

American Legion Post 129

: Post129@comcast.net

February 2010

Upcoming Events

- **February 3**
7:00 House committee & Planning Board
- **February 4**
6:30 Past Commanders
7:00 E Board
7:00 Auxiliary
7:30 General Meeting
- **February 7**
2:00 Four Chaplains Service
Chili cook-off
5th District mtng at Post 183
- **February 11**
7:00 40&8 & Cabane meeting
- **February 13**
Valentines Day dinner
- **February 20**
Mardi Gras Celebration

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Commander's Corner by Jerry Brandt

IMPORTANT NOTICE

There will be a vote on February 7th at the General Meeting. A motion and a 2nd was obtained at the December 3rd meeting to change American Legion Post 129 to a Non-Smoking Post. You must be present to vote on this decision on February 4th.

As a reminder, as of January 1st, if you do not have a valid membership card you will not be able to enjoy the privilege of using the lounge. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to prevent any embarrassing moments. Also, if the bartenders are doing their job, they should be asking to see your membership card at least once, more often if they forget, please show your membership card when they ask you for it.

Attention: Cooking teams, as everyone knows, we have an Opening of the Beaches Bar-BQ every year. This year we are doing something different. The last few Bar-BQ's, the Cooking team of Too Tall and Marty has been taking on the 129's team led by Danny. Welllll, we want to make it more interesting. Put a team together and let's have a Bar-B-Q challenge. Judges will be selected to judge one and all challengers, prizes will be determined.

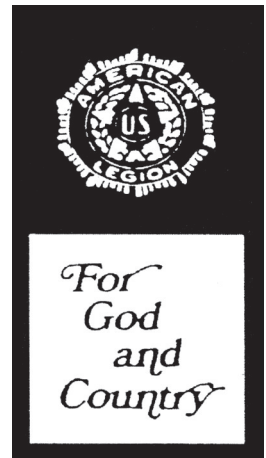
Rule #1. Please contact 2nd Vice Ericka Groleau or myself if you want to be in the contest.

Rule #2. 1 Week prior we will let you know how many people you will need to cook for. (We will take the number of teams and divide by 400 meals (average for the last 4 years)

Rule #3, you can cook whatever you want, If you need the Legion to pay for it, we will need a shopping list 2 weeks in advance. If you pay for it, give the Legion the receipts for the Post to refund your money. The Legion will provide the Beans, Cole Slaw, etc, the cookers will cook the meat.

If you need a Grill, please contact us in advance so we can assist.

The Ladies Rest room is in process of being remodeled. New vanities have been purchased, and new tile has been donated. The CB's (to all who are not Navy, the Construction Battalion) has been contacted to do the job. Please excuse our mess; we will be as quick as possible on this endeavor. Special thanks go out to Marie, Joyce, Genteel, Don, Marsha and Wayne, and to all who volunteer for this project.



By the way, if you are looking for a tax write off, do not forget the American Legion Post you belong to. We will be happy to give you a letter to assist.

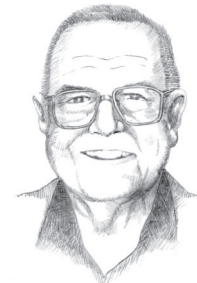
One last thing, we are attempting to save money on the newsletter, you may not realize this, but we spend approximately \$300 a month to print the newsletter, not to mention mailing them. The newsletter is available at our website, www.legionpost129.org. If you can do without the paper copy, please email us at legion-post129@comcast.net and we can remove you from the mailing. This will save us funds that we can use elsewhere. Continued on page 5

LEGION LORE by Jack Hardebeck

No doubt most U.S. armed forces veterans prize any decorations they received as recognition of their service. Yet, Rich Carbone, an executive of Prudential Financial, from which I retired 26 years ago, found a World War II Victory Medal lying on a tale “with a bunch of junk” at a garage sale. The medal was awarded to those who served in that conflict. Probably the recipient of this one was deceased. It was marked to sell for \$5, and Rich bought it.

