



Volume 15, Issue 6

'SMOKE FREE POST'

June 2015







Memorial Garden

Commander Louis 'Pappy' Martin Pavilion

560 N. Wilderness Trail ~ Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Legionnaire meetings, first Thursday each month, 7:00pm

Auxiliary meetings, second Thursday each month, 7:00pm

Son's meetings, third Thursday each month, 6:30pm

Rider's meetings, first Sunday each month, 11:00am

Canteen hours:

MON-FRI: 11:00am until ?? hrs.

SAT: **4pm** until ?? hrs. **Happy Hour 4-7pm** On event Saturday's, call for opening time SUN: 9am until ?? hrs. **Happy Hour 3-7pm**

Monday-Friday: Lunch 12:00n-2:00pm Wednesday: Dinner 6:30pm-8:00pm Friday: Dinner 6:30pm-8:00pm Sunday: Breakfast 9:00am-11:30am Website: www.AL233FL.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL Email: info@al233fl.org Post telephone: 904.285.2484



We are a Smoke Free Post, 24/7 Smoking only allowed outside, since February 2014

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NEVER FORGET ~ POW's & MIA's





Cdr. Roy Havekost



Chaplain William 'Bill' Reno



E-Board Mike Eatmon

2014



1st Vice Cdr. Dan Wortmann



Finance Tom Leppeard



E-Board Ted Veber

OFFICERS





Sgt.at Arms Sonny Kirkwood



E-Board Mike Williams



Judge Advocate Ric Smith

2015

3rd Vice Cdr., & Service

Officer

Service Officer & E-Board

Maury Lazenby





4th Vice Cdr. Charlie Walker



E-Board Jim Durnal



Adjutant Jim Crutchfield





Auxiliary President Judy Mills

AUXILIARY: 1st V.President Kathy Helmly 2nd V.President Amy Blair Treasurer Allyson Bass Secretary Angie Kees Chaplain Celeste Sheble SAA Sylvia Bass Historian Linda Mathis E-Board Dee Durnal E-Board Debbie Eatmon E-Board Patty Williams



Historian JR Mathis



SAL Cdr. Jeff 'Tex' Ward SAL: 1st Vice Cdr. Howard Sheble 2nd Vice Cdr. Mike Shaar Adjutant-Finance J. Crutchfield **Chaplain Will Hurley** Historian John Gabbard





Riders Director Bill Marshall

RIDERS: Asst. Dir. Kevin Terranella Treasurer Kathy Church Secretary Virna Waldron Chaplain Linda Williams Road Capt. Bill Marshall SAA Kevin Terranella Historian Virna Waldron **Historian Kathy Helmly**



Canteen Mgr. Rita Connolly

BARTENDERS: Anita Allyson Beth Debbie

Amy Cooper

Commander's Corner.

Hello everyone;

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the incoming slate of officers for the 2015-2016 term of office. I wish you all the best for a successful term of office; Commander Sonny Kirkwood, 1st Vice Cdr. Jim Durnal, 2nd Vice Cdr. Susan Severson, 3rd Vice Cdr. Al Hernandez, Chaplain Bill Reno, Sgt at Arms JR Mathis, Adjutant Jim Crutchfield, Finance Officer Tom Leppeard, and Executive Board Members, Maury Lazenby, Mike Williams, Ted Veber, Jim Crutchfield and Ed Butler. For the Auxiliary, President Kathy Helmly, 1st Vice President Amy Blair, 2nd Vice President Lauren Caldwell, Secretary Debbie Eatmon, Treasurer Allyson Bass, Chaplain Celeste Sheble, Historian Linda Mathis, Sgt.at Arms Patty Williams, Executive Board members Dee Durnal, Angie Kees and Sylvia Bass. For the SAL, Commander Jeff Ward, 1st Vice Cdr. Howard Sheble, 2nd Vice Cdr. Jason Bass, Sgt at Arms Mike Shaar, Chaplain Will Hurley, Historian Randy Cottle and Finance/Adjutant Jim Crutchfield. And last but not least, for the Riders, Director Kevin Terranella, Asst. Director John Schumm, Road Captain BJ Atkins, Sgt at Arms Betty Bacom, Chaplain Linda Williams, Secretary Virna Waldron, Historian Kathy Helmly and Treasurer Kathy Church.

For God and Country,

Roy Havekost

Past Commander 2012-2015

Commander's "Elect" Corner.



Here we go! Roy has passed on to me June's Newsletter responsibilities and your newly elected officers (and several 2014-2015 officers have

elected to remain in office for 2015-2016). Slate of officers:

Commander Elect	Sonny Kirkwood
1 st Vice Commander Re-elect	Jim Durnal
2 nd Vice Commander Elect	Susan Severson
3 rd Vice Commander Elect	Al Hernandez
4 th Vice Commander	OPEN
Chaplain Re-elect	Bill Reno
Sgt. At Arms Elect	JR Mathis
Historian Elect	OPEN
Finance Officer	Tom Leppeard
Re-elect	
E-Board Re-elect	Mike Williams
E-Board Re-elect	Jim Crutchfield
E-Board Re-elect	Ted Veber
E-Board Re-elect	Maury Lazenby
E-Board Elect	Ed Butler

3rd Vice Commander



Due to unexpected family matters out of state, I am forced to take a leave of absence from my duties as 3rd Vice and Post Adjutant.

For God and Country,

Sheri Rodriguez, 3rd Vice Cdr.

Adjutant



Here we are at the dawn of a new year in the life of Palm Valley Post 233. We have had some truly great years in the life of our Post. Those days are behind us,

what we need we are about to embark on is a "new day" for Post You may have already noticed some small changes beginning to take place. In order to make our Post the best it can be, we will need some help from each of you. The easiest help is simple support. Be positive about Post 233 and its activities even if all the activities are not to your liking. How can that be better you ask. Let us know your ideas by attending a membership meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 1900hrs (7pm) or by emailing your ideas to me. Another way you can help is to volunteer. I am sure that we can find something that you can do to assist with activities. As always, dollars are always useful.

Membership begins again the first of August after the Department of Florida Legion Convention the last week of July. The 2016 membership cards will be available the first of August.

Membership renewal is easy and convenient in that you can renew on line via the National web site or put your check/money in an envelope and mark it for "Adjutant Jim Crutchfield" and leave it with the bartender on duty. The Legion, Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary, and Legion Riders have all had a very successful membership year. Let us make next year's even better!

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all the members at Post 233 for making me feel so welcomed and a part of the Post Family. I look forward to working with each of you to make Palm Valley Post 233 the best Post it can be. Feel free to call me at 904-679-9839 or email adjutant@al233fl.org.

For God and Country we continue to serve. James "Jim' Crutchfield, Adjutant

Entertainment:

Mike Eatmon (Executive Board Member 2014-2015) has volunteered and been approved to be this year's Entertainment Chairman. Mike brings a plethora of entertainment knowledge and experience and we are grateful for his continued dedication and loyalty to the Post.

Sonny Kirkwood, Commander Elect

As the Incoming Commander I am required in accordance with the By-Lays to appoint numerous Committees and positions; to date the following individuals have been appointed: Adjutant (Jim Crutchfield), Service Officer (acting Jim Crutchfield), Judge Advocate (Roy Havekost), House Committee Chairman (JR Mathis), and Executive Committee Chairman (Post Commander).

All of the 2015-2016 Officers conducted a "strategy" meeting to plan our "goals and objectives" both short term and long term for the Post. Our motto this year is "LOOKING FORWARD NOT BACKWARDS." Our Top Three priorities (short term) are:

- (1) Operate the Post as a business and make these efforts and changes as much transparent to our members and guests. This includes restructuring current procurement procedures, employee accountability and "All-hands" stepping up to the plate mindset.
- (2) Membership Survey. We want to know why there's not more "BUTTS IN SEATS" at the Post. Additionally, the initiative includes aggressive marketing and getting the word out that "we are not just a local pub" and are very active in the communities and promote veteran/family events.
- (3) Inventory Controls (both Canteen and Kitchen). This includes security system enhancements along with streamlining procedures and practices.

Other initiatives (Long Term) that we discussed:

- (1) Better Communications
- (2) Promote Volunteers
- (3) Fund raising via local businesses
- (4) Legion Membership Day of Appreciation
- (5) Organizations (Red Cross, Blood Alliance, etc...)
- (6) Formalizing Ceremonies (ROTC, Sea Cadets, etc.)
- (7) Local businesses support
- (8) Promote more "family oriented" events
- (9) Revisit daily lunches to be profitable
- (10) Bingo initiative on Sundays
- (11) Be consistent in whatever we do!

My congratulations to the re-elect SAL Commander Jeff "Tex" Ward, newly elect Ladies Auxiliary President Kathy Helmly, and newly elect Riders' Director Kevin Terranella. For the outgoing officers (Judy Mills ALA) and (Bill Marshall Rider's) thank you for your dedication and service to the Post.

On behalf of the entire Post, to Roy, Valerie (wife) and Victoria (Daughter), I thank you for your patience, understanding and devotion!

For God and Country,

Sonny Kirkwood, Incoming Commander 2015-2016

WELCOME ABOARD:

No new members in the month of May.

CANTEEN:



Our entertainment and events for June will be as follows:

Friday, June 5 – Frankie Martin, Jr. – Karaoke

Friday, June 12 – Patrick Rose

Sunday, June 14 – Flag Day – Flag Retirement Ceremony and Oyster Roast

Friday, June 19 – Kim Paige

Sunday, June 21 – ALA's Father's Day Breakfast

Friday, June 26 – Neal Dixon

Any member or group who wishes to volunteer and cook Sunday breakfast, Legion Wednesday dinners, and/or Friday nights, please contact the Post. We will gladly show you the ropes in the kitchen and appreciate any and all help. If you sign-up to help in the kitchen, your meal is either half price and/or you may receive some drink chips. Thank you supporting our Post.

Rita Connolly, Canteen Manager

Trivia: What was Douglas Fairbanks Jr's. claim to fame as an officer in the Navy during World War II?

Answer: He was the founder of a group of Naval Special Warfare sailors...the Navy Beach Jumpers. This elite group was responsible for tactical cover and deception ops from 1943 to 1972. Read more about the Beach Jumpers at http://www.BeachJumpers.com



According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 22 veterans commit suicide each day. Stop22 is a National awareness campaign to show our military members, both active and retired that they are not forgotten. K9s for Warriors, Ponte Vedra, FL, is doing their part to help post 9/11 veterans with PTSD and TBI and helping spread #STOP22 awareness. As American Legion Post 233 Commander here in Ponte Vedra, I challenge all American Legion Posts across the nation to show support for #STOP22 and #K9sSTOP22. Post 233 intends to recruit at least 22 new veterans, can you OUTDO our 22?

Judge Advocate:



As we finish another successful 2014-2015 year, my almost last suggestion as your Judge Advocate is to support your oncoming officers during this

transition period. June is a good month for training sessions after Department Convention. This post has grown in talent, quality and very good membership...Keep it going...For God and Country...Ric Smith Sr.

For God and Country, *Ric Smith*, *Judge Advocate*

Auxiliary:



Hello everyone well this is my last newsletter as President of the Auxiliary Unit 233. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one

of you that supported me and helped me make my two year term a great success, I don't think I could have done it without you all, we are a team and we proved we can work together to accomplish our goals.

I want to congratulate the incoming officers of: Kathy Helmly-President, Amy Blair - First Vice, Lauren Caldwell - Second Vice, Debbie Eatmon - Secretary, Allyson Bass - Treasurer, Celeste Sheble - Chaplain, Patty Williams - Sgt. at Arms, Linda Mathis - Historian and the Executive Committee: Dee Durnal, Angie Kees and Sylvia Bass, this is a great team and I hope they have a great year CONGRATULATIONS.

The Auxiliary will be cooking breakfast for all fathers on Father's Day June 21, 2015; the menu will follow a little later, Father's eat <u>FREE</u> on this day. The team is planning a great breakfast so mark your calendars and bring your father in and enjoy a great meal.

The Auxiliary regular meeting will be held on June 11, 2015 at 7:00pm so try to make it and meet your new officers, plus we will be planning food for the Legion Flag Retirement Event on June 14, 2015, so come to the meeting and help us make a plan.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY GOD BLESS AMERICA Judy Mills, President



SAL:

Greetings Men,

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 233 for 2015-16. None of the positions changed except we now have a "full-time" 2nd Vice. The officers are as follows.

Commander: Jeff "Tex" Ward, 1st Vice: Howard Sheble, 2nd Vice: Jason Bass, Sgt.-At-Arms: Mike Shaar, Chaplain: Will





SAL: The SAL would like to thank JR & Linda Mathis and Hank Griffis for their recent donations to us for the "Wheel" and State Conference expenses. Your continued support helps keep our SAL as the best in Florida!

With July 4th just around the corner, planning has begun to make the event at the Post even better than last year. All of our entities will be involved in the planning and execution. If you would like to be involved in any small/large way, please email me. Thank you.

For God and Country Howard Sheble SAL 1st Vice Commander



Auxiliary: Hello Ladies,

We are proud to have ended this year with the totals:

- 37 members (17 Legionnaires, 13 Auxiliary, and 7 Sons)
- 11,797 miles and 1,703 hours
- \$5,189 donations

We supported the following:

- 5 Stars Veterans Center, 5th District Miss Poppy
- Contest, K9s for Warriors, American Legion Post 233, BEAM,
- City Rescue Mission, Dreams Come True, Legacy Fund, MIAP
- (Missing in America Project), Sulzbacher Center Veterans Wing, USO, Back to School Drive and Snacks for our Troops
- Wounded Warriors, Wreaths Across America, and VEMA.

Now to the new ~ hip hip hooray! We held our elections on May 17, 2015 and the results are:

Hurley, Historian: Randy Cottle, and Adjutant/Finance Officer: Jim Crutchfield. Thank you to all of last year's officers for their efforts, team work and dedication. Looking forward to another successful year!

MEMEBERSHIP: Congratulations to all of us for reaching 100% membership for the 10th year in a row!! Although there are still some of you that have not renewed – what's up?? You can pay your renewals (\$30.) in cash or check "American Legion – S.A.L." Please put the payment in an envelope (along with your current phone number, mailing address and email) marked "Attention: Jim Crutchfield" and give it to the bartender on duty. Or, you can send the check to: Jim Crutchfield, 560 N. Wilderness Trail, Ponte Vedra, FL, 32082. Please include your phone number, current address and email.

Our May "Wednesday Night Dinner" of Caesar Salad and Sausage with pasta was awesome (as always!). Chef Mike Shaar, along with Howard Sheble and ALA 2nd Vice Lauren Caldwell did a great job. Thank you! We do this once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. Please help us by volunteering at least once a year. That is not asking too much, is it? Even if you can't help us at least be there to buy a meal and support your Squadron and Post. Or, if you cannot afford the time to volunteer you can always contribute as a Gold Sponsor with a \$100 donation. This will help to pay for the food and someone to cook it. You also have the privilege to decide on the menu (within reason!) The next S.A.L. dinner is Wednesday, June 17th. Any ideas?

On Mother's Day we provided a pancake breakfast (Mothers ate free!) and it was a huge success. Thanks to all who helped. On Sunday, June 14th (Flag Day) we are having a formal "Flag Retirement" ceremony. I am sure most of you have never witnessed one of these and I can tell it is very moving, Plan to be there! Following the ceremony we will be host an oyster roast/hot dogs and a band playing on the outdoor stage. Hope to see many of you there.

There are many other events and fundraisers planned so keep your eyes on the newsletter, visit the website (www.al233fl.org) or better yet, come in to your Post and have a drink and see what is happening! I also try to inform the members by email updates of all special events, dinners, etc. so if you are not receiving that please email me and I will add you to the list. We are also on Facebook so if you are a social media aficionado go to "Sons of The American Legion Squadron 233" and join the group. This is a convenient and fun way to stay informed.

Now is the time to give back! Our Post needs all of us to step up and support it in some way. That can be accomplished by volunteering to help in fundraisers and meals, making a financial donation, showing up for meals, fundraisers, events, etc. or just stop by for a friendly drink and visit.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our Squadron or Post 233 issues, or are not receiving my email updates, please contact me on my phone (904-233-0976) or email (flagman49@yahoo.com) – or better yet, attend the monthly meeting and share your thoughts and ideas with all of us! The next meeting is Thursday, June 18th @ 6:30pm. Please try to attend. We need your input!

