The Echo
July, August & September 2017

The Official Newsletter
American Legion Frierson Nichols Post 8 Winter Haven FL.

For God and Country
GREETINGS

Well, here it is summer time again! Sure feels like it is going to be a hot one. Our new tiki roof is up and should help with some more shade. Thank you to all our generous donors that made this possible. We hope all our snow birds made it back home safely and have a happy, healthy summer.

I would like to thank everyone who has been working so hard to keep our Post the best Post in Florida. We have more planned projects to be done. Anyone interested in getting involved, please contact the office.

We have had several hit and runs in our parking lots in the last couple of months! These people know who they are and this will not be tolerated. If anyone knows anything or has heard talk of these accidents, please contact us! The next time they may be on cameras!

I would also like to congratulate the newly elected officers of our Auxiliary unit and look forward to another great year of working together with them.

Post elections are over. I want to thank our membership for having faith in myself and our Executive Board. Have a safe and fun filled summer.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Mike O’Callaghan, Commander

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Editor – Bev Barnes
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Post 8 Officers

Commander          Mike O’ Callaghan
1st Vice Commander  Bill Butler
2nd Vice Commander  Dale Wortley
3rd Vice Commander  Larry Meggs
Adjutant            John Smith
Finance Officer     Ed McNulty
Chaplain            Fran Marron
Sgt. at Arms        Russ Moulton
Historian           Remona Knight
Judge Advocate      Vic Duckstein
Service Officer     Mike O’Callaghan

Executive Committee
Fred Knippenberg , Bob Malott & Bruce Zelonky
Past Commander Stephen (Tony) Anthony
Paul Jacobs A.L. Baseball

Visit our Webpage at www.americanlegionpost8.org
New Members and Transfers

Welcome to Post 8

Anastasia Weller
Arthur B. Strauss
Bill R. Hall
Blake Pichert
Charles E. Marion
Charles E. McGriff
Charles E. Whatley
Charles R. Newell
Chester O. Howard
Dean A. Shoffner
Dennis Reel
Dennis Taylor
Edward Foster
Edward Gorsky
Greg Stadhage
Ginger Fitzgerald
Harding Johnson
Hoke Fitzgerald
Jack Shircel
James S. Owen
John Christopher
John E. Bowman
John E. Christiansen
John Miller
John S. Vitkaukas
Joseph Irons
Junius Stoddard
Larry Payne

Leonard L. Barber
Moises Rosado
Nikolai Camarato
Nolan D. Hergert
Paul H. Formol
Robert Houghteling
Robert Lex
Robert Scalon
Ralph Diaz
Renaldo Tenatte
Richard Heathering
Robert Downie
Robert Shepherd
Robert Stacy
Roger D. Kryger
Ronnie A. Dale
Russell R. Winn
Scott B. Crouse
Shirley Griffin
Sid Gillilan
Steven Adams
Steven Stewart
Terry Henley
Thomas Christle
Wade Willey
William M. Smith
William Pete

Greetings

Hello again fellow Legion Members

Well here we are entering our 4th quarter. Where did the time go? As far as our membership goes, we will be at 95.6%, which is pretty good for our post. July 1st Begins our new season, we will push again for 100%. Let’s all help to make this goal. When you receive this news, our state convention will be over so an update will be coming in the next ECHO. When the new season begins, all our major events will be in full swing. We will keep you updated as to our progress.

Thank you,

For God and Country

Bill Butler, 1st Vice Commander

Adjutant Report

Membership at Post 8 continues to grow, we are always looking for new members. We have a very active Post with many functions. There is always something for everyone to enjoy. We ask that current members please update us with any recent changes to your phone number or email address.

Did you know that you now can receive the Echo on our website: www.americanlegionpost8.org

Check out the website for all the up and coming events.

The elections for 2017-2018 fiscal year have been completed and the Officers and Executive committee members are now in place. We are all looking forward to serving you and planning events for a fun filled year.

For God and Country

John Smith Adjutant
HONOR GUARD REPORT

We recently purchased a new (to us anyway) van through Bartow Ford. What we bought was a 2016 Transit 350 XLT which should last us for many years to come. Special thanks to Jim Warf for spearheading the efforts to acquire the van. Also, special thanks to Benny Robles, Jr of Bartow Ford for their generosity towards the purchase and the wrap.

Over the past quarter (March, April, May) we have been fairly busy. During this period we performed 33 services utilizing 300 members. This equates to over 1000 volunteer hours. Thanks to all our members for their support.

For God and Country,
Ed McNulty Captain Honor Guard

HISTORIAN’S REPORT

Centennial? Why yes it is time. In 2019 the American Legion will be 100 years old and so will Post 8!! We have been here ever since those brave young men from WWI returned and did the paperwork to form a post. With the updating of the main hall, you can see the faces of those who started the American Legion here in Winter Haven and those who have kept us moving forward ever since.

Some old boxes recently returned from Department revealed a treasure! We have several WWI uniforms that were donated to the Post years ago. Two have been chosen to be placed in a display cabinet as soon as a bit of work can be completed. This should help us get in the mood for special events in 2019. Be sure to check them out in a few weeks.

I hope that some of you have some uniform patches you might care to donate to the Post. We have some empty spots on our borders around the photographs of former commanders and wonderful posters that need a nice finishing touch and uniform patches would be perfect. I hope some of you might help us on the needed patches.

If you have any ideas to share or things of interest concerning the Centennial Celebration, please contact Mona Knight (863) 293-7029

Future Event

The Pink Committee, consisting of Frances Marron, Chairperson, Remona Knight and Cheryl Dobbs, would like to remind you to be prepared for the annual fund raiser for cancer, the He/She contest. This is always a fun even and will take place on Saturday night, October 21. This may seem early, but we want you to have time to think about entering and costume selection. We will post a sign-up list on the first of September. The contest and a DJ will follow a grand meal by 3rd Vice Larry Meggs. Prepare NOW!!

For God and Country
Remona Knight Historian
Pink Committee Member
Service Officers Report

Members of Post 8, interested veterans, and snowbirds did you know that upon separation from the military service, you should register your DD214 with the Polk County Veterans Service Officer?

To receive any Veterans Administration benefit, you must register with the Veterans Administration. To expedite this lengthy process, the county service officer can aid you in the process. These services officers are not employed by the VA, but are trained to help veterans obtain benefits.

Home loans, health benefits, retirement, DD214’s, Social Security, or any federal benefits granted to the veterans can be initiated by the county service officer.

The county service officer can be reached by calling 863-534-5220. The address is 1290 Golfview Ave, PO Box 9005 Bartow, FL. 33831. The operator will request your phone number, social security number, service number and pass that information on the service officer. Upon review, he will contact your concerning your request. Please remember to make notes so that you can remember the information given for future reference.

For God and Country
Al Easton
Service Officer Post 8
863-293-7029 ext. 204

LEGION TAG AGENCY

Help support our veterans by utilizing the LEGION TAG AGENCY for vehicle registrations and renewals. For fast convenient service come to the Legion Tag Agency Located adjacent to post 8.

Post 8 telephone (863) 293-7029
Legion Tag Agency (863) 293-5551
Happy Summer Ladies

The end of the year is upon us and this should be my last article as President. I want to thank all of you who have supported me and the Auxiliary these past two years. One person cannot do it all alone, it takes a good team of volunteers.

We had a very busy year with our Poppy Drive, James Haley VA trips, our Rummage, Craft and Bake sales, Valentine’s Brunch and our Fashion Show plus all of our Fish Fries. We could not have done it without the support of all you ladies, those that attend our meetings and those who do not.

Back in July 2016 we made our goal of reaching 100% plus membership. I am very grateful for all our new members and the work of our 1st Vice Ruth Jones and her helper Loraine Anthony. These two have done a wonderful job and you couldn’t ask for more.

In March we welcomed our Dept. President Kelli Becraft and District President Mary Lewis at one of our fish dinners. Kelli gave out her Dept. pin to those who did not receive one and of course, they enjoyed their fish dinners.

On June 7th we will be sending Five girls to Girls State and we are very proud of these young ladies. We have donated $800 to each of three schools for their food pantries and another $800 donation to the Missions here in Winter Haven. The Poppy Drive only netted approximately $4,000. for our Welfare Fund this year. Unfortunately we did not have enough volunteers. However, that is still a large amount to help us support our Veterans and their families.

Continued on next page
Auxiliary Report Continued

Finally, another thank you to all those who have supported me, I had a great team to work with.

For God and Country
Louise F. Miller Outgoing Auxiliary President.

Auxiliary Membership Report

First of all we wish each and every one of you a Happy Fathers Day, 4th of July and a Happy anything else that is going on.

Secondly, I would like to extend our deepest wishes for a speedy "get well" to Tony Anthony and prayers and support for Lorraine (Bird). Our wishes also extend to Carolyn and Elmer Kostal and to all that need them. I personally would like to give a huge thank you to Bird and all the ladies who are helping out in the Auxiliary office while I am away.

Thirdly, I would like to thank those new members who came out for initiation of our new members on March 9th at our regular Auxiliary meeting. If you were unable to attend, there is always next year, mark your calendars.

This past year was very successful and we hope to keep that going for this year. Our goal was 596 members and as of the end of our year we surpassed that with 632 members or 106.4%. We will receive our 100% membership ribbon at the Orlando convention at the end of June.

The Auxiliary office is open on Wednesdays and we are still accepting 2017 memberships. Since there are no fish fries until Sept. The office will not be open on Fridays. Renewing your membership helps us to help our veterans and organizations we support.

PLEASE READ AND REMEMBER

After May 31st, I could not accept any new membership applications until September 1, 2017 for the 2018 membership year. Renewals will be mailed out by approximately September 15th for the year 2018. At that time you can renew in our office, by mail or online. Using the online option takes about three weeks from the time you submit your information and payment. This is done through the Dept. of Florida office in Orlando.

Lastly feel free to contact the Auxiliary office at 863 875-9237.

For God and Country
Ruth Jones, 1st Vice President & Membership Chairman

Greetings from your TDY

Boy time sure flies when your having fun, or being as busy as we were this season. We here at the TDY Clubroom appreciate your continued support with all our functions. Our Derby Day was a big success and hopefully will be a continuing function with even more fun. We have waived the $5.00 charge for non members until later this year. The main reason for this charge was to boost membership and for the most part, it worked.

Our main predicament was and is finding volunteers to help mainly on Friday nights. It seems we always have the same people doing the same work, so please volunteer, you might even enjoy it.

We all know that summertime is slow time here at Post 8, so I hope you great locals keep the place going! I have booked a few new bands so keep an eye on the calendar so you can give me your opinion. Again, I thank you for your loyal support of our great “Post 8”.

For God and Country
June Bug TDY Manager