



American Legion Mandarin Post 372 "Fallen Heroes"

Mail: 11250-15 Old St. Augustine Rd-PMB138, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Located: 4280 Oldfield Crossing Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32223

904-297-8344

www.mandarinpost372.org

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL



December 2020

Vol. 20 No. 12



***** All members are mandated per City rules to wear masks and practice social distancing during Post activities. *****

Christmas Food Bank Collection Effort

Our Post is collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries to support Mandarin Food Bank's Christmas Holiday Giveaway. You can access the list of much needed items and drop off times on our website.

From the Commander

Our Post is in 4th place in the district for membership, and SAL Squadron is now in 3rd place. Our post is ahead of 2019 membership and ahead in membership than we were at time last year! Winn Dixie Mandarin donated \$5,000 to our post to help with our Post activities. Although 2020 has been a tough year, the American Legion has raised over \$1,400,000 for education and our children and youth.

Our next Fireside Chat at the Elks Lodge will provide a fun family night for the Legion Family and Elks members on December 19th. Hot dogs and marshmallows over a bonfire, and corn-hole games will round out the evening.

Membership News

Eligibility Changes – The July 2019 LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service) expands eligibility to all Veteran's honorably discharged from December 7, 1941 to a future date to be determined by the Federal Government.

Time to renew for 2021!! Membership Dues remain at \$45 for our Post for 2021. If you have friends, relatives or neighbors who served and are not members, please encourage them to join. All memberships now require us to verify your service with a DD-214.

Come up to the Elks Lodge during the weekly Office Hours or the monthly General Assembly meetings. If this time is not convenient, please email our Adjutant at Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org for assistance in paying your dues.

2021 Membership – 168 members have renewed, are new or have transferred in putting us at 80% of our membership goal of our 210 quota placing us 4th in the district.

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. We have 15 of our 16 membership quota renewed/new/transferred putting us at 94%. General Squadron meetings are held at 6:30 on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Elks Lodge. The SAL has completed the 5 Star Program. The Squadron is also in the process of establishing a Junior Shooters team, ages 13 through 18 (19 if in HS). We need at least 10, and they do not need to be a member of the SAL or American Legion. If you are interested in having your son or grandson participate, please contact and Commander Carl Zuber. Anyone interested in joining SAL please contact Commander Carl Zuber at: sonsofthelegionsquadron372@gmail.com, any Post or Squadron Office, or call 904-434-2901.

Auxiliary News

The June 2020 Unit 372 Newsletter is on the Auxiliary page of the website. Our Unit has a new President – congratulations to Reed Bailey. If you are not already a member and qualify, please consider joining. Meetings are currently held at 6:30 on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Elks Lodge. **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2021, MEETINGS WILL BE 4TH THURSDAY AT 7 PM.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Post Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Joe Maltese 1st Vice Commander: Barry Litsky 2nd Vice Commander: Patricia Patrick Finance Officer: Craig Bernat Adjutant: Barry Litsky Chaplain: Alan Painter Service Officer: Barry Litsky Judge Advocate: Dan Hemsall Historian: Vacant Sergeant-at-Arms: Ben St. John</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Bill McGraw, Karen Tracy, Jim Hughes, Steve Sullivan, Alan Painter</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: June Crawford Secretary: Marilyn Painter Treasurer: Judy Bernat Chaplain: Robin Maltese Historian: Vacant Sergeant-at-Arms: Danielle Fix Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms: June Crawford Membership: 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: Reed Bailey 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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Legion Riders

The most recent Riders newsletter is now available on the Post website under our Legion Riders link.

* 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.

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>

Fundraising News

Quarterly dinners are currently suspended and will be reinstated in the coming months. Stay tuned for dates and menus.

Patricia Patrick is organizing a Legion Riders first annual Tricycle Race to be held February/March 2021 to raise revenue. More details and a firm date to follow.

The Patriot Guard Riders partner with the Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express (SBE) to provide all-expense paid vacations to Disney World for Gold Star children of Veteran's who were killed. The Patriot Guard Riders escort participants during the entire time. Funding is always needed – to donate to the SBE Vest program, visit <https://www.patriotguard.org/donate/>.

General Information

American Forces Travel: The Department of Defense has teamed up with Priceline to create a travel booking site exclusively for U.S. Military members. **American Forces Travel** is a new Morale, Welfare and Recreation program providing service members, veterans and their families a one-stop shop. For more info, visit: <https://americanforcetravel.com>.

The American Legion Preamble was changed at the August 2019 National Convention. The new preamble can be read at the 5th District website <http://al5thdistrictfl.org/>.

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.

The annual Taste of Jacksonville will be held at the World Golf Village on 3/27/2021 from 1-7 pm. The event showcases North Florida food and drink vendors. The Post is considering reserving a table as a membership drive and provide exposure for The American Legion to our Northeast Florida Veterans. Tickets are free at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-jacksonville-tickets-81237843577>.

Financial Resource Links for Veteran Families

See below for links to 17 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](#)

Career Opportunities for Veterans

This year has 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!

??? 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.



December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours 6:30-8pm Auxiliary mtg 6:30-8pm SAL mtg	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	9	10 7-8:30p Gen Assembly mtg	11	12 6:00pm Elks Christmas Party
13	14	15 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours	16	17	18	19 Wreaths across America 5:00pm Fireside Chat
20 10-11am ALR meeting	21	22 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS 	26
27	28	29 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 	2
3	4	5 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours Auxiliary mtg 6:30-8pm SAL mtg	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	13	14 7-8:30p Gen Assembly mtg	15	16
17 10-11am ALR meeting	18 Martin Luther King's Birthday	19 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours	27	28 7-8:30pm Auxiliary mtg	29	30
31						