



American Legion Mandarin Post 372 "Fallen Heroes"

Mail: 11250-15 Old St. Augustine Rd-PMB138, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Meetings: 10415 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32257
904-297-8344 www.alpost372fl.org



June 2024

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL

Vol. 24 No. 06



Post Elections

Congratulations to all our newly elected Officers from all our families. Election results have been published in the May 26th and June 2nd editions of the weekly blast. Officers will be updated in the July newsletter. Installation will be held on Saturday, August 3rd at 10 am at the Mandarin Masonic Lodge.

Our Post's Firefighter of the Year – Daniel Morrell – also was awarded the American Legion Department of Florida Firefighter of the Year! He will be presented with this award on June 15th at 8 am at the Department of Florida State Convention. Bravo Zulu!!

Membership News

2024 Membership – Our 2024 goal is 240 and we have surpassed this goal and are at 103.33%! Any questions, contact our membership officer at Info@alpost372fl.org. A link apply to join our Post via online application is on our Home page – share with friends and family who are eligible!

If you have not renewed by June 30th 2024, you will be dropped from the membership rolls and your continuous years of service restarts. 2025 renewals will be sent out soon – dues will increase to \$50. There is an option to renew for up to 3 years at the current \$25. Log onto mylegion.org to take advantage of this offer.

Eligibility Changes – The July 2019 LEGION Act expands eligibility to all Veteran's honorably discharged from December 7, 1941 to a future date to be determined by the Federal Government. All memberships now require us to verify your service with a DD-214.

If you have friends, relatives or neighbors who served and are not members, please encourage them to join. Email the Membership Officer for assistance at Info@alpost372fl.org.

Annual Membership Dues:

- Legion - **\$50 (For 2025)**
- Auxiliary - \$35
- Auxiliary 17 & under - \$10
- Legion Riders - \$15
- SAL - \$35 (21 and over)
- \$11 (under 21 and dual Legionnaires members)

Sons of The American Legion

We have a great Sons of the American Legion Program. If you are a son of a veteran who served, you qualify to join our SAL. We are 132% for 2024 – we are #3 in the District! You can renew your dues at mylegion.org, or by mailing a check made out to 'Sons of the American Legion Post 372' to the mailing address above. Our next 50/50 raffle drawing will be July 31st. Net proceeds will be used for programs and the building fund. Information in the weekly blast. The most recent newsletter is available on our page on the website – come check it out!

Legion Riders

The current newsletter and minutes are posted on the website. A benefit Poker Run will be held on June 9 to raise funds to help offset funeral expenses for the son of our SAL and Auxiliary members. The application to join is available from the Legion Riders page on the Post website. Eligibility requirements to become a member are:

- Members must hold membership in, and be in good standing with, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.
- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.
- All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws.
- All members must obey motor-vehicle laws in the state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

Auxiliary News

The current Unit 372 Newsletter is on the Auxiliary page of the website. Please read for important information for upcoming events. Donate your used tennis shoes to be repurposed or recycled. It's time to renew for 2024 - we are over 137%. If you are not already a member and qualify, please consider joining. The application can be found on our Auxiliary page on the Post's website. Any questions, please contact us at auxunit372@alpost372fl.org. **Meetings will be held at locations other than the YMCA. Contact us for meeting information.**

<i>Post Officers</i>	<i>SAL Officers</i>	<i>Auxiliary Officers</i>
Commander: Joe Maltese 1 st Vice Commander: Craig Bernat 2 nd Vice Commander: Steve Sullivan Finance Officer: Paul Arambula Adjutant: Frank Nichols Chaplain: Mike Montonera Service Officers: Barry Litsky Judge Advocate: Bob Sussan Historian: Frank Nichols Sergeant-at-Arms: Chuck Benham	Commander: Craig Bernat Adjutant: Chuck Benham 1 st Vice: Steve Sullivan 2 nd Vice: Vacant Finance Officer: Paul Arambula Chaplain: Chuck Benham Historian: Vacant Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Crawford Asst Sergeant-at-Arms: Vacant	President: Dee Stewart 1 st Vice President: Bernadette Montonera 2 nd vice President: Vacant Secretary: Lisa Doerler Treasurer: Judy Bernat Chaplain: Robin Maltese Asst. Chaplin: Sandra Smith Historian: Caitlin Bailey Sergeant-at-Arms: Janelle Hempzell Membership: Sandra Smith Member at Large: Sandra Shelton
<i>Executive Committee</i> Bob Sussan, Karen Tracy, Robert Berlandi, Mark Shelton	<i>American Legion Riders</i> Director: June Crawford Asst. Director: Don Crawford Treasurer: Sandra Shelton Chaplain: Joe Maltese Adjutant: Allane Strobe Sergeant-at-Arms: Blaine Demmons Road Captain: Charlie McFarland Safety Officer: Tim Bailey Quartermaster: Mark Shelton	
<i>Auxiliary Executive Committee</i> Marilyn Painter, Judy Bernat, Robin Maltese, Reed Bailey		

WE HAVE A POST HOME

Our Post property on Old St. Augustine Road purchased in 2023 is located on the south side of Old St Augustine Road, across from Whitmore Oaks subdivision (east of Caron Drive).



We are in FULL swing with permitting, ordering the building, fund raising and staffing our committees. Groundbreaking will be soon – stay tuned!!!

Our 10-set was finally approved by the COJ, so we can now proceed with land clearing and site preparation. If you know of a company that can provide these services either as a donation or at a discount, contact info@alpost372fl.org with their information.

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsorship or donating to the building of our Post, please reach out to info@alpost372fl.org for information on sponsor levels. The brochure detailing our project can be downloaded as a PDF from our website's home page.

Several committees have been established for our Post Home project. If you are interested in being on one or for information on what each is responsible for, please reach out to the Adjutant (adjutant@alpost372fl.org) or general information at info@alpost372fl.org

Communication/Community Relations
 Logistics

Funding Acquisition
 Exterior Design and Landscape
 Interior Design and Build-out
 Post Brand/Image
 Human Resources and Recruiting

Post Home Fundraisers

Several fundraisers have been initiated with funds going towards our Post Home. Additional information, pictures and ordering information are available on our website.

Memorial Bricks: Memorial brick/paver Details with pictures and an order form are available on the website via a link from the home page. You can also order online via <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/mfh>.

License Plates: Our ALR has Post 372 Fallen Heroes license plates for sale. These license plates are available at \$10 per plate – and a picture is available on the website. Anyone interested can reach out to the Riders Quartermaster at alr372quartermaster@gmail.com.

Metal Tumblers: The ALR also have engraved tumblers for sale starting at \$30 – personalize for an extra \$5. Contact alradjutant@alpost372fl.org or 904-923-0948 to order.

Post Coin: Our membership designed a Post Coin and it was voted on during our February meeting. The 2” coins have arrived, and will sell for \$15 each.

Post Bottle Openers: The ALR has bottle openers with our Post name engraved in several colors for \$5 each. Contact alradjutant@alpost372fl.org if interested.

New Non-Profit Foundation

Post 372 is forming a 501.c.3 non-profit organization that will be completely independent from Post 372 to allow us an easier path in securing grants, funding and donations. This foundation – Northeast Florida Fallen Heroes Foundation – is in the process of obtaining IRS approval for the foundation. This organization will reach several counties in the northeast portion of Florida. Updated information on the foundation's status will be included in the weekly blast. The new website address is <http://www.neflfallenheroes.org/>. Feel free to

share this site with anyone interested in donating who will need to donate to a 501.c.3 organization.

Service Officer News

The VA added presumptive conditions for Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange. The full list and information can be found on our home page of alpost372fl.org. Contact our Service officer at serviceofficer@alpost372fl.org for information and to file a claim. **See below for important information about the recently passed Camp Lejeune Justice Act.**

Camp Lejeune Justice Act Information

The deadline to submit a CLJA claim is coming up – **August 10, 2024**. The law firm of Bergmann & Moore was selected by the American Legion to assist members in filing claims. To learn more about the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, visit: www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/AL or call 800-898-9450.

PACT Act Expansion – VA Health Care

Beginning March 5, 2024, the VA expanded eligibility to enroll in VA health care directly without first applying for VA benefits. Any Veteran who served during the Vietnam era, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the GWOT, or any other combat zone after 9/11 are eligible. Any Veteran NOT deployed but exposed to toxins or hazards during training or on Active Duty in the US are also eligible. Visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and apply for VA health care.

Retired Military Information

Retired Activities Office on NAS Jax provides assistance to the military retiree community regarding many programs and resources. Examples include VA, DFAS/pay questions, Tricare and Survivor Benefit program, as well as many others. Office hours are Tuesday – Friday from 1000-1400. Call 904-542-5790 to speak with staff or leave a message.

General Information

Cancelled Stamp Program: We need your cancelled stamps! Our Post participates in the Stamps for the Wounded Program for rehabilitating disabled veterans. Please bring your cancelled stamps to the next General Assembly meeting.

Youth Elks Camp - During the 7th week, active duty military children can attend for free.

VA Travel Pay Reimbursement – You or your caregivers may be eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses related to approved health care visits. To learn more, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay/>.

Career Opportunities for Veterans

Deploycare has put together a short article for three ideas to help veterans in any economy. The article can be found on our website under Important Links. Check it out to see if any of the ideas work for you or a veteran you know!

AND - to help Veterans create the perfect Military to Civilian resume, check out this link

<https://www.resumebuilder.com/military-to-civilian-resume-examples/>, also available on our website.

Veteran Resource Links

There are several online sites with information about financial resources and healthcare guidance. These links are available from our home page under Important Links.

Military Records Request Information

Do you need your DD-214 or other military records? You can request them from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. Visit <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/> for guidance on requesting military records online, by mail or fax. The form used is DD Form 180.

Project:Vetrelief

Mission is to provide a Legion of support for our service men and women as they transition into civilian lives. Backed by the American Legion of Florida, VetRelief ensures that our service men and women have the backing necessary to live successful and thriving civilian lives.

[\(https://www.projectvetrelief.org/\)](https://www.projectvetrelief.org/) The Jacksonville Icemen have partnered with the American Legion to donate a portion of ticket sales during Veterans Appreciation Night to VetRelief. <https://allevents.in/arena/icemen-hockey-game/200019047449626>

Blood Donations

You can still donate blood to benefit our Post. The One Blood donation location in Mandarin is:

10501 San Jose Blvd
M-Tu 7-2:30 pm
W-Th 11:00-6:30 pm
F 10-6:30 pm
Sa-Su 8-3:30 pm

Once you have donated, enter your information in the Volunteer Log on the Legion page of our website. You can find other locations and times for The Big Red Bus at oneblood.org.

****Check Your Email****

You might want to check your SPAM or JUNK folder in your email application to see if any American legion emails were misdirected there. If so, move them to your Inbox and follow the instructions for your applications to verify/validate the email address.

The latest issue of the American Legion Department of Florida Legion Link is available at <https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/legion-link/>.


??? Where Do We Meet ???

American Legion Mandarin Post 372 meets at the Williams Family YMCA, 10415 San Jose Blvd. The YMCA is located North of Target/Publix. The Auxiliary meets a different location – reach out to them for more information.






June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 ALR Poker Run Reg @ 9 KSU @ 10	10 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	11	12	13 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	14 Flag Day 	15 Fireside Chat
16 Father's Day 10:00 am ALR meeting - YMCA	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20	21	22
23	24	25 7-8 pm Auxiliary mtg	26	27 7-8 pm SAL at YMCA	28	29
30						

July 2024 – NO GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING THIS MONTH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day 	5	6
7	8 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Fireside Chat
21 ALR meeting Noon YMCA	22	23	24	25 7-8 pm Auxiliary mtg 7-8 pm SAL at YMCA	26	27
28	29	30	31			