Although I was in WW II, I never got mine. I know I would have treasured and kept it. In an article in a company publication, Rich commented, “How does something

like this lose its value to the family of the individual who earned it?” In contrast to his attitude, there’s my experience on a tour of the Soviet Union as it was breaking up. From various unemployed formed soldiers, I bought several dozen military medals. Obviously, the Soviets adored such decorations, considering their “heavy metal” chests while in uniform. I reckon they lost that fervor when their government disbanded. Got sentimentality? Nyet.



SAL News by Richard Kasevich

S.A.L. membership as of 1/20/2010 is 120 out of 190 or 63.1 % of our goal. If you haven’t renewed yet please stop by the legion and renew, we need to increase our percentage. A special thanks to Charles, Claire and their crew for the unique meals they have been putting on, both were a success. On Saturday February 27, 2010 S.A. L. will be presenting a dinner theater in the hall.

It will consist of a dinner starting at 5:30 PM followed by a theatre performed by the Vintage Players a theatrical group from The area. The production will begin at 7:00 PM and last a hour. Tickets will go on sale February 1st and the donation will be \$ 12.00 for both the dinner and theatre. Keep your eye out for flyers to be posted the beginning of February.



Officers for 2009—2010

Commander.Jerry Brandt
 1st Vice.....Norm Sullivan
 2nd Vice.....Ericka Groleau
 3rd Vice.....Kelly Rice
 4th Vice.....Joyce Ingle
 SAA.....Danny Rodriguez
 Adjutant.....Candace Kelly
 Finance.....Bob Schlatter
 Chaplin.....Robert Schmitt
 Service Officer.....Joe Cornell

E-Board Members **House Committee**
 Joe Newberry William Wilson
 Jim Smith Frank Redmond
 Phil Milazo Russell Rhodes
 Richard Hansberg Marie Esler (Aux)
 Lee Ingraham Tom Dawson (SAL)
 Joyce Ingle
 Danny Henderson

Auxiliary President,
 Candace Mabry
 Commander S.A.L.,
 Richard Kasevich
 Chef De Gard 40 & 8,
 Jerry Brandt
 La Presidente, Cabane 215,
 Vicki Gordon-Haft

Auxiliary News by Candace Mabry

Brrrr.....rather glad the cold month of January has moved on. We had a chance to take a breather in the month of January building up to finish our year in great gusto. Marsha Clifton has introduced us to a Marine division serving in Afghanistan. As part of a program called "Adopt-a-marine", Lt Jonathan Pickup wrote the following in an email... *"Just to give you the information on the platoon you are adopting, they are the machine gunners, mortar men and assault men (combat breachers and rocket men) of the company. Every one is a great American and makes me proud every day; we have been working hard here on both combat operations and the rebuilding of this shattered*

town of Now Zad." We will be accepting donations that we will send to this worthy group. If you would like to contribute or have items to donate please see Marsha or Mary Ellen. The list of items can be found in the Auxiliary room or use your imagination - anything you can think of that will make their lives a little more comfortable over there.

Marie Esler as girls state chairman is in full swing this month coordinating with Fletcher High School to interview qualified Junior girls to represent our Unit in the spring. Thanks to everyone that has renewed so far we will be able to send 4 young women to represent Unit 129. Don't forget, your membership

for 2009-2010 is now past due. Please forward your dues to Brandi Roberts if you have not done so already.

Mark your calendar for February 13th! We will have a silent auction beginning at 5:00 and a delicious Valentine's Day dinner. We will also have a Chinese auction for a beautiful quilt hand made by Carol Marks. If you have items you would like to donate please see Mary Ellen. Hope to see everyone there! Keep clipping those coupons and box tops. Every little bit helps.

Remember we are always accepting new smiling faces and volunteers, all you have to do is say "I want to help".

For The Good of the Legion by Jerry Brandt

The Commander will be available for all members from 1600 to 1800 Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1800 to 2000. Legion meetings are held every first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm, please attend.

