM



#passionforvets

To all the REDDY District 6 members:
HAPPY NEW YEAR

I know we have all been busy during the holiday season working with Food Pantries, making Meals for our Veterans, providing food for Holiday Dinners to families less fortunate as well as working with Toys for Tots, the Salvation Army and other organizations. This is keeping with our Mission helping Veterans, the Community and Children and Youth. Only 5 units submitted articles of what they did during November. We know all our units work hard, why not give yourself bragging rights. Our Newsletter is very informative and besides letting you see what the other units are doing, which may give you ideas for your unit, It lets you know of upcoming dates for District Meetings and events. Nell does a great job putting all this information at your fingertips and giving each unit in the district a page. Let's all contribute by sending in your articles, events coming up and other information you want the Units in our district to know about.

Now is the time to work on Membership by checking on members in your unit who have not renew. Perhaps a friendly reminder would help.

The 6th District is at 78.10 percent as of 12/18 and our district we challenged, which is District 13 is close behind at 77.47 percent. Awesome job but we need to keep going and win the challenge.

Now is the time to gather information to start on your year end reports. It's essential that each unit submits reports on each program to keep our status. **Remember if your unit does not work a program due to the size of your unit send in the form for that program with N/A. It counts as a report. Let's strive for 100% reporting.**

I am so proud of our members and Units in 6th District. Keep up the good work.

We are so excited that our own **Penny Kanbara** is running for Department 3rd Vice President. Penny is currently serving on the Department level as Leadership Chair and has held many positions from Unit President, District President and Department Committees. Let's all support Penny in this endeavor by voting for her at the Convention. She is one of the most dedicated Auxiliary members I have come across in my 25 years as a member.

I am currently setting up visits to Units and will contact the presidents to let them know of date.

Have a great New Year and be sure to check our Calendar on page 19.

For God and Country
Carol Pirone-Udell, President, 6th District

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
I HAVE A DREAM

6th District ABC School

**Saturday, January 31, 2026
Registration 830am - Class 9am**

**JOIN QUE AND HER FRIENDS FOR A
FULL DAY OF LEARNING ABOUT THE
ALA OPEN TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS**

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT 55 CLERMONT
1063 W DESOTO STREET
CLERMONT, FL 34711**

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LEGION
AUXILIARY**



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Stories From Our Units

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ORLANDO UNIT 19

Kathy was an elf helping Santa pick up canned food for the Seminole County Sharing Center and toys for the Baby DJ 106.7 radio program. Community Service for the Glen Arden Heights Civic Association. The Altamonte Springs Fire Department led the way, December 4.

The Operation Homefront group stuffed all the Dollar Tree bags for the National Guard party. They bagged Dollar Tree toys with Operation Homefront at the National Guard Armory for 4 Units that will come and pick up the toys.

On Sunday, December 7, about 190 came to the National Guard party which included soldiers, spouses, and military children. Three senior members came to help set up for the party. They moved tables, chairs, put on tablecloths with the soldiers, and set up all the toys. The toys were all donated by a Unit 19 member. Two Juniors from Unit 19, Lily and Carlee, assisted the senior members handing out the toys for Santa. Legionnaire of Post 19, Adam, received an award for his 25 years in the National Guard. He retired this past week. Three senior Unit 19 members, 2 Juniors, and 1 SAL helped set up, and hand out gifts for the soldiers and their families. Unit 19 Members, Colette DeRouin, Renee DeRouin-Jessen, Jrs. Lily Jessen and Carlee Bruha getting ready to hand out toys to help Santa. Eli, SAL, was in and out of the bounce house.



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MOUNT DORA UNIT 35



On Saturday, December 14th, our Auxiliary ladies put on our Annual Children's Christmas Party with crafts, games, prizes and lunch. The kids loved Santa! and we had some of Santa's helpers there too: Lynda Fleming, Paula Cole, Pat Potter, Joan Lombardi, Colleen Spender, Jan Wideman, and Shelley Dennison. And of course, Mr. and Mrs. Claus by Shirley and Roy Ivey.

We also delivered gifts and food to 3 veteran families. We had a total of 6 children who received several gifts and a ham, potatoes, rolls, vegetables, and a pie so they could enjoy a nice holiday meal.



