

January 2024
American Legion Post 57



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COMMANDERS CORNER



I would like to thank everyone for your support and a wonderful year, 2023 is in the book now. December was a very busy month for us.

We had a lot of events which we all participated in, we had the Domiciliary Gift cards and Christmas event. We had Wreath Across America, Distributed Nemours Flag at Woodlawn Cemetery, Our Christmas Party was a huge success, New Years Party was awesome. Riders had their Middle School Santa Visit kids where happy to see Santa, great Job.

Now for January,

Jan 5th Karaoke 6:30 pm in Lounge

Jan 6th Christmas Decorations Take down 9:00am

Jan 13th Norten area ball tickets will be available at Event.

Jan 26th, 80s, Night Party 7pm in lounge.

Jan 27th Americanism at 7pm in Bingo Hall

Red Shirt Friday winners: Tom Willcutts , Ray Funck, Laura Cabrera (twice).

Queen of Hearts winners: Jessica Cohen, Bill Huggins, Anabelle Freshour, Connie Greene

We currently have open positions on the executive board, anyone with a current Legion Membership may apply. Please contact any current officer for more information.

As always Volunteers are needed in Bingo, Kitchen and Events please take time to Volunteer. and help with your post.

Thanks for God and Country
Commander
Rick Cabrera



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Nancy Moschetti

Thanks for all you do!



S.A.L SQUADRON 57



Hope everyone had a safe Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We had another fun filled month of Roadkill Bingo and Friday Night Dinner. I would like to thank Jim, Lee, and Bailee-Jo for helping with Roadkill and I would also like Tim and Yvette Kiss for preparing the pork and dessert and Jim, Vanessa, Leland, and Don for making our events a huge success.

I would like to announce that Ron Duffee stepped up and accepted the Vice Commander position of Squadron 57. I am looking forward to show him the ropes.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday January 2nd @ 6:30 pm Squadron 57 Meeting

Saturday January 6th @ 7:00 to 9:00 pm Roadkill Bingo

Friday January 26th @ 5:30 to 7:30 pm Friday Night Dinner

S.A.L. Squadron Commander:
Brian Wolfe



AUXILIARY NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas.

We have been very busy this past month with all the holiday doings. We packed our 2nd group of "Care Packages" for the troops. The USO was very happy to see them since they just got a request for these for 1,000 service personnel. We will be doing this again probably in February or March.

Donna Sessa and her "crew" have been busy also making sure all our "Lost Vets" in the local nursing homes got a little something from us for Christmas. Things like sweatpants, t-shirts, hats, and maybe their favorite candy. She also passed out lapghans to those that have not already received one. These lapghans have been lovingly crocheted by our very own members that have joined together to form "Hooked on Vets".

We also made Christmas a little brighter for the kids at Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Live Oak with a \$25 gift card for each kid and lots of games for each of the residential cottages on the campus.

On December 19th we joined forces with the Legion Family to give out gifts and gift cards to the residents at the Domiciliary and we continue to sponsor bingo at the Domiciliary at least once a month.

Just a friendly reminder, if you have not renewed your membership for 2024, your card expired on December 31st 2023. Please get your card renewed as soon as possible so you don't miss out on all the fun things we have in store for 2024. Dues are \$45.00 and are payable online, by mail, or in person at the post.

Once again, Happy New Year. May 2024 be even better than 2023.
For God and Country,
Lisa Dye
President



JUNIOR AUXILIARY



December is almost over and we hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy New Year. 2023 was an amazing year for the Juniors; thank you to all for your participation in serving meals, helping with meal preparation for the Juniors Dinner; participation in helping with decorating the Veterans Day and Christmas parade floats. Yours and your daughter/son's participation is appreciated.

We also had one Junior visit the Solaris Nursing Home with members of the Auxiliary to pass out Christmas goody bags to our lost, but now found, veterans. This Junior took notice of the bulletin boards in the rooms and saw that many didn't have anything on their boards. So, with her suggestion, the Juniors first project in the new year is to make some decorations for the bulletin boards, starting with the Solaris Nursing Home. Please have your Junior Auxiliary and Son members think about what they would like to contribute.

Now for the New Year:

Our first meeting will be held Tuesday, January 16th from 5:00 to 6:00. This meeting will be a planning meeting for the Juniors and their parents/guardians to discuss the way ahead. Our plan is to have set monthly meetings and will need your feedback as to the best days and time to get maximum participation. Please make every effort to attend this first meeting with your Son or Auxiliary Junior. **WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

We have some ideas for the for the way ahead but want to hear from the Juniors and their parents before making any solid plans for the future. There are Auxiliary members who will be attending some of our meetings to pass on information and some others anxious to share their crafts with us so that we can sell them to earn money for future Junior events.

January 16th will also be our night for elections to set up a board for this group. Those elections will be for a President, Secretary, and Chaplain. Have your Junior think of the way ahead and if they are interested in any of these positions or know of someone they would like to nominate.

#UNIT57JUNIORS
#RINGYOURBELL
#ALAFJUNIORS

Caitlin Hanechak



SERVICE OFFICER



And finally, the rest of the story

We are beginning a new year with new hopes and dreams for our Post 57 family. Throughout the year, this post has done many things to help our community. This month alone, besides the large events there were individuals that needed assistance. We assisted a young female veteran with two small children, the ability to purchase a few things for Christmas and help with groceries. We assisted several homeless veterans with lodging and further information on county and federal assistance available.

Our hope in the New Year, is to train volunteers who will be at the new county Veterans Service Office. Here our volunteers will greet and assist veterans and dependents on some basic information that they can do prior to coming to sit down with a Veteran Service Officer. These basic things will assist the veteran and reduce the time needed by the Service Officer to complete. If you interested in helping, please contact me through the post. I know we have a lot of wonderful members that would be fabulous doing this volunteer work.

We also have our next Veterans Benefit Class on January 7, 2024 at 1pm. This class will concentrate on the need for access to MyHealthyVet and eBenefits. If you want to attend class and you need to enroll in these, if you have a laptop you can bring it and I'll assist you. If you don't have a laptop we can possibly schedule a time to do if I'm not able to do that day. A final word, take a look and see what you can do to help someone. Sometimes, it is the smallest of things like a hello or a simple compliment. If it is something bigger, come to us and see if the Post can help in some way.

Happy New Year,
Rustyann Brown, Service Officer



MEMBERSHIP