



VOL. 20, NO. 1

January 2020

Commander's Report



The New Year is here. I hope everyone had a great holiday season with friends and family. December was a very busy time at the Post and a lot of things were happening. Christmas basket donations for our homeless/needy Veterans was a huge success. The people who received holiday baskets were very grateful. With the donations from our members and help from the Auxiliary, we were able to provide dinner to over 20 families for the holiday. Thank you to all who donated to help these families have a wonderful Christmas!

In case you missed the kids Christmas party, there were lots of presents and fun had by the kids. They had a rider escort from the far north to bring SANTA to the post. The Post's Christmas dinner was a great success, Thank you to all the volunteers who helped put such a great meal out.

We had lots of support for the Wreaths across America program. They were able to lay over 12,000 wreaths on the grave sites of Veteran's and their families at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. That was a very humbling experience to see all the support from our Post and community with over 250 Riders escorting the wreaths to their final resting place to honor our fallen heroes and their families. All I can say is "Wow", what an honor to see! I would like to personally thank Mike Smith for all his hard work.

On January 1, you will need to produce your 2020 membership card to be served. As per Legion rules, we have to insure that all members are in possession of their membership cards at all times. There are signs posted at various locations in the lounge that serve as a reminder. Please be courteous to our staff if they request you to show your current card. They are responsible to follow our lounge rules to make sure we are in compliance with state required laws to only serve to current members. As per the Legion bylaws, no one can sign in a member who is delinquent in their dues. If you get a letter from National Headquarters saying your dues are delinquent and you have a 2020 Card, please disregard that letter.

Don't forget that the Post will be open New Year's Eve so bring a dish to share and ring in the New Year! There will be a band playing until 1am.

On New Year's Day will have \$2.00 Bloody Mary from 830 am until 1100 am.

The Sons of the Legion breakfast on the morning of the 19th which coincides with our Post Blood Drive. Anyone who donates or attempts to donate will receive a free breakfast. Please give the gift of life.

As your Commander I want to express my personal thanks to all our Legion family who have contributed their time, talent, knowledge, and money to

make Post 283 the best American Legion Post in Florida, I have utmost respect for each of you and what an honor it has been to work with all of you.

Hope to see all of you at the Post to start off this great New Year!

For God & Country
Jim Welch- Post 283 Commander
Jameswelch88@comcast.net
904-710-3568

1st Vice Report

As of December 12th, our 2020 membership was at 76.71%. However, Nancy has processed numerous cards since then. Our next goal is 80% by January 8th. One thing of note: we currently have 639 members paid up for 2020. Last year at this time we had 568. Another example that our Post continues to grow.

There are many ways to renew your membership. You can leave your payment with me or Nancy directly. Another option is to leave your payment with a copy of your 2019 card in an envelope with your name and stating renewal for 2020 in the LEGION box by the bar. We will process your new card and mail it to you via the address we have on file for you. If you want to pick it up from the lounge, simply write LEAVE AT BAR on the envelope. You can go online to renew by visiting www.legion.org/renew but please ensure you click on Post 283. Another effective way to renew is through the mail. You can mail your dues to:

American Legion Post 283
Attn: Adjutant
9549 Fort Caroline Road
Jacksonville FL 32225.

Nancy or I can be contacted at newsletterpost283@yahoo.com or retiredcjngnr76@gmail.com should you have any questions or need assistance with Legion membership.

As always, new members, as well as transfers, are welcome. If you know anyone that meets the eligibility criteria to join invite them out to see what we are all about. I can tell you from traveling around the 5th District and the Department we are a busy post with a lot going on. We have a lot to offer in ways of programs and events.

Membership in the American Legion as a Legionnaire is reserved exclusively for those that have served honorably. The dates listed below are mandated by the United States Congress in the charter they have granted the American Legion. You must have been an active member in one of the five branches of service (or the Merchant Marine for the period specified) and have an HONORABLE Discharge to be eligible to become a member. The dates are as follows:

- April 6th 1917 - November 11th, 1918
December 7th, 1941 - PRESENT "Until a time later determined by the Federal Government "

Proof of service is normally established by either a DD-214 showing your period of service, or an Active Duty ID card. The dues for the year are as follows; if you are 70

years old or older and have been a member of post 283 for a minimum of 5 years **consecutively** your dues are \$29.00. For everyone else dues are \$40.00.

We would like to WELCOME our new members to American Legion Post 283, who were voted in during our November General Meeting. Welcome to the top post in Florida.

New members for December are:

John Groleau - Air Force
Joseph Varney - Army
Ronald Bacher - Coast Guard
Evelina Tijerina - Marine
Randy Schreiber - Navy
Joe Birch Jr - Navy
Roderick Tester - Navy
Michael Brombosz - Navy (AD)
Evan States ionic- Navy (AD)
Christopher Laufman.- Navy
Michael Holmes - Navy

Transfers for December are:

Raymond Walker - Air Force / Post 9 (PUFL)
Kendall Bar - Army / Post 233
Raymond Paolillo - Army / Post 54
Terry Keiger - Army/Post 316
Norman Skipper - Navy / Post 400
Richard Battle - Navy/Post 400
Gerald Greene - Navy/Post 316
Kevin Bancroft - Navy/Post 9

For God and Country,
Jeff Lafferty
Post 283 1ST Vice Commander
Squadron 283 Past Commander
ALR 283 2nd Vice Commander
Cell: 904-608-3433
Retiredcjngnr76@gmail.com

2nd Vice Report

This is becoming an issue. If you set up tables to use and leave after the meal, please return the tables back to how you find them. If you use a table from dining room, make sure you return that table to the dining room. The tables are for your use; however, I am seeing people using tables and leaving and not returning them to where they came from. All I heard is I did not move a table. Also, these tables are not reserved unless for legion dignitaries are coming to legion. That means is you set of tables up, you need to stay with those tables. I seen people set up and leave. Let us be courteous to our fellow members.

As your second vice, I am coming up with different meal ideas. If you have a suggestion on a meal idea, please let me know. I know you all like some of the meals as they are during the month. However, I think variety in our meals is needed.

Daniel Brown
2nd Vice Commander

3rd Vice Report

We are now gearing up for Boys State and Oratory programs. For Boys State we will be selecting the young men during the months of January and February. Eligibility is that they be a Junior in High School, have at least one semester of high school remaining, have parents/guardian's permission to attend and be certified by the sponsoring American Legion Post. So, if you know someone please let us know. It is a great program.

For Oratorical Competition the Post contest will be help between January 22 - February 9, 2020. The state level contest will be help March 14, 2020 in Orlando.

Eligibility is they must be a citizen, a bona fide student under the age of 20 years old, the curriculum of the school they attend must be considered high school level, and they must be attending school at the time of the national finals that are held April 17 - 19, 2020. Again, do you know someone? We would like to hear from them to join.

I was pleased to get the Honor Roll from the last blood drive. Those on the list were:

Carey Riggins	John Mohilchock
Curtis Reiter	Madeline Braun
Donna Curry	Margaret Gehm
Donna Simons	Maureen Reiter
Douglas Oman	Nancy Paterson
Ella Rae Jansen	Nancy Senter
Janice Gillis	Steven Kushner
John Curzi	Troy Horsley
John Lang	Wesley McMillan
John Largey	

The next drive is January 19th. Thanks to all on the Honor Roll. Please consider donating. Just the free breakfast alone is worth it.

I handled numerous Project: VetRelief cases last month. There are restrictions to the program however we have found other ways to assist our Veterans when this doesn't work out. Keep this in mind when you hear of a Veteran in need.

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season and will assuredly have a great 2020.