Always be mindful that it is a privilege to be a member of the Sons of the American Legion. As male descendants we are honoring our fathers and forefathers who have served in the Armed Forces, and in many cases gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. If the same names keep showing up in this column it is because the same people are doing the volunteering.

Kevin Terranella - Director John Schumm - Assistant Director Virna Waldron - Secretary/Historian Kathy Church - Treasurer/Membership Betty Bacom - Sergeant at Arms BJ Atkins - Road Captain Linda Williams - Chaplain

Our Charity that we have chosen for our 4th Annual Run in 2016 will be to benefit MIAP (Missing in America Project) 501© 3. Their purpose is to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed cremations of American Veterans. To learn more about MIAP and/or volunteer opportunities, please go to www.miap.us or send an email to miapjax@yahoo.com. We will also be cooking the 1st Wednesday of each month ~ see you on June 3 for a Lasagna Dinner with Salad, Garlic Bread, and Tiramisu. As a reminder, we also cook breakfast the 3rd Sunday of the month and hold our General Meeting at noon on the same date. Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean" -- Let's make our waves Post 233! We are looking forward to a grrrrrrrrrreat new term!











For God & Country Jeff "TEX" Ward Commander – Squadron 233









In appreciation for his years of dedicated service to the American Legion, especially Post 233, I officially appoint our Judge Advocate Ric Smith, COMMANDER for a day, on June 30th, 2015. Enjoy your retirement...Commander.













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Your birthday can be listed here by sending your name, month and day to webmaster@al233fl.org or call Roy @ 287-6909

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POST 233 "MEAL DEAL" SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Are you one of those people who would love to volunteer to help your Post but you don't trust your culinary skills or aren't able to manage the kitchen duties?

We've got a DEAL for you! There are others willing to do the work for you and better yet, you get all the credit. Become a Post 233 LEGIONNAIRE MEAL SPONSOR and all the planning, shopping, cooking, service and clean-up will be taken care of and you will be honored as that Wednesday evening's Meal Sponsor. Your dinner will be on the house and you can even request a favorite meal you would like to have prepared.

There is a Sponsorship Level for everyone and your Sponsorship is a tax deductible donation to American Legion Post 233. Your donation will be used to offset the food cost and compensate the evening's Chef for their time and effort on your behalf.

GOLD SPONSOR - 100.00 - SILVER SPONSOR - 50.00 - BRONZE SPONSOR - 25.00







Consider renting our pavilion area for your next birthday, anniversary, family gathering, business meeting or picnic.

For details contact our Canteen Manager or any of our bartenders for more details.

Go to AL233FL.org for pix. Call 285-2484.

Smoking is permitted outside and at the pavilion bar.

POST 233 is a FREE WiFi spot

ADVERTIZE YOUR BUSINESS CARD ON THE POST TV FOR ONLY \$75.00/YEAR Ask the bartender for details

The Post 233 calendar of events is online at:

http://www.al233fl.org/ecalendar.htm

If you have a smart phone, you can connect to the e-calendar with your gmail account and have all the Post 233 event dates at your fingertips.

SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT HELP SUPPORT YOUR POST

















\$25.00 per year to advertise your business card on both the monthly newsletter and Post website.

Make check payable to American Legion Post 233.

Your check and business card can be left in the Commanders mailbox.

Business cards that missed the payment deadline will be posted immediately to the website when your payment is received.

Display your card here!



NO GRADUATING CLASS FOR MAY



Every Friday night at Post 233 play the 'SPIN TO WIN' FUNDRAISER

- Tickets (\$1 each) will be sold from 7pm to 9pm with a weekly drawing at 9pm
- Winning ticket holder will spin the wheel to win a cash prize
- Prize amount will increase each week if there is no winner.
- Complete fundraiser rules posted at the bar
- Prize amounts will be listed weekly on Facebook or you can call the Post at 904-285-2484
- Post 233, 560 N.Wilderness Trail Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

TOP PRIZE THIS MONTH over \$1,450.00

Thank you to those who have contributed to this newsletter.

Palm Valley Post #233
The American Legion
560 N. Wilderness Trail
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

PLACE
U.S. POSTAGE
HERE









Mailing Address:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED