



American Legion Mandarin Post 372 "Fallen Heroes"

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

Located: 2892 Loretto Road, Jacksonville, FL 32223

904-297-8344

www.alpost372fl.org

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL



February 2023

Vol. 23 No. 02



Meeting location has changed going forward. See end of newsletter for directions.

recent newsletter is available on our page on the website – come check it out!

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 is at 185, which is 81.1% of the 2023 quota of 228. Welcome to our new members! If you have not renewed – renew it now to avoid losing your continuous years of membership. 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 - \$33 (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. 2023 dues are now due. You cannot renew online – please a check to the address at the top of this newsletter. Our Junior Shooters Program is currently suspended. **We will be meeting on the second Thursday at the Garden Club at 6:15 pm.** 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. The most

Legion Riders

The current newsletter and minutes are posted on the website. **We will be meeting on the second Thursday at the Garden Club. Meeting times to follow.** The application to join is available from the Legion Riders page on the Post website. A ride will be held on March 26 to raise funds for our Post home. Also, our ALR Director has organized a brick program to solicit donations for our building fund. 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 named Unit of the Year in 2022! Our membership is at 100% with 29 members! **We will be meeting on the second Thursday at the Garden Club at 6:15 pm.** 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.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2023-2024 FOR ALL FAMILIES WILL BE HELD SOON. PLEASE CONSIDER RUNNING FOR A POSITION TO CHANGE THINGS UP AND MAKE OUR ORGANIZATIONS BETTER!

<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: Frank Nichols Sergeant-at-Arms: Franklin Hunt</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Steve Sullivan, Alan Painter, Bob Sussan, Frank Nichols</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: Allane Strode 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 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 adjutant@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

Since the passage of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act there has been mass tort firms all over the country saturating the airwaves with advertising offering speeding settlements with no strings attached. However offset rules are being discussed, which means if you are receiving a disability for the recognized disorders or will receive disability payments your VA disability, it may be offset by the amount of the settlement you receive. The law firm of Bergmann & Moore works together with the American Legion to provide veterans with effective legal representation. The firm encourages veterans to file a claim for both the Camp Lejeune Justice Act and the VA. To learn more visit: www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/AL or call 800-898-9450.

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.

2023 Retired Activities Seminar will be held on Saturday, April 15th 0900-1600 at the River Cove Center (across from the golf course) on NAS Jax.

If you or your dependents have the current blue/orange ID cards with no expiration date, or the expiration date is after 2026, those IDs are no longer valid after 2026. Contact your local ID office or make an appointment at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> to obtain the new ID card format.

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

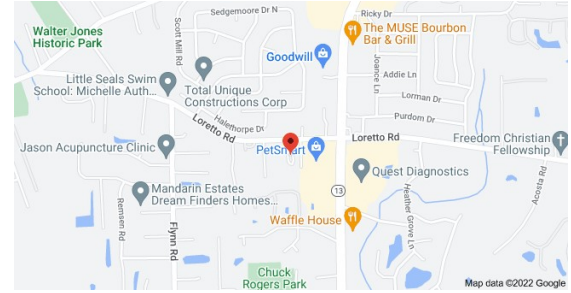
Mission is to provide a Legion of support for our service men and women as they transition into civilian lives. Backed by the American Legion of Florida, VetRelief ensures that our service men and women have the backing necessary to live successful and thriving civilian lives.

(<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 ???

Beginning with our November meetings, American Legion Mandarin Post 372 will be meet at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. The Garden Club is located behind the Winn Dixie Shopping Center. All Legion families will begin meeting at this location on the second Thursday of the month. General Assembly meeting will still be at 7 pm.



Auxiliary, SAL and ALR will send out separate communication for their meeting times.



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.



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	8	9 6-7pm SAL/Auxiliary/ALR mtg 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Smooches for Pooches K-9 for Warriors 4-6 pm	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day 	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	8	9 6-7pm SAL/Auxiliary/ALR mtg 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	10	11
12 Daylight Savings begins 	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patricks Day 	18
19	20 Spring begins 	21	22	23	24	25
26 ALR Building Fund Ride	27	28	29	30	31	