

AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

Dept. of FL - 6th District

The REDDY 6th News

#PassionForVets

#HeartsAsOne

June, 2026

CAROL'S WORDS OF WISDOM



To the members of the REDDY 6th District:

June 30th marks the end of the year for the American Legion Auxiliary. It seems like only yesterday I was elected your 6th District President. Its been a very rewarding year for our district as well as myself. I had the best support system ever with my staff, Committee Chairs and Department employees.

Our District did an awesome job with membership and goals were met. As of the Friday report dated 5/29 the 6th district was at 102.42%. Great job from all the units.

Our 6th district picnic was a very successful event. If you missed it, you missed a great time, This year we changed the day from Saturday to Sunday so that families would be able to attend. It was held at Hickory Point Park in Tavares where we had a 2 story Pavilion. As you know this event is to raise money for Girls and Boys State Transportation. We surpassed every other year and raised almost \$9,000. This was a true family affair with all 4 pillars of the Legion working together. Next year will be bigger and better. Thanks go out to our awesome picnic committee and all of the units that donated , raffle baskets, games etc.

At our DCC meeting we elected Anita Hutchison from Unit 55 as our new 6th District President. Anita is currently President of her unit and is a true leader for the Auxiliary which is her passion. She will do an amazing job and with all of our support, the 6th District will shine.

The only area we need to work on is year-end reporting. We do the work, why not report it! Out of 17 units we had an average of 7 units reporting. If you need help, we are here to help you. All you need to do is ask.

So as I wind down my year and with Convention around the corner, I would like to personally thank all of you for your help throughout the year with installations, meetings and just being there. I especially need a shout out to Penny Kanbera, Patsy Seawell, Charlotte Bass and all my Committee Chairs for their commitment to our programs. I would also like to thank Nell Colbert for the awesome job she does on our district newsletter. Keep your articles and events coming so we all know what has been going on in the district.

One last thing, Penny is running for 3rd Vice for Department and it would be great to have her up there from our District, Lets all support her . She is amazing and would be an asset and with Dara as 2nd Vice, we will be on top.

Even though I will not be the President next year, I will be around and will work with our new President.

Again, Thank you all for all you have done. See you at Convention.

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



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**REMEMBER
NO NEWSLETTER
NEXT MONTH
DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST ARTICLES
JULY 20TH**

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URGENT INFO FOR ALL UNITS

Unit Officer form for elections 2026-2027

PLEASE READ – THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE ONLY! You can find this form under Quick Links/Forms and Resources/Unit Forms/2026-2027 Unit Officer List

ONLINE SUBMISSION ONLY

PLEASE NOTE, ALL PAGES UNDER QUICK LINKS NOW REQUIRES YOU TO REGISTER AND LOG IN DUE TO PRIVACY ISSUES. ONCE YOU HAVE REGISTERED, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS ALL PROTECTED AREAS. DEPARTMENT MUST APPROVE YOUR REGISTRATION, THEREFORE DEPENDING ON THE DAY AND TIME, THERE MAY BE A DELAY.

This form must be submitted within 10 days of Unit elections or no later than May 29, 2026.

No membership packets will be provided until this form is received at Department Headquarters! No other format will be accepted. All 2026 dues must be paid at the time of elections! All information is required on this form. OFFICER CHANGES: Anytime there is an Officer change, this form must be completed AGAIN and submitted. Department is NO longer using the Unit Officer Change Form.

BE SURE TO SAVE YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND EMAIL TO:

**district6president@alafi.org AND TO
ALAFLD6NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM**

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 REDDY 6th News

URGENT INFO FOR ALL UNITS:

Department is pleased to announce that pre-registration for Department Convention is open on our website.

When you go to our website; www.afl.org it is on the home page, in red: PRE-REGISTER FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION at the top of the page.

Key items to note:

- Please be sure to click on UNITS IN GOOD STANDING - Units highlighted in green are in good standing and you can proceed to pre-register. If your unit is not in good standing, please contact Patsy at membership@afl.org.
- You will need a debit/credit card to register.
- Be sure to select your unit and choose the number of delegates and alternates that you are sending to convention. The MAXIMUM number of delegates and alternates that you are allowed will be listed, but if the number you are sending is less than what you are allowed, please change it.
- If your unit has a Past Department President or Department Officer, they will get their own vote (must be attending the convention) and there is a section for this.

You will receive a confirmation email and then at Department Convention, you will go to a special line to just pick up your bags/packets for convention.

As always, any questions or if you need help - please reach out to me at membership@afl.org.

CU at Convention

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Stories From Our Units

ORLANDO UNIT 19

Americanism

Kathy DeRouin took a historical trip up and down the Mississippi River. She learned about plantation life at the Oak Valley, the Myrtles, and Frogmore Plantations. Crops grown were sugar cane, rice, cotton, corn, soybeans, potatoes. Frogmore is still a working plantation with the land leased to farmers in the area.

Vicksburg National Military Park, Battlefield and Cemetery. The battle took place in 1863 with Federal and Confederate troops. The Confederates surrendered as they were outnumbered. The USS Cairo on display was one of the Federal gunboats deployed on the Mississippi.

Battle of Baton Rouge, 1779 was the Spanish vs. the British for the control of the land. Spain won and land was granted.

Rural Life Museum, part of LSU. Interesting fact: the church windows were painted green and red because they could not afford stained glass.

National WWII Museum included the entire history of WWII with a movie. It takes a full day to see everything.

New Orleans St. Louis Cemetery, 1789, is a private Catholic cemetery with mainly French aristocrats buried there. All tombs are above ground due to flooding.

Community Service

Junior Lily Jessen and Renee DeRouin-Jessen volunteered at the Avian Reconditioning Center feeding raptors, April 24.

Joanne Wood served food the homeless at Blessed Trinity Church, did accounting for the Down Syndrome Foundation, and hosted the Neighborhood Watch organizational meeting.

Christina Evans and Cathy Lindner assisted the Ambition All Stars Cheerleading Team with a competition in Daytona. One of the fathers of a child on the team passed away. The Manatee Memorial Hospital did an Honor Walk where all staff lined the hallway, the cheerleading team, Christina and Cathy, participated as he donated his organs to others. A flag flew for 3 days over the hospital to support and show respect.

Education

Lily sang a duet representing Wolf Lake Middle School at the Apopka Foliage Festival, April 25.

Girls State

Muryum Firoz will represent Unit 19 at Girls State.

*Orlando Memorial Post 19 officially opened May 1, address: 5601 Edgewater Drive, Orlando

See next page for Unit pictures

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ORLANDO UNIT 19—Continued from Page 4

Historical Pictures from the Mississippi River trip.



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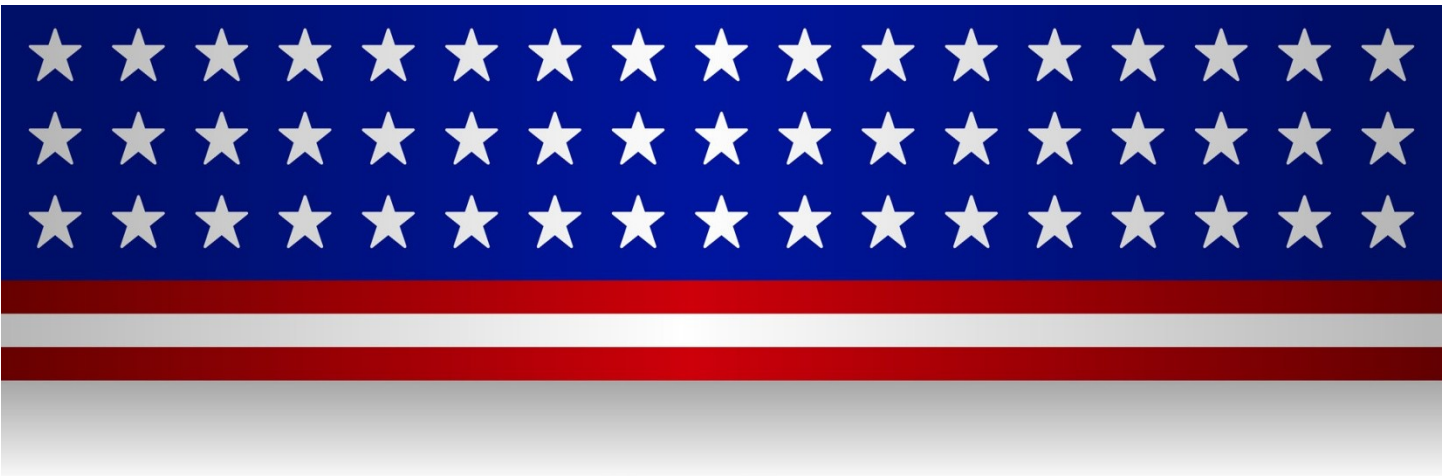
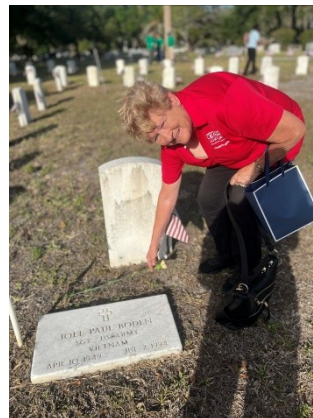
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ORLANDO UNIT 19—Continued from Page 5



Cathy Lindner, Lois Stachelrodt, and Kathy DeRouin attended the Memorial Day service at Greenwood Lakes Cemetery on May 21st. These Unit members placed carnations in front of the graves.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Happy Birthday* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

UNITED STATES ARMY

JUNE 14

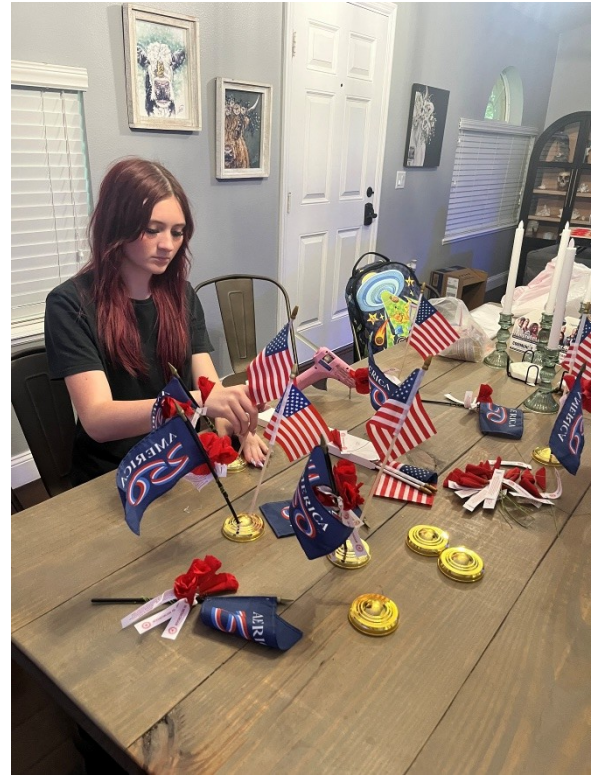


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ORLANDO UNIT 19—Continued from Page 6



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MOUNT DORA UNIT 35

Unit 35 joined Post 55 to select our Girl's State Delegates. Our new chairperson for Girl's State, Lynda Fleming is doing a great job staying in contact with our Delegates and Alternates to assist them in attending this great program. Our Auxiliary members also began something new this month: Rock Painting! The rocks with the theme of Americanism and 250th anniversary will be displayed at the entrance to our post. Much fun was had by all and there will be more painting to come on Memorial Day.



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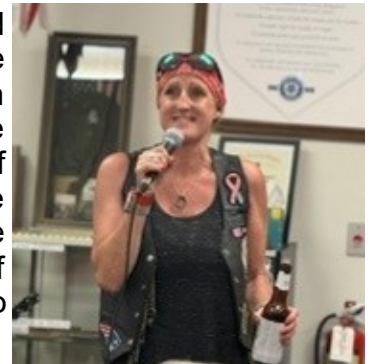
CLERMONT UNIT 55



The Lieutenant Bill Manning Foundation Inc.'s 13th Annual Membership Bash, held on May 16, 2026, was a tremendous success. The foundation was created to help firefighters attend specialized training opportunities outside their departments, investing in education, professional growth, and the future of the fire service.



Three years ago, Kerri Manning, an original board member of the foundation and proud member of the American Legion Auxiliary, played an important role in developing and strengthening the partnership with the American Legion. Through the continued support of the American Legion family, the foundation was able to send six firefighters to the Orlando Fire Conference in 2025, eleven firefighters in 2026, and, as a result of this year's participation and contributions, plans to send fourteen firefighters in 2027.



The American Legion family has embraced the foundation's mission through generosity, volunteerism, and unwavering support for first responders. This partnership has helped grow the program beyond imagination, and the foundation is deeply grateful for the American Legion's continued commitment to firefighter training and the communities they proudly serve.



The May 9th 9 Ball Tournament was another great success for ALA Unit 55! This monthly Auxiliary sponsored event brought together members and friends for an evening of fun, fellowship and fundraising competition.

Through everyone's generosity and participation, the tournament provided additional support for the Americanism Flag Replacement Program.

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CLERMONT UNIT 55—Continued from Page 10



Some of our lovely American Legion Auxiliary ladies dedicated their time Saturday, May 23rd to hand out poppies to remember and honor our brave veterans. Thank you Lowe's and Mission BBQ in Clermont, FL for your partnership in this important effort.



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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ST. CLOUD UNIT 80

The American Legion Auxiliary for Unit 80 had a busy and successful month supporting our veterans, community, and charitable programs. We proudly hosted the District Constitutional Convention, welcoming members from across the district for fellowship, reports, and planning for the coming year.

Our Purse Auction (where we had male models to showcase the purses) was a tremendous success, raising \$2,900 for Commander Jessica Moore's project benefiting Special Olympics. We appreciate everyone who donated purses, their time, and supported the event to help make such a meaningful contribution.

In addition, we continued our monthly Roadkill and Bingo events, which provided enjoyable opportunities for members and guests to gather, socialize, and support our Auxiliary activities. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make these events successful.



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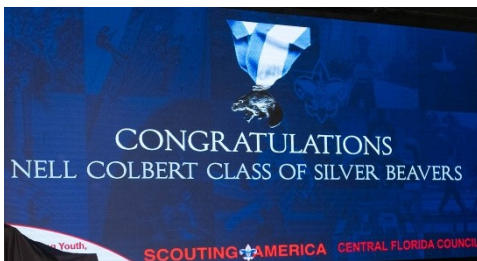
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WINTER PARK UNIT 112

April and May were busy months for our Unit. Even though our regular Unit meetings are held each month via Zoom and a number of our members do not live in Florida, we are proud to report that we were able to have participation in every Auxiliary program and our Year-End reports were all submitted on time. Three of our Unit members attended the District Constitutional Conference where we received a number of certificates for our reporting.



For the very first time, we submitted nominations for three National Auxiliary Good Deed awards and presented two of these awards at the ScoutsBSA Troop 613, sponsored by Post 112, in early May. Our third nominee will receive his Good Deed award at his Eagle Scout ceremony in early June. If everything works out, one of our members will present this award via Zoom since the scout lives in Ohio. In May, we submitted another Good Deed award nomination for a young lady in ScoutsBSA Troop 4613, also sponsored by Post 112, and should have confirmation that the award was approved by national in the near future.



One of our members recognized by the Central Florida Council Scouting America for her service to Scouting for more than 45 years. Nell, who earned the Silver Beaver Award in 1991, was named the 2026 Silver Beaver Class Honoree. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest award that a Council can bestow on a volunteer and Nell had the honor of presenting the 2026 Silver Beaver Awards to six dedicated Scouters from across the Central Florida Council's seven county area.



In addition to elections, May is also our annual review of our proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Any changes made to the draft budget will be updated and the final budget will be approved at our June meeting.

We are pleased to announce that the following officers have agreed to serve for the 2026-2027 program year:

- President Marge Berrios
- Vice President Terry Berrios-Guariglia
- Secy-Treas Nell Colbert
- Chaplain Debi Shannon
- Sgt-at-Arms Maria Santiago

Our installation of officers will be held in July in a joint American Legion Family ceremony.

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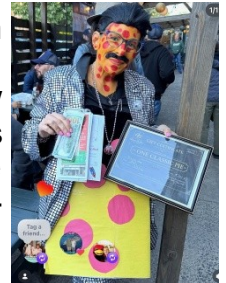
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WINTER PARK UNIT 112—Continued from Page 12



Two of our Senior members are runners who participate in marathons to raise money for local charities. Maria, recently ran a half-marathon representing a non-profit organization called Wander Project that supports charities ranging from those supporting mental health awareness, environmental movements, to people with disabilities. Our member raised more than \$1000 for the Wander project.

Another of our members, Terry, participated in an event organized by an organization called the MerchantsOfThirdAve that supports local businesses and the community. This event, held in Bay Ridge, NY, a community in the southwest corner of the New York City borough of Brooklyn, was called *Pizza Wars* and participants dressed up as pizza slices as they strolled the streets to judge local pizzeria's. There was a costume contest at the end of the stroll and our member, Terry, won the prize for the best costume, in addition to raising money for charity.



May saw Marge and Nell presenting Americanism Essay Contest and Scholastic Achievement Award certificates and medals to students at five area elementary schools. A young lady from Dommerich Elementary won our Essay Contest and a young lady and a young man at Brookshire, Dommerich, Eastbrook, Lakemont, and Rainbow Elementary Schools each received Scholastic Achievement awards.



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FERN PARK/ALTAMONTE UNIT 183

250th Anniversary Razzle Dazzle Basket

**Help Unit 183 raise funds to support our
ALA missions!**



ONLINE BASKET RAFFLE



\$500 VALUE!

TICKETS \$5 EACH

DRAWING ON JULY 4, 2026

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BITHLO UNIT 242

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 242 East Orlando held a fundraiser at Texas Road House in Oviedo where patrons enjoyed a fun filled evening. The restaurant donated 10% of the proceeds from patrons who opted into this fundraiser event. A total of \$1414 was raised. ALA 242 hopes to meet with the Honor Flight of Central Florida to present a check. Way to go ladies!!



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LADY LAKE UNIT 347

ALA Unit 347 Arranges Visit to MTRA for Department President



American Legion Auxiliary Department President Robin Burke continued her tour of Auxiliary units with a visit designed to highlight the impact local units are making in their communities. Because Unit 347 is a strong supporter of Marion Therapeutic Riding Academy (MTRA) in Ocala, which serves individuals with disabilities and veterans, it was a natural choice for President Burke's visit.



During her time at MTRA, President Burke observed equine therapy classes and had the opportunity to meet with staff members and veterans. She was delighted to see firsthand the meaningful work being done and how the support of Unit 347 has helped advance MTRA's mission of service and healing.



Unit 347 President Caswell presents a grant to Catherine Sears, MTRA Executive Director and Doug Walker, Veteran Program Coordinator in the amount of \$6,000.

ALA Volunteers Attend Luncheon



2nd VP Barbara Kyle set up a luncheon honoring American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347 volunteers that was held at Francesco's Restaurant in Lady Lake. President Maureen Caswell addressed all the volunteers and thanked them for their dedication to the Auxiliary.



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LADY LAKE UNIT 347—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16



ALA District Constitutional Conference



American Legion Post 80 in St. Cloud hosted the District Constitutional Conference on May 9, 2026. ALA Unit 347 was awarded several certificates for the year end reporting on several programs. District Historian, Dara Oliver, presented president Carol with a scrapbook to commemorate her year as our District President.



A ceremony was held for the members we lost during the past year. Unit 347 Sgt. At Arms Susan Duncan and 1st VP Pat Morrow placed five roses during the ceremony.



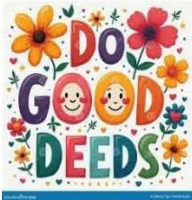
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LADY LAKE UNIT 347—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17



Make sure you are filling out your “Good Deeds” form for any activity you have done outside of your family or donations that are done to charities or your favorite charity.



American Legion Auxiliary has sponsored local students to attend Girls State in Tallahassee, Florida from June 4-12, 2026.



The Department of Florida Convention will take place at the Orlando Hilton Lake Buena Vista Florida from June 11 – 14, 2026.



Next Sip and Clip is on June 24, 2026 in the American Legion Post 347 Hall from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Keep those coupons coming!



July 4th celebration picnic is being planned and all the families will be participating. Stay tuned for all the details and for further information, reach out to American Legion 1st VP Tina Burgess.

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Program Feature of the Month

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations 6th District—WE DID IT! As of the Friday Report for 5/29/2026:

	Goal	JR	SR	Total	%
0010 Kissimmee	202	4	226	230	113.86%
0018 Wildwood	23	0	19	19	82.61%
0019 Orlando	74	3	57	60	81.08%
0035 Mount Dora	153	1	171	172	112.42%
0055 Clermont	299	1	267	268	89.63%
0080 Saint Cloud	310	18	324	342	110.32%
0101 Bushnell	108	0	81	81	75.00%
0112 Winter Park	35	4	32	36	102.86%
0183 Fern Park	124	1	95	96	77.42%
0219 Fruitland Park	251	4	270	274	109.16%
0239 Groveland	22	0	20	20	90.91%
0242 Orlando	134	10	119	129	96.27%
0286 Orlando	191	9	192	201	105.24%
0330 Leesburg	45	2	43	45	100.00%
0331 Orlando	27	0	31	31	114.81%
0347 Lady Lake	2823	9	2928	2937	104.04%
0412 Orlando	11	2	6	8	72.73%
Total	4832	68	4881	4949	102.42%



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The Chaplain's Prayer—Billy Dover, Guest Chaplain, Winter Park Post 112



Today, we are going to discuss David, who wrote most of the Psalms. David's life was not always easy, but he did what we all should: he prayed and journaled.

Psalms 3:

O LORD, I have so many enemies; so many are against me.

So many are saying, "God will never rescue him!"

But you, O LORD, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high.

I cried out to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy mountain.

I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety, for the LORD was watching over me.

I am not afraid of ten thousand enemies who surround me on every side.

Arise, O LORD! Rescue me, my God! Slap all my enemies in the face! Shatter the teeth of the wicked! Victory comes from you, O LORD. May you bless your people.

We all have enemies who are against each of us. The enemy does not have to be human; it can be a disease or financial troubles. You may think God is not helping you, but if you have faith, just as David did, you will see his wonderful works. God will protect you by covering you with his grace. You have to call on the LORD and ask for HIS help in good times and in bad. Just as the children's nighttime prayer: **Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the LORD my soul to keep, If I shall die before I wake, I pray the LORD my soul to take.** Be bold and let the LORD rescue you, no matter what kind of enemy you are dealing with. We will have victory in the LORD in all things, but it begins with you having faith in the LORD.

Let's pray: Dear Lord, we ask that you protect us from all our enemies at all times. We especially ask for your protection for our country and all of our service personnel, especially their families. Protect our first responders and their families. We ask you to cover us with each moment of your lives, in the good times and bad times.

This we ask in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, AMEN.



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@al afl.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@al afl.org so that National's records can be updated.

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GIRLS STATE BUS SCHEDULE



GIRLS STATE

6th District Bus Schedule

THURSDAY, June 4, 2026

ALA Department Headquarters 1912 Lee Road
Orlando, FL 32810

6:30 am Check-In
7:00 am Bus Loads
7:15 am Bus Leaves

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

8:15 am Check-In
8:45 am Bus Loads
9:00 am Bus Leaves

Arrives Deviney Hall at 1:00 pm 111 S Woodward Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850) 644-3841

FRIDAY, June 12, 2026

American Legion Post 347
12:00 pm Bus Arrives

ALA Department Headquarters
1:30 pm Bus Arrives



Happy 4th of July!



250th Anniversary Razzle Dazzle Basket

**Help Unit 183 raise funds to support our
ALA missions!**



ONLINE BASKET RAFFLE



\$500 VALUE!

TICKETS \$5 EACH

DRAWING ON JULY 4, 2026





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 committee 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.

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WHO GETS WHAT AT DEPARTMENT

Patsy Sewell, Membership Coordinator

membership@alaf1.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@alaf1.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@alaf1.org

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

Office Headquarters

alaf1hq@alaf1.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

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

REMEMBER:

NO JULY

NEWSLETTER

NEXT NEWSLETTER

WILL BE

AUGUST

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2025—2026 District Officers and Chairmen

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Carol Pirone-Udell	district6president@alaf1.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	Dara Oliver	alamemberdoliver@gmail.com	321-543-1069
Sergeant-At-Arms	Paula Fox	foxinails1282@aol.com	407-747-0725
Parliamentarian	Treva Kay Wildrick	tkwildrick612@gmail.com	407-462-0173
Americanism	Wendy Lavery	w1avery23@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
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