

Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

◆
April 2025



Post Info

American Legion
Post 57

Address:

2602 SW Main Blvd
Lake City FL 32025

Phone:

(386) 752-7776

Hours:

Mon to Sun
11:00am to 10:00pm

Kitchen Hours:
- Lunch -

Tuesday Thru Saturday
11:00am to 1:00pm

- Dinner -

Sunday, Monday, and Thursday
4:00pm to 8:15pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday
5:00pm to 8:00pm

Email & Website:

americanlegion57@comcast.net
www.americanlegion57.org



Post Officers

-Commander-

Bill Huggins

-1st Vice Commander-

Kelly Valliere

-2nd Vice Commander-

Terry Libbert

-3rd Vice Commander-

Thomas Wilcutts

-4th Vice Commander-

Laura Taylor

-Finance Officer-

Dave Holmes

-Adjutant-

Jason Massey

-Chaplain-

William Bell

-Historian-

Vacant

-Sergeant at Arms-

James Taylor

-Executive Committeeman-

George Wehrli

-Executive Committeeman-

Tony Nolan

-Executive Committeeman-

Ken Burkes

-Executive Committeeman-

Robert Preston

-Judge Advocate-

Dave Mangrum

-Service Officer-

Lisa Brown



Commanders Corner

Time is truly flying by, here we are in April with the year about to end and have come so far for you, OUR MEMBERS.

As we come into April some points we need to be aware of, first elections are coming up for the entire American Legion Family.

Nominations for the Legion opened in March, if you want to run for the Executive Committee, please contact one of the following:

David Mangrum

Lisa Brown

Jason Massey

John (JP) Paul or

Albert Johns

At the beginning of the year I shared with you that the Executive Board you elected is YOUR board, we serve to listen to our members and strive to make the membership experience a great experience.

Here are just a few things we did this year to make American Legion Post 57 a better post home for our members:

We upgraded the kitchen and eliminated all the wooden surfaces and dated flooring, vastly improving the functionality for both our members and public hall rentals.

Thanks to our Adjutant, Jason Massey, with consent of YOUR board, we've added screens in the lounge to let you know of upcoming and ongoing events, we eliminated the dated bulletin board in the lobby with rotating screens to let everyone who enters the post know of upcoming events and we upgraded the menu board for the kitchen where we can now upgrade daily specials as well as weekly family meals for our members.

We've gone back to pre-covid hours, now opening at 11:00 am every day and now offering lunch to our members Tuesday thru Saturday from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm for our members as well as public for carry out.

The kitchen is now open seven nights a week so members getting off and coming in after work can get something to eat without paying the high price of outside restaurants.

Some things we've done for our member that haven't been done in the past.

For our members who lack family support systems, we opened YOUR post on both Thanksgiving and Christmas days offering a full traditional holiday meal so no member had to spend those holidays alone, both events were very well received by you, our members.

The Newsletter as well as minutes of the Legion General meetings are going out to all members of the family to improve communication among the family.

These are but a few things we've done for our members this year and we hope to continually enhance your experience as a member of American Legion Post 57.

Wednesday, April 9th we will host our second First Responder's luncheon from 11:00 am til 1:00 pm in the big hall. All local first responders are invited so we can show our appreciation for all who continue to serve us 365 days a year, 24 hours 7 days a week so we can live in peace.

Volunteers are needed for set up, serving and clean up so please step up and let them know how greatly they are appreciated.

The Auxiliary is hosting a "Kid's Easter Egg hunt" on Saturday, April 5th from 12:30 til 3:30 pm, this event is geared for the children/grandchildren of our members and is free to participate in, let the kids be kids on this date and have a great time.

Commanders Corner (Cont.)

Two years ago, American Legion National suggested that American Legion posts host a "Family day" on the 4th Saturday of April. American Legion Post 57 will, in fact, host an American Legion Family day on Saturday, April 26th 2025 where the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders will come together to open the post to the community to let our community know who we are and what we do.

What can you expect on this day? There will be a "touch a truck" event, classic cars, 2 bands, a dunk tank to get your favorite person wet, hot dogs and hamburgers and so much more. Let's come together to let our Post family shine and let our community know we are here to serve our Veterans, youth and community. The event runs from 11:00 am til 3:00 pm (later if need be)

MEMBERSHIP: We are so close to hitting our 100% membership goal, please, if you haven't renewed, please contact Kelly ASAP and help us hit our number.

APRIL CALENDAR AT A GLANCE:

Bingo every Sunday, Monday and Thursday, afternoon at 3:00 and evening at 6:45pm
Queen of Hearts drawing every Saturday at 6:00 in the lounge. (NO BINGO EASTER SUNDAY)

The kitchen is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday to have food available for our members and guests from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

Beginning Tuesday, March 11th the post began opening at 11:00 every day of the week with the kitchen open Tuesday - Saturday from 11:00 am til 1:00 pm
Every Wednesday, Draft beer \$1.75

Texas Hold-em every Monday and Friday at 7:00 pm in the family meeting room.

Tuesday	April 1st	Marine Corps League and Son's meeting at 6:30pm
Friday	April 4th	Rider's Dinner from 5:30-7:30 with karaoke beginning at 6:30
Saturday	April 5th	Boys/Girls State Orientation from 8:00 am til noon (hall)
Saturday	April 5th	Auxiliary Easter Egg Hunt from 12:30 til 3:30 pm
Saturday	April 5th	Gold Star Family Motorcycle Ride in for dinner 4:30 til (lounge)
Saturday	April 5th	Paddle Auction 5pm til 7pm (lounge)
Sunday	April 6th	Auxiliary Juniors meeting 3pm til 5:30pm (family room)
Tuesday	April 8th	Legion/Auxiliary Executive Board meeting 6:30
Tuesday	April 8th	American Legion Rider's Unity Ride dinner stop (approx. 5:30
Wednesday	April 9th	First Responder's luncheon 11:00am til 1:pm in the hall
Friday	April 11th	Auxiliary Dinner from 5:30-7:30
Saturday	April 12th	Sea Cadets Drill day 7 am til 3 pm
Saturday	April 12th	Sons Roadkill 3 pm til 5 pm in the lounge
Tuesday	April 15th	Legion/Auxiliary General meeting 6:30 pm
Friday	April 18th	JROTC Ball in the hall, NO FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER
Saturday	April 19th	Paddle Auction in the lounge from 5-7 pm
Sunday	April 20th	EASTER Post will be closed
Tuesday	April 22nd	Rider's meeting
Friday	April 25th	SAL dinner from 5:30 til 7:30 pm
Saturday	April 26th	American Legion Family Day 11:00 am til 3:00 pm
Saturday	April 26th	Rider's Roadkill from 6-8:00 pm lounge

Hello Squadron 57 Members

March has been a busy month for many of us at Post 57

I would like to thank Lee, Liam, and Harrison for their help with Roadkill Bingo. I would also like to thank Jim, Vanessa, Leland and Liam for their help with Friday Night Dinner.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday April 1st @ 6:30 pm Squadron 57 Meeting

Saturday April 12th @ 3:00 to 5:00 pm Roadkill Bingo

Friday April 25th @ 5:30 to 7:30 pm Friday Night Dinner

If you know anyone that is interested in being an officer in the Squadron, please come to our meeting.

Squadron 57 Commander: Brian Wolfe

Honor Guard Volunteers Needed

Interested?

EMAIL: honorguardpost57@gmail.com

TEXT: (386) 984-5756 **

VOICE PHONE THROUGH RELAY: (386) 361-4298 **

**** The commander is deaf and uses text and email for main communications. Voice calls are relayed by an interpreter.**

Thank you for understanding.



Membership



Happy Spring Members!!!

Let's welcome our new members as of March 18th's General assembly meeting:

New Member:

Charles Artley USN John Blauser USA
James Waterman USMC Alan Nobles USA
James Sarber USA Lewis "Riley" Kearce USA
Michael Kusilek USMC Lynnedda King USA
Peter Mesa USN Nilsa Cabrera USCG
Duane Fernandez USA John Daniels USA
Jessica Daniels USA Richard Warren USMC
Jonathan Williams USA Kirk Counard

As of Friday, March 28th these are our standings for Post 57:

New Members: 102 Renewals 572

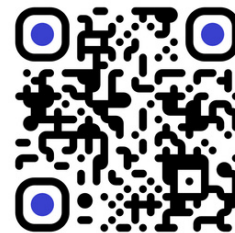
Cyber Post 400/400AD Transfers 4 (there are discrepancies here waiting on AMERICAN Legion National Headquarters to rectify)
total transfers are 15

Total Paid Member 745 our goal is 799 We are so close to being 100%!! We are so grateful to all of you who are bringing your friends, neighbors and family into our post.