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WINTER PARK UNIT 112

Over the last month, our Unit has welcomed three new members, bringing us to 97% of our goal.

Congratulations are in order for our Junior member, Karen, who just graduated from Valencia with her Associates Degree, all while continuing as a senior at Winter Park High School.

We submitted the National Auxiliary Good Deed Award for three ScoutsBSA Boy Troop members for their Eagle service projects in late September; their certificates were received in early December.

In early December Nell and Marge presented a \$2500 check to the Central Florida Chapter of Military Officers Association of America that our Unit received through a grant from the ALA Foundation.

On 12/5 our Legion Family celebrated the holidays with our annual holiday party where our Unit provided the birthday cake to celebrate the birthdays of the US Space Force and the US National Guard.

Before school let out for the holiday break, we received a cute picture of her class with their Christmas themed book from Scholastic Books.

Our Legion Family participated in Wreaths Across America at Pineywood Cemetery on 12/13 at Pineywood cemetery in Winter Park.

We're looking forward to Girls State interviews and Americanism essays coming in February.



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WINTER PARK UNIT 112—Cont'd from Page 5



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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FRUITLAND PARK UNIT 219

Unit 219 in Fruitland Park made a profound impact on their community with a highly successful Christmas gift giveaway, distributing over 3000 gifts to those in need. The visionary efforts of Lois and Patty Halliday were instrumental in organizing this event, leveraging the Unit's fundraiser, the Christmas Craft Fair and Market, as a platform to spread joy. Alongside the Unit's PR Chair, they implemented an outreach strategy, utilizing local schools, social media, and 2 radio stations to reach a wide audience and make a tangible difference in the lives of families. The event was a resounding success, with parents and children alike reveling in the festive atmosphere. The Halliday's dedication and leadership have paved the way for this initiative to become an annual tradition, inspiring a sense of community and social responsibility.

The Unit's Christmas Craft Fair was a success, raising over \$400 for their general fund and bringing the community together in a celebration of creativity and generosity. With 15 vendors offering an array of unique items, including handmade crafts, dog treats, mini trees, hot sauce, embroidered towels, handcrafted purses, paintings, and delectable baked goods, every table was filled with excitement and purpose. Unit 219's Auxiliary table served as a hub for recruiting and spreading awareness, distributing numerous applications and sparking meaningful connections. This heartwarming event not only showcased the community's talent but also provided an opportunity to meet a Military Kid and present him with a Purple Busy Bag. The Family is inspired to get involved and join the Legion Family. The Dad, is a Navy recruiter, Mom; Charriel expressing interest in becoming an Auxiliary member, embodying the spirit of community and service.

The Unit received a donation of yarn, and Auxiliary member Peggy Snyder kindly offered to crochet a baby blanket to be donated to John's Hopkins Children's Hospital in St. Pete this February. Other members have generously donated small quilts, lap blankets, tie fleece covers, and kids afghans for this initiative. Department President Robin Burk will make her official visitation during that time. If anyone wishes to donate a blanket, quilt, or afghan, they are accepting donations of baby blanket size to twin bed size; please contact Dara Oliver.

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 - flad6org@gmail.com

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PINECASTLE UNIT 286

Pine Castle Memorial Unit 286 was very busy this month taking care of the children and needy families for the holidays. Together with the assistance of all the Post families (Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, and Legion) the group hosted their annual Kids Christmas Party with a special visit from Santa Claus. The special Pancake Breakfast with Santa had a total of 60 children and their families in attendance. Santa sang Christmas Carols, read a Night Before Christmas, and asked each child what they wanted for Christmas before giving each one a special gift.

The Post family also hosted an Angel Tree where 8 families were chosen with a total of 24 children. In addition to presents, each family was given a box of food that included non-perishable items and some fresh produce. The Children enjoyed toys and clothes and all of them that needed bikes were given either a bike or a big wheel. The monies for the gifts, the bikes and the food were a joint effort from all the post family's contributions and donations. There was a very last-minute call that was received by the Post on Christmas Eve regarding a disabled veteran who had 6-year-old twins, a 9-year-old, and a 14-year-old. They left with four bikes and some extra goodies, spreading the Christmas Spirit for a very deserving family.

Unit 286 and Squadron 286 also sponsored two families through the VA Hudvash Giving Tree Program, and the goodies were delivered in beautiful Christmas Bags.

**HAVE YOU
CHECKED YOUR
UNIT'S INFORMATION
ON THE 6TH DISTRICT
LEGION FAMILY
WEBSITE?**

Go To:

<https://www.fald6.org>

If you find an error

**Please email the webmaster at:
fald6org@gmail.com**

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LADY LAKE UNIT 347

Operation Homefront Christmas 2025

National Security Chair Susan Duncan and Carol Pirone-Udell worked with three schools this year for Operation Homefront. They were: Lady Lake Elementary School, Carver Middle School in Leesburg, and Beverly Shores which is a Leesburg school but housing in Fruitland Park while their school is being renovated. Carol and Susan had five Dollar Tree Stores that participated. Susan played a large part this year by visiting each store and presenting them with the American Legion Auxiliary credentials along with picking up donations. Carol also pitched in and handled two of the locations. All the donated toys had to be counted prior to being delivered to the respective schools, which took multiple trips in order to achieve this in time for Christmas. A total of 4,853 toys were delivered at a value of \$6,066.25, with a cumulative of 59 hours. This project falls under National Security, but since we have no military bases near us, we are allowed to give to needy schools. All donations are greatly appreciated by the schools and, of course, the children.



Dinner for Toys for Tots Volunteers

Unit 347 recently hosted a dinner in honor of the Phillip DeLong Marine Detachment 1267 Toys for Tots volunteers. These dedicated individuals have been working tirelessly from September to December, ensuring that countless children receive gifts during the holiday season. Their efforts include collecting toys, sorting them by age groups, counting, and preparing individual gift bags for each child.

This year, the volunteers' hard work reached a remarkable milestone. They managed to bring joy to over 19,000 children and are still tallying all the toys that were donated through businesses, private clubs, individual neighborhood collections and other donations. This extraordinary achievement is a testament to their unwavering commitment and the community's generosity. The dinner served not only as a thank-you gesture but also as a celebration of the profound impact these volunteers have had in the community.

Colleen Foley, Toys for Tots Coordinator, thanked all the volunteers and the American Legion Auxiliary for their hospitality in again hosting a dinner in their honor. Commandant June Worden of the Marines Detachment also thanked the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the Toys for Tots program, and Unit 347 for their support.

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A huge thank you goes out to 2nd VP Barbara Kyle, Carol Pirone-Udell, Susan Duncan, JoLinda Spears, Glenda Travelstead, and Sue Senika for preparing a delicious meal of spaghetti and meatballs. Carol and Susan made sure the leftovers went to a good cause; the Lady Lake Fire Department and Police Department were given a tray to feed their personnel.



Family Christmas Food Program



The Auxiliary again came together to coordinate the planning, shopping and assembly of 50 food boxes and large totes for Carver Middle School and Rolling Acres Elementary. This time of year, receiving boxes of food and snacks to last a week makes a huge difference to those in need. This program helps the recipients have a great Christmas and the children are fed while they are out of school.



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The food boxes were filled to the brim and the tote bags were bursting. There were also hams and fresh bread to be distributed to the families. With the schools being off for a break, the extra food makes a world of difference to these families. The cost to fill these bags and boxes was \$15,784.84 this year. Activities like this bring awareness to all on the need to assist those who are less fortunate.

Angels and Bells for The Salvation Army



Children and Youth Chair, Denise Hallisey again has dived into the task of having the wishes of 180 angels for boys and girls aged 0 to 12 and 150 bells for the seniors filled for The Salvation Army. Denise had been hard at work since November on this project and every room in the house was being filled up including the living room that was overflowing with toys.

American Legion Auxiliary members were able to select an angel, bell, or take a family to fulfill their wishes. All the gifts were returned the first week of December and Denise went on to get it all coordinated so she could deliver the gifts to The Salvation Army in Leesburg. We had more than 100

Angel gifts and clothing and well over 100 gifts for the senior bells.

We thank everyone who participated in this most worthwhile project! Takes a village to accomplish these types of activities. You have given many a very Merry Christmas!

Ending the Year with a Celebration



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347 ended 2025 with a potluck dinner after business was taken care of on December 3rd. The tables were full of the members' favorite foods and desserts. This has been a great year, and the members have rallied to carry off events, drives, and support of our Veteran programs without a hitch. We are looking forward to 2026.