For God and Country
JP Paterson, Post 283 3rd Vice Commander
Jpaterson44@msn.com
(904) 710-3656

SAL Report



Hope all had a great Christmas and New Year's spending time with family and friends. Membership is doing very well, however, if you have not renewed your dues now is the time. As of January 1st it's mandatory that you have your 2020 card to

receive service from the canteen. If you don't have your card you will not be served nor can you have another member sign you in. Currently we are at 170 members, 59% renewals/new members. If you are asking to leave your card at the bar then upon payment make sure you get a receipt from the bartender. The receipt will allow you to be served until your actual card is issued. You can get with Val Maurer, 1st Vice Commander or myself to get your card taken care of. A job well done goes to Tony V and his crew who fried turkey's Thanksgiving morning. I received a lot of compliments as to how good they were. Thanks guys. On Friday December 13th Baker Bruce, Val Maurer and I delivered 22 Christmas bikes and helmets to the USO on Mayport Road. The bikes were all donated by Bruce and given on behalf of the SAL and with that said on behalf of the SAL I want to give thanks for all you continue to do Bruce. Beginning in January the SAL will be doing Pizza the first Tuesday, Bacon Cheeseburgers the second Tuesday and Meatball Subs the third Tuesday. Congratulations to the assignment of our new "Kitchen Manager" Richie Sauers, Legion member and dual SAL member. The new kitchen ovens will be arriving and installed sometime the first of the year. For all that will be using them please read the manual on how to use. It's a huge improvement to our kitchen and I'm sure all will be pleased. Thanks to all

the 4 family groups that pitched in for the expense to purchase and provide the upgrade to the kitchen.

For God & Country
Tom Harris, Commander

Auxiliary President's Report



Unit it 283 had a busy December! We collected food donations and purchased what we needed to complete 20 Christmas dinners for families in need.

We had 15 members including 5 Juniors and 2 SAL walk in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on Dec 7th which was postponed from October because of bad weather. It was an enlightening experience and I hope to see more walkers next year!

We sent Santa and his favorite elf to the HUD VASH Heroes Christmas party carrying cookies and gifts and Christmas cheer!

The breakfast crew including Mr. Auxiliary put on an OUTSTANDING PJ breakfast with distinguished guests; The Department of Florida Auxiliary President, Ann King-Smith and 1st Vice President, Wanda Brandt, also Department Legion 1st Vice Commander Jerry Brandt and Sgt at Arms, Jeff Durden, and 5th District Auxiliary President Annie Anderson.

Our membership is still going strong. As of January 1, 2020 you will be asked to show your 2020 membership card when purchasing drinks at the bar. You can renew online or in person by putting your dues in an envelope with your name and membership number and place in the Auxiliary mailbox by the door to the porch.

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS: Donna Magel, Kathryn Dewey, Donna Curry, Joyce King Tania Flowers, Brittany Williams, Cynthia Laufman Transferred Members: Sandra Snyder and Vanessa Bancroft

Thanks to all the volunteers who put so much time and energy into the success of this Unit. Patti Hill THANK YOU for your amazing decorating, you always keep our Post Home looking nice! And Ella Rae Jansen, THANK YOU for getting to the kitchen at 6 am every other Sunday and starting that bacon!

For God and Country,
Jane Lafferty, Unit President

Legion Rider Director's Report



With the departure of 2019 it's time to focus on the future of 2020. Time to consider your choices for new officers for the upcoming year, for those who have become inactive due to philosophical differences it's time to consider getting involved and making a difference.

Nominations are only several months away so now is the time to do some soul searching about the future.

Due to the New Year weekend the ALR meeting will be held on the 11th.

The ALR 283 charity run will be held the 4th Sat. in Sept this year as there will be a National POW/MIA event on the 3rd Sat. That being said we will need to discuss whether the recipients of the ride will remain the same or change due to needs. I plan to start this discussion at the Feb. meeting.

2020 dues are now being collected. It was voted at the Dec. meeting to limit the renewal grace period to 60 days, so in March we will start removing those who haven't renewed from the membership list.

Jan. ALR dinner will be "Baked Spaghetti" on the 24th

Hope everyone has a healthy and prosperous new year.

Phil Jansen
ALR Director Chapter 283

Post Service Officer Report

On January 1, 2020, the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019 goes into effect. Did you or someone you know serve in the offshore waters of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975? If so then you are considered Blue Water Navy. There are 14 conditions related to the exposure with some of these being Type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, many forms of cancer and others. In addition, if you're a Veteran who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971 you may also qualify. Please get the word out to our Veterans. Have them contact me for more information.

Veterans Benefits Administration officials have sent out letters to more than 77,000 veterans whose past disability claims connected to Agent Orange exposure have been denied. Those individuals will have to refile with the department next year if they want their cases reconsidered.

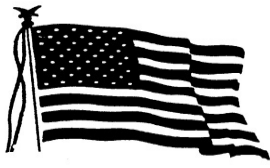
The Office of Management and Budget has delayed the VA's decision to include bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson's-like symptoms as presumptive conditions. The decision was challenged by the OMB and the White House by challenging scientific evidence and recommendations by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. More than 83,000 Vietnam Veterans have these conditions and would be eligible for disability compensation and health care if their conditions are included.

As I said as the 3rd Vice, I hope everyone had a great holiday and a wonderful 2020. Remember those active duty who can't be home this holiday and celebrate as we can.

For God and Country
JP Paterson, Post Service Officer
Jpaterson44@msn.com
(904) 710-3656

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!!
THE ANNUAL
MARDI GRAS PARTY
WILL BE ON MARCH
27TH**

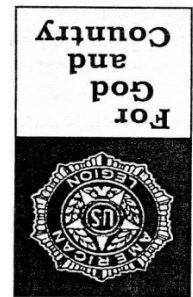




American Legion Jim J. Gilleo Post 283 January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS		1 HUMP DAY SNACKS	2 ALA SALISBURY STEAK 5:30 – 7:30 BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM	3 LEGION STEAK/FISH NIGHT 6:00 – 7:30 BDW	4 BRISTOL KARAOKE 7PM
5 ALA BREAKFAST 8:30 – 11:00	6	7 SAL PIZZA 5:30 – 7:30 PM TRIVIA 7-9 PM	8 HUMP DAY SNACKS SAL MEETING 7:00 PM	9 ALA SCALLOPED POTATOES & HAM 5:30 – 7:00 BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM	10 SAL FISH FRY 6:00 – 7:30 SPEKTRA	11 ALR MEETING 9:00 JIMBO & DEBBIE KARAOKE 7PM
12 SAL BREAKFAST 8:30 – 11:00	13 LEGION MEETINGS EXEC 6:30 PM GENERAL 7PM	14 SAL BACON CHEESEBURGERS 6:00 – 7:30 PM TRIVIA 7-9 PM	15 HUMP DAY SNACKS ALA MEETINGS EXEC – 6:00 PM GENERAL – 7PM	16 ALA BAKED CHICKEN 5:30 – 7:00 BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM	17 ALA COWBOY MEATLOAF 6 – 7:30 CLOUD	18 BRISTOL KARAOKE 7PM
19 ALA BREAKFAST 8:30 – 11:00	20	21 SAL MEATBALL SANDWICHES 5:30 – 7:30 PM TRIVIA 7-9 PM	22 HUMP DAY SNACKS SURVEY SAYS 7PM BAR-B-Q 6 – 7:30	23 ALA MEATBALL MANIA 5:30 – 7:00 BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM	24 ALR BAKED SPAGHETTI 6 - 7:30 PINK PAISLEY	25 JIMBO & DEBBIE KARAOKE 7PM
26 SAL BREAKFAST 8:30 – 11:00	27 CUB SCOUTS MEETING 7:00PM	28 ALA CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICHES 6 – 7:30 TRIVIA 7-9 PM	29 HUMP DAY SNACKS	30 ALA 3 SOUPS & SANDWICHES 5:30 – 7:00 BINGO BEGINS AT 6:30PM	31 LEGION STUFFED PEPPERS 6 – 7:30 TOP SHELF	

LOOK FOR US ON-LINE AT WWW.FLORIDALEGION283.ORG AND WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LEGION283



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 Jacksonville, FL

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