We had a very successful Recruiting Event with the American Legion Riders Chili Cook Off, we gained 4 new Legionnaires, 4 prospective Auxiliary members, 1 prospective Son of the American Legion and 1 prospective Rider out of that event!

Our next major in-house Recruiting event will be on April 26th when the American Legion Family Presents "Family Day".

We are currently looking for Women Veterans who want to get involved with developing a Women's support group. Women Veterans are greatly under served in Columbia County and we are working on rectifying that. Please email post57membership@gmail.com if you are interested! There are so many programs available to Women Vets, and we need to get started on implementing these programs locally. Columbia County has 6,400 veterans, 1000 of whom are women. Once again thank you to all our members and community partners for helping The American Legion find our Veterans to get them the services, resources and help they need!



Scan to go to
www.legion.org

Post Service Officer

April Service Officers Newsletter

We were able to help veterans with the following situations:

1. A two night stay in a hotel and groceries.
2. Gas and food.
3. Had a fire and we assisted him with getting materials to repair his home.
4. Was assisted with rent payment.

We were able to accomplish a lot in March! We were able to develop a partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families, which is beneficial to our members because DCF provides many resources for endangered and disabled adults we previously weren't aware of. Of course there's a process involved but DCF is not just about the Abuse Hotline! Along with Protective Services, there are opportunities for Home Care for Disabled Adults, Community Care for Disabled Adults, Hope Florida Program, for more information about Adult Services provided click the link below.

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/resources/policies-procedures/cfop-140-adult-services>

We were recently informed of 2 instances of vulnerable adults associated with the American Legion who were in danger of or had been exploited. This is happening more often, and you can make a difference in someone's life. DCF will immediately assign an investigator and get to the bottom of the situation very quickly. It's a potentially dangerous situation for retired adults or adults with undiagnosed Alzheimer's or Dementia. We have been personally involved with both situations and both Veterans are now in good hands and protected from their potential predators.

If you are aware of or concerned about an endangered adult please call DCF's (800)- 962-2873 or visit the DCF website and you can report it online.

We'd like to thank all our members and community service agencies for their continued outstanding support of American Legion programs in the support of Columbia County Veterans!

For God and Country
Lisa Brown
Veteran Service Officer

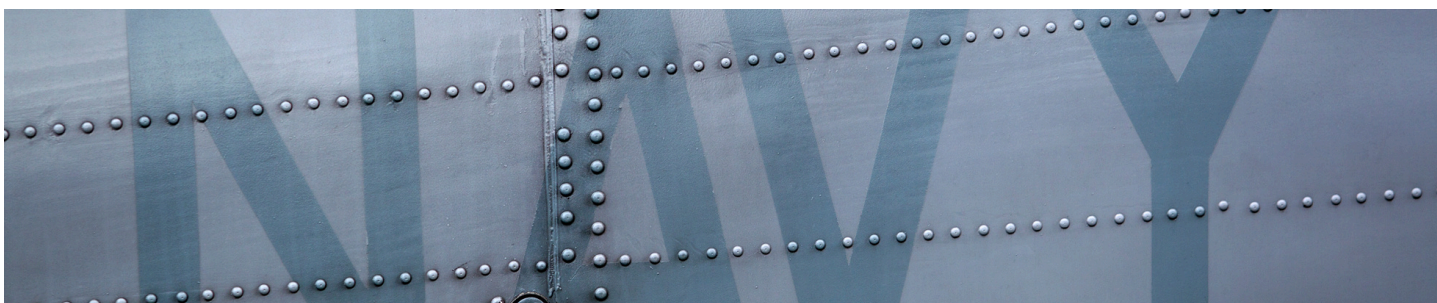
Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

Grayson Patterson

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



Sea Cadets

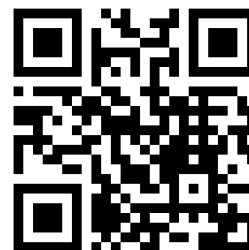
Sea Cadets are young men and women aged 10 to 18. We are supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard, and our Cadets train on naval bases and other military installations. Sea Cadets gain unique and valuable experiences that incorporate hands on learning and teamwork. We meet at the American Legion in Lake City twice a month for drill. The cadets have many opportunities to go to training over the summer and winter. If you are interested and would like more information you can contact Niki Patterson 303-725-3889. You can also click the link to get more information

America's Sea Cadets - The US Navy's youth development program.

Upcoming events for Sea Cadets are listed below:

April 12th, 2025 – Unit Drill (Sea Cadets will be working with the Police Department to hand out food for Farm share and family day at the American Legion).

April 26th, 2025 – Unit Drill – Drill will be at the American Legion



Scan to go to
www.seacadets.org



Junior Activities Program

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 Juniors meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 3:00pm to 5:30pm. For more information contact Kay Peterson at alaux57@gmail.com.





Auxiliary News

March was a very busy month and with the weather getting warmer I'm sure we will be out doing a lot more.

We needed to pack more troop care packages this month as the boxes of care packages we did in February were gone quickly. USO Jacksonville again was very grateful and will contact us when the need arises again.

We took the lady veterans from the Domiciliary to lunch to Cedar River Restaurant. I was not able to attend but I was told that everyone had a great time. Thank you to 2 of our own lady vets, Seven Blumer and Rusty Brown, for attending. The Dom ladies loved hearing your stories as well as sharing their own with you.

I was very proud to award Kay Peterson, our membership chairman, with her 100% membership pin from Department. At the time of the pinning at the general membership meeting, we were at 105.33%. She has done such a great job this year (as well as in past years).

I want to congratulate the 10 new members/transfers that we welcomed in to our unit this month. We are growing fast and hopefully each of our new members can find their niche in our unit.

The nominating committee has presented their slate of officers for the 2025-26 fiscal year. They are as follows:

PRESIDENT:	Donna Sessa	1st VICE PRES:	Sharon Huggins
2nd VICE PRES:	Connie Shempart	3rd VICE PRES:	Maryann Dennis
SECRETARY:	Colleen Preston	TREASURER:	Judy Morelan
CHAPLAIN:	Gwen Allen	SGT-AT-ARMS:	Maryanne Bell
HISTORIAN:	Kathy Honeycutt		
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Kay Peterson, Niki Patterson, and Lisa Dye		

Since the slate is full, any other nominations for any of these positions will take place on election night, Tuesday, May 20th (i.e. nominations from the floor).

The Post will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 5th from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. All age groups are invited to participate. Bring your grandkids, great-grandkids, nieces/nephews, next door neighbors kids, as long as they are accompanied by a Post member.

Our next Auxiliary Friday Dinner will be April 11th from 5:30-7:30 or until the food is gone. Caitlyn Hanechak will be serving up Fettuccini Alfredo, salad and dessert for a \$10 donation.

April will be "Underwear Month". We will be collecting new (in package) underwear for men and women (but mostly men) that will be distributed to Renewed for the homeless that they serve. All sizes are needed. Boxes will be provided in the lobby in front of the Auxiliary room for anyone wishing to drop off items.

Legion Family day is coming up on Saturday, April 26th. The public is invited to this event and all ages are welcome. We will have all kinds of games for the kids, including a "dunk tank", which some of our post celebrities will be manning for your chance to get them wet.

For God and Country,
Lisa Dye
President – Unit 57



April



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm 	2 \$1.75 Draft 1:00pm	3 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	4 Red Shirt Friday Riders Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	5 Boy's/Girl's State Orientation 8:00am-12:00pm Easter Egg Hunt 12:30pm-3:30pm Gold Star Ride In 4:00pm-9:00pm Quarter Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
6 Auxiliary Junior Meeting 3:00pm Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	7 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	8 Unity Ride Dinner Stop 4:30pm-8:00pm Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	9 First Responders Lunch 11:00am-1:00pm \$1.75 Draft 1:00pm Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm	10 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm 	11 Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	12 Sea Cadet Drill 7:45am-3:00pm SAL Roadkill Bingo 3:00pm-5:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
13 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	14 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	15 Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm	16 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Honor Guard Meeting 3:00pm	17 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	18 Red Shirt Friday JROTC Ball Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM 	19 Quarter Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
20 Easter 	21 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	22 Riders Meeting 6:30pm	23 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:00pm	24 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	25 Red Shirt Friday SAL Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	26 Sea Cadet Drill 7:45am-3:00pm Legion Family Day 11:00am-3:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm Riders Roadkill Bingo 6:00pm-8:00pm
27 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	28 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	29	30 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM			