



American Legion Mandarin Post 372 "Fallen Heroes"

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904-297-8344 www.alpost372fl.org



September 2022

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL

Vol. 22 No. 09



Membership News

American Legion Membership is based on the calendar year – January 1st through December 31st.

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. Please email the Membership Officer for assistance at Membership@alpost372fl.org.

2023 Membership – Membership for 2023 began on July 1st. Watch for your notice and renew your 2023 membership as soon as you can. We are already at 50.45% of the anticipated 2023 quota with 111 members renewed. Welcome to our new members! Members who renew for 2023 by September 30th will be eligible for a free Early Bird dinner that will be held at the Mandarin Garden Club on December 2nd. Our Post was recognized for recruitment with the American Legion 100%+1 award. Any questions, reach out to our membership officer at Membership@alpost372fl.org.

Annual Membership Dues:

Legion - \$45
Auxiliary - \$35
Auxiliary 17 & under - \$10
Legion Riders - \$15
SAL - \$30 (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 as well. If you are a son of a veteran who served, you qualify to join our SAL. Our Junior Shooters Program is moving ahead with mentor/shooter training! We will be sponsoring the radio room work space on the USS Orleck. If you are interested in having your son or grandson participate, please

contact and Commander Carl Zuber at: salcdr@alpost372fl.org, any Post or Squadron Office, or call 904-434-2901. We exceeded our 2022 membership goal, putting us over 100%! Due to issues with mylegion.org they must be paid to the SAL Membership Chairman. 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. ALR will do a ride on 9/10 at Vystar Veterans Arena for the Fight for Life Veterans Festival from 9-12. Also, a POW/MIA ride will be held on 9/17 at Cecil Field. To participate, register at Post 137. Post riders Poker Run will be held on 9/11 for Project VetRelief. 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 this month's events. Our Unit was awarded Unit of the Year for 2021-2022! We donated blankets to the residents during the Veterans Social with Discovery Village. Watch for details for a possible Halloween Party for our Post family. 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.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Post Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Joe Maltese 1st Vice Commander: Barry Litsky 2nd Vice Commander: JD Gurley Finance Officer: Craig Bernat Adjutant: Barry Litsky Chaplain: Mike Montonera Service Officers: Barry Litsky, Chuck Benham Judge Advocate: Paul Arambula Historian: Pat Patrick Sergeant-at-Arms: Franklin Hunt</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Steve Sullivan, Alan Painter, Bob Sussan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auxiliary Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Kathy Helmly, Marilyn Painter, Judy Bernat, Robin Maltese, Reed Bailey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>SAL Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Carl Zuber Adjutant: Chuck Benham 1st Vice: Vacant 2nd Vice: Vacant Finance Officer: Craig Bernat Chaplain: Chuck Benham Historian: Vacant Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Crawford Asst Sergeant-at-Arms: Jeffrey Haley</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auxiliary Officers</i></p> <p>President: Reed Bailey 1st Vice President: Michelle Maze 2nd vice President: Vacant Secretary: Caitlin Bailey Treasurer: Judy Bernat Chaplain: Robin Maltese Historian: Vacant Sergeant-at-Arms: Janelle Hemsell Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms: Vacant Membership: Sandra Smith Member at Large: Michelle Maze</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>American Legion Riders</i></p> <p>Director: Chuck Benham Asst. Director: June Crawford Finance Officer: Jim Hansen Chaplain: Patricia Patrick Adjutant: Robin Maltese Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Crawford Asst Sergeant-at-Arms: Carl Zuber Road Captain: Don Crawford Safety Officer: Tim Bailey Membership: Michelle Maze Quartermaster: Paul Arambula</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>ALR Committee Members</i></p> <p>June Crawford, Don Crawford, Reed Bailey, Tim Bailey</p>
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Service Officer Information

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 adjutant@alpost372fl.org for information and to file a claim.

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

Enjoy an issue of Bugle Blasts, a newsletter that provides information to current or former Armed Forces member and their family, by following the link on the Important Links page of the website.

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

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.

Career Opportunities for Veterans

Recent events have caused a lot of people, many who are veterans, to scramble to learn to work from home, deal with losing a job or re-entering the workforce after shutdown. 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.

Financial Resource Links for Veteran Families

See below for links to several Resources for our Beloved Veterans & Their Families:

[Career Resources for our Veterans](#)

[The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing](#)

[Moving Costs | Moving Cost Calculator | Moving Estimate](#)

[Step-by-Step Guide to the VA Loan Process](#)

[VA Loan Calculator](#)

[Moving Companies with Military Discounts](#)

[What Documents Are Needed to Sell Your House?](#)

[Find Family Services and Resources Near You](#)

[Military Buddy Finder \(VetFriends.com\)](#)

[Veteran Healthcare Resources](#)

[The Differences between Medicare, Medicaid & VA Military Benefits](#)

[Mental Health Resources for our Veterans Families](#)

[Ways to Keep a Relationship Strong During Deployment and Separation](#)

[Crucial Components to Highly Effective Deployment Communication](#)

[Military Care Package Ideas: What To Put In A Care Package](#)
[Post-Deployment Adjustments Military Couples Face](#)
[Creating a Peaceful At-Home Atmosphere Upon Returning Home](#)

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/>) 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>

??? Where Are We ???


American Legion Mandarin Post 372 shares a location with the Mandarin/St. Johns Elks Lodge by Lowe's on Oldfield Crossing Drive. Entrance to the shopping center that the Elks Lodge is located behind is across from Walgreens.



Our Post is diligently looking for a permanent home. If anyone has contacts or knows of a location in the Mandarin area where the site could be donated or leased at a reasonable cost, please contact the 2nd Vice Commander or Adjutant from the email on our website.



September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day Membership Drive – Mandarin ACE Hardware 	6 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	7	8 6-7pm General Assembly Social 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	9	10 ALR Ride Vystar Veterans Arena, 9-12
11 Post Riders Poker Run	12	13	14	15	16	17 ALR POW/MIA ride, Cecil Field
18 10-11am ALR meeting	19	20	21	22 7-8:30pm Auxiliary mtg 7-8:30pm SAL mtg	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	12	13 6-7pm General Assembly Social 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	14	15
16 10-11am ALR meeting	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 7-8:30pm Auxiliary mtg 7-8:30pm SAL mtg	28	29
30	31 Halloween 