There is a job fair held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 9 am to 12:30 pm. For location and questions please call 997-3100 ext 2309.

American Legion Post 129 is distributing the Blue Star Banners to families of active duty service members. We have distributed over 900 banners to families who have a loved one in the Armed Forces of all military departments including the National Guard and Reserves. For additional information or to request a banner please contact Vicky Gordon Haft at 744-7936, or

Jerry Brandt at 992-6893 or any officer at the Post. If you of someone who is in the Service please give us the name and address of their family so we can mail them a banner.



Service Officer Comments by Joe Cornell

CREDIT CARDS SCAM: There is a scam circulating regarding the Veterans Administration (VA) and retirees. Apparently some retired members have received phone calls from persons passing themselves off as representatives of the VA, soliciting their credit card number in order to process any claims the member might have with the VA.

The VA has assured us that this is not their practice and to disregard any such request. This is a reminder that there are those out there that will use any trick in the book to obtain some ones identity and that you should NEVER give out personal information over the phone to anyone that you do not know. At this time with the

devastation in Haiti be especially careful.



Cabane 215 News

by Vicki Gordon-Haft

Hello Dames, Dames Kelly, Snnie, Razz, Lanamee and myself attended Mid Winter January 8-10. Dame Kelly Our La Grande Presidente Kelly conducted one of the best Cheminot that I have ever attended. Congratulations Kelly.

Mark you calendars for Homecoming May 14-15th. in Crystal River. There will not be a Wreck at Homecoming.

More information on this event next month.

The Voyagers and Dames will be hosting a social including dinner at Post 316 on January 23rd. Plan to meet at 4:30 to give the Voyagers a hand in the kitchen and enjoy the

fellowship of the Post 316 family. This is our opportunity to market the Cabane and increase membership. It would be nice to have the Dames who are members of Post 316 in attendance Come On out and enjoy the fun.

Cabane 215 is at 70.59% in membership as of the end of the year. If you have not renewed your membership for 2009-2010 now is the time to do it. Send your check to Dame Kelly Bush or drop it in the Cabane box at Post 129.

We have several Dames in sickness and distress. Dame Ginny Sword had surgery in January. Dame Louise Bagdaserian is recovering

from pneumonia and Dame Helen Mays suffered a broken arm. Dame Sarah Richards has been in the hospital. Lets keep all these Dames in our thoughts and prayers.

Our next Rendezvous will be February 11th at 7 P.M. Hope to see you there.



Ask Ethel

Dear Ethel: There must be plenty of amateur photographers at 129 who are proud of their work. Therefore, I suggest that we have a photo contest which concentrates on those taken at Post events. Do you think this would be worth a shot?—Photo Phan

Dear Phan: Yes. I wouldn't want to nix a contest involving pix. After all, you never know how good you

look until you've had your picture took.

Dear Ethel: Since the 40 & 8 officers have titles written in French, why don't they wear French-style uniforms?—French Friend

Dear Friend: Maybe because they don't like French dressing.

Send your questions to this e-mail address: triplejj@comcast.net.



Bar Notes

by Scott Hardy

The Canteen has lowered drink and beer prices, extended happy hour to Saturdays, and have been working on new promotions for Saturday nights. Our Wii bowling tournament was a huge success. Meet new members and have a ton of fun! We had 24 people the first week! The maximum for tournaments is 32, so get here early. Registration starts at 6 PM, tourna-

ment begins at 7 PM. And for those of you who missed New Year's Eve here at Post 129, you missed a great party. Plan to celebrate 2011 here with your Post family. Check out the new and improved Canteen and tell us what you think! If you know anyone who would like to rent space to hold an event,

please have them contact Scott or Brandi at 904-249-2266. Let us know your needs, expectations, and hopes. We hope to serve you soon!



40 & 8 News.....by Jerry Brandt

Voitures, so far this year we have visited all 4 of the American Legion Post within the Voiture. I would like to thank each Post for the warm welcome. Our next visit will be February 6th at Post 54, please come down and show our support for the Post as well as the Voiture. By the way, the membership drawing in November at the Promenade was won by Jerry Brandt, 2 Promenades in a roll. So please show up, your name could be called next. Also Voiture 215 has it's own phone service, if you call 904-383-4013, you will receive a voice message of all the events taking place within our Voiture and you will be able to leave a message for any of the officers. Check it out.

Commander, continued from page 1

Also if you come in and visit the Post, just take a copy of the newsletter from the Post. Please mark yourself down for not receiving a newsletter. This will also save the Post funds as well. Thanks.

It has been requested that we list the upcoming projects we have at the Post. Working on replacing the Lady's Vanity. Delay due to contract. If you can assist in any of these items, please see me as a point on contact. If you which to contribute with your tax-free donation to these projects, please make your check out to the American Legion Post 129 building fund. This building is over 20 years old and need some loving care to keep it up, your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Characters I have met!



Legion Riders News

by Tom Hunter

Planning for this year's Poker Run is underway. Sponsorship letters are starting to go out. We need all members support if we want to make this our best run ever. Our next Poker Run meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 at Post 316. We will be meeting Tuesday until we get closer to the event. Please plan on attending these meetings, everyone's input

is helpful. Our next meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 13 at Post 129 at 1000. Tentatively our Fun Run will be to the Wounded Warrior Project site on Salisbury Rd to visit the TRAC center and then on to Whiteys Fish Camp to enjoy some food and beverages. We will once again be the escorts for the 4

Chaplains meeting on Feb. 7. We will meet at Post 316 at 1230 and escort them to Post 129. The 5th District meeting will be Feb. 17 at Post 54. There is a vacancy for Chairman, if interested, please contact Mike Amig. Please visit our website at <http://www.freewebs.com/alr316/index.htm> for a complete calendar of events and photo gallery.

Puns by Educated people....Mary Ellen Bolin

The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

Two silkworms had a race. The ended up in a tie.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here: I'll go on a head.

Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Four Chaplains

The 5th District will again be holding the Four Chaplains Memorial Service at Ocean Beaches Post 129 Sunday, February 7th at 2pm.

For more information please contact Champlain Bill Reno, American Legion 5th District of Florida.

Sterling's Comments.....Time to Retire

I have been working with the newsletter now since early 1997 and have had a lot of fun over the past many months. This newsletter really is what it is because of the many individuals who have contributed their articles and ideas. I have decided to retire from the newsletter. This February newsletter will be my last. The nice part is that we have a new member that is going to take the newsletter duties over effective with the March newsletter. His name Robert Daigle. He owns Daigle's Auto (a mobile auto repair service). Welcome him aboard.

Thank you for your support, Sterling L. Phaklides.....slp1960@comcast.net



HELP....The Ladies Auxiliary is collecting small tin coffee cans to be used for the troops. If you have any put them in the auxiliary room on the podium in the front. Could also use magazines that men would like to read. Thanks for your help

Welcome New Members to Post 129

December 2009: David Couch, USN, active duty; Leo R. DeGoursey, USN, Lebanon; James E. Powell, USAF, Vietnam; Jesse Robertson, USN, Vietnam; Katherine L. Seno, USN, Gulf, active duty; Stephen Sibert, USN, Lebanon, active duty; John Stabanage, USN, Gulf, active duty; Mike Vigil, USN, Gulf, active duty; David Andrews, USN, Vietnam.

January 2010: Rebecca Floyd, USMC, Gulf; John Groleau, USAF, Vietnam, active duty; Tobias Moss, USMC, Gulf; Kevin Spollen, USN, Gulf; Don Bostic, USAF, Vietnam; Gordon Touchton, USA, WWII;

Join me in welcoming these new members to American Legion Post 129

The Ladies Monthly Birthday Luncheon will be on Monday March 1st. Please ladies let's show Lu we love her by helping her to celebrate her birthday on March 1st. Mark your calendar and come join us.