The Executive Board also had a wonderful celebration where we could sit back and take a breath and be proud of all that was done this past year. Having good leadership makes the difference in being successful, so thank you to all the officers, chairs, and members for all that they have accomplished this past year.



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Program Feature of the Month

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MEMBERSHIP

December 12 Friday Report

	Goal	JR	SR	Total	%
0010 Kissimmee	202	4	138	142	70.30%
0018 Wildwood	23	0	19	19	82.61%
0019 Orlando	74	3	43	46	62.16%
0035 Mount Dora	153	0	122	122	79.74%
0055 Clermont	299	0	172	172	57.53%
0080 Saint Cloud	310	17	210	227	73.23%
0101 Bushnell	108	0	61	61	56.48%
0112 Winter Park	35	4	28	32	91.43%
0183 Fern Park	124	0	58	58	46.77%
0219 Fruitland Park	251	4	200	204	81.27%
0239 Groveland	22	0	11	11	50.00%
0242 Orlando	134	9	59	68	50.75%
0286 Orlando	191	7	146	153	80.10%
0330 Leesburg	45	2	35	37	82.22%
0331 Orlando	27	0	1	1	3.70%
0347 Lady Lake	2823	9	2406	2415	85.55%
0412 Orlando	11	2	4	6	54.55%
Total	4832	61	3713	3774	78.10%

WHAT DID YOUR UNIT DO LAST MONTH?

Send your articles to necolbert@usa.net

BY the 20th of every month

To be included in next month's newsletter

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The Chaplain's Prayer—Nell Colbert



Please keep Clermont Unit 55 in your prayers as they lost their sister, Debra Reed, over this past month.

When you pray for others, it shows your heart is pure. Especially when you pray for people you don't know.

And they may never know. But your one prayer can make a world of difference for them.

So keep praying and spreading goodness because you never know who's praying for you.



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

Email Karen at chaplain@alafl.org and Paula at foxinails1282@aol.com

The Deceased Member Form should be completed for each member who has passed and included with your emails to Paula and Karen.

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



Penny Kanbara

Candidate for Department

3rd Vice President

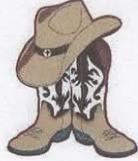
Penny has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in the Department of Florida for over 10 years and is honored to be endorsed by Pine Castle Memorial Unit 286. Her Eligibility comes under her husband, Scott Kanbara, an Army Veteran who served in the 82nd Airborne Division during Just Cause and Desert Storm.

On the Unit Level, Penny has served as Unit President for a total of 5 years, Unit 1st Vice and Unit 2nd Vice, and Secretary Pro-Tem. In Penny's 1st Year as a unit member she was awarded the prestigious Unit Member of the Year Award with her work with K9's for Warriors. She has held many Unit Chairmanships including Public Relations, VA&R and Community Service.

At the District Level she served 2 years as District Secretary and 2 Years as District President. She has also held various District Chairmanships including Leadership, Community Service, VA &R and Legislative. During her term as District President she rallied troops to start the 6th District Newsletter.

On the Department Level she has served as the Personal Page to PDP Treva Kay Wildrick, Chairman of Pages, and a committe member for AEF. Currently she is serving as the Leadership Chairman while promoting Que's Quest for knowledge.

It is with Penny's Leadership, Vision, Passion , and Dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary we feel she will be an outstanding asset to the Department of Florida Leadership Team.



Country & Western Fun Night!

January 10, 2026

5 to 9 p.m.

at

American Legion Post 219

194 W Fountain St., Fruitland Park, FL

Fundraiser for 219's Honor Guard

Tickets: 1 for \$13.00 & 2 for \$25.00

“Cash Bar”

DJ for music, dancing, & entertainment.

For tickets, contact Beverly Pepin at (386) 481-8328

Dress is Casual ... or ... Country & Western Attire

IT WILL BE A FUN TIME

Dancing ... 50/50 drawing ... Raffles ... “Surprises”

NEW ITEMS ARE NEEDED FOR THE RAFFLES!

Please give them to Beverly by January 2nd. Thanks!

Hosted by the 219 Honor Guard.



Lite Bites & Shoots

Sponsored by ALA Unit 219

Friday - January 16th

at Post 219

194 Fountain Street
Fruitland Park

* 5:00 p.m. - Lite Bites
Crock Pot Meal made by: Dara

* 6:00 p.m. - Shoots Game
Play 30 games for just \$10.
Cash Prize of \$5 per game



50's – 60's Sock Hop January 31, 2026

5 to 9 p.m.

5 to 9 p.m.

at

**American Legion Post 219
194 W Fountain St., Fruitland Park, FL**

Fundraiser for Boys & Girls State

Donation: \$10.00 per person

{Includes: 1 Hamburger with chips}
 {Additional Burgers for \$5.00}

Cash Bar

DJ RonneMac providing music for the event!

Only 92 tickets will be sold.

For tickets, contact Diane & Chuck Rousseau at 352-430-4714.

Dress is Casual ... or 50's - 60's Attire.

**IT WILL BE A FUN TIME:
Dancing ... 50/50 drawing ... Chinese Auction**

NEW ITEMS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CHINESE AUCTION!

Please give them to Diane or Chuck Rousseau by January 24th. Thanks!

Sponsored by the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of 219.



FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE

Winter Park Memorial American Legion Post 112

Is pleased to host the 2026

Four Chaplains Service

Sunday, February 1, 2026

First Baptist Church of Winter Park

1021 North New York Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32789

2pm

Please join us to honor these brave men!

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WHO GETS WHAT AT DEPARTMENT

Patsy Sewell, Membership Coordinator

membership@alafl.org

- Patsy is your point of contact for membership (processing, ALAMIS access, etc.)
- Poppy orders and proceeds
- Officer Lists
- Store and Supply orders

Treva Kay (TK) Wildrick, Department Secretary

secretary@alafl.org

- TK is your point of contact for units that are experiencing issues
- New units forming
- Branding approval

Brandi Seeber, Finance Director/Department Treasurer

treasurer@alafl.org

- Brandi is your point of contact for finance—invoices and statements sent
- Reimbursements
- Donations, etc.

Office Headquarters

alaflhq@alafl.org

- This is your point of contact for all units to send their compliance reports (IRS form 990, FDACS aka Solicitors Permit, and SunBiz Annual Corporate Report, Tax Exemption Certificate).
- District Presidents will send their Unit visits to this email.

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2025-2026 District Calendar

ABC School

January 31, 2026

Clermont Unit 55.

Registration 8:30 am class at 9 am.

Penny and Charlotte will be running the class.

It should be very informative.

6th District Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Post 347, Lady lake

6th District Family Fun Fest (Picnic)

March 22, 2026

Hickory Point Park in Tavares.

Will be a carnival setting and fun for the whole family.

Proceeds go to Boys and Girls state transportation.

Flyer is out and more details to follow as we get closer to the date.

6th District Meeting

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Post 80, St. Cloud

Department of Florida Girls State

June 4- 12, 2026

Tallahassee, FL

Department of Florida Convention

June 11-14, 2026

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

#WeAreFamily

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2025—2026 District Officers and Chairmen

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Carol Pirone-Udell	district6president@alafl.org	914-373-9947
Secretary	Patsy Sewell	patsysewell13@gmail.com	407-670-8905
Treasurer	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
Chaplin	Paula Fox	foxinails1282@aol.com	407-747-0725
Historian	Sheryle Hackman	S1heaven@yahoo.com	850-819-4664
Sergeant-At-Arms	Paula Fox	foxinails1282@aol.com	407-747-0725
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
Children & Youth	Patsy Sewell	patsysewell13@gmail.com	407-670-8905
Community Service	Diane Rousseau	flfrogs@aol.com	352-430-4714
Constitution & Bylaws	Nell Colbert	necolbert@usa.net	321-303-7445
Education	Patricia Halliday	phalliday0602@icloud.com	863-513-7656
Girls State	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
Junior Activities	Dara Oliver	alamemberdoliver@gmail.com	321-543-1069
Leadership	Carol Pirone-Udell	nycarol2u@aol.com	914-373-9947
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 Presidents Parley	Dara Oliver	alamemberdoliver@gmail.com	321-543-1069
Poppy	Robin Shellhammer	rlshellhammer@gmail.com	407-247-7177
Public Relations	Penny Kanbara	gatorpenny@icloud.com	407-879-2528
V A & R	Charlotte Bass	cmariebass27@outlook.com	407-738-3356

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