Nancy Aston 242-0544

CROAKER TOURNAMENT MEETING

There will be a Croaker Tournament meeting on Wednesday February 10th at 6:30 at Legion Post 129. We will discuss some proposed changes/additions to the rules. Clyde Aston

DART League

Members can now check out Dart League information at Post 129's website. www.legionpost129.org.

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Donation of \$100 for 6 months or \$175 for 12 months. Your business card will be placed on this page. Get your business name out in front of all Legion members. Contact either Sterling (slp1960@comcast.net) or Post Commander Jerry Brandt if interested. Spots reserved above are for members of Post 129 only.

We Need Your HELP!!!!

If you have a Family Feud game would you lend it to Mary Ellen Bolin. We need your help.

Mary Ellen Bolin

The American Legion

1151 S. Fourth St.
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

POST
129

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If you would like to become a newsletter booster, please contact the Post Adjutant. The dates below are booster expiration dates. Levels of booster sponsorship; Platinum \$100, Gold \$50, Silver \$25, Bronze \$10.

BOOSTER LIST

Platinum Level, \$100 per year

Voiture 215 & Cabane 215 (10/09)
Bob Schlatter (11/10)
Barbara & Phil Milazo (1/11)

Gold Level, \$50 per year

In memory of Cindy Burroughs (3/10)
Bruce & Wilma Corbitt (3/10)

Silver Level, \$25 per year

In memory of Ben Lee (10/09)
Al & Ginny Terrell (8/10)
In memory of Brad & Gerry Terrell (8/10)
Sonny & Suzanne Sternberg (10/10)
Sara & Lee Gauvin (10/10)
Jack & Ethel (11/10)
Thomas & Antoniette Townsend (2/11)
John & Sandy Seroyer 4/10)
Helen & JJ (8/10)
In memory of USS Stark (5/10)
Sterling & Linda Phaklides (5/10)
In memory of Dean Ramon Esler (6/10)
P-Nut & Liz Wilson (8/10)
Tom & Faye Selig (7/10)
Bill & Fanny Bivens (8/10)
Bill & Mabel Videll (12/10)
Gary & Marie Esler (12/10)

Bronze Level, \$10 per year

Beth & Mike Wear (8/10)
Bill Garrett (4/10)
Caroline Whelpley (5/10)
Clyde & Nancy Aston (12/10)
Carol A. Crowe (1/10)
Ed Zazzarino (10/10)
Earl Parker (6/10)
Fay & Chuck (10/09)
Frank Brown (7/10)
George & Elizabeth Rivers (5/10)
George Layton (3/11)
In memory of George Zagic (6/10)
In memory of Edwina Maccangno (12/09)
In memory of Jack W. Cox (2/11)
In memory of Sean Seroyer (3/10)
In memory of Skip Hilliker (5/10)
In memory of Dottie Smith (7/10)
In memory of Warren White (5/10)
Charlie & Betty Parker (7/10)

Jim Davis Jr (12/09)
Jim Smith (7/10)
Jim & Fran Reed (4/10)
Joe & Pat Cornell (2/10)
John & Patty Kapeghian (3/10)
Larry Garner (1/12)
Louise Braren (6/12)
Maddy Chitko (2/10)
Mary Jo Davis (12/09)
Nick Patrizio (4/10)
Pearse & Sally Doherty (2/10)
Percy & Beverly Shadwell (11/10)
Reggie & Cynthia Dubay (4/10)
Ric & Mary Ann Smith (7/10)
Richard & Jo Ann Scoggins (4/11)
Richard & Katy (5/10)
Robert Gomez (1/16)
Robert Schmitt (5/10)
Roy & Martha Hauge (4/10)
Roy L. & Martha Lewis (4/11)
Russell & Mary Lou Jones (9/10)
Shorty Heiman (11/10)
Steve & Misty (11/10)
Towney Kennard (11/10)