



## 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](http://www.alpost372fl.org)

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL



May 2023

Vol. 23 No. 05



**Meeting location has changed starting March 2023. See end of newsletter for directions and meeting times.**

### *Membership News*

2023 Membership – Membership is at 205, which is 89.91% of the 2023 quota of 228. Welcome to our new members!

Any questions, contact our membership officer at [Membership@alpost372fl.org](mailto:Membership@alpost372fl.org).

**If you have not renewed – renew NOW to avoid losing your continuous years of membership. American Legion membership is based on the calendar year – January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, you are delinquent and are suspended on February 1<sup>st</sup>. If not paid by June 30<sup>th</sup>, you are dropped from the membership rolls and your continuous years of service restarts.**

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](mailto: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 can now renew your dues at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) Our Junior Shooters Program is currently suspended. If you are interested in having your son or grandson participate, please contact and

Commander Carl Zuber at: [salcdr@alpost372fl.org](mailto:salcdr@alpost372fl.org), any Post or Squadron Office, or call 904-434-2901. 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. The application to join is available from the Legion Riders page on the Post website. 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.

**With the coming of the election season, the Post is looking for interested members to seek officer positions for the next year. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact the post Judge Advocate Paul Arambula or the adjutant. Nominations are open from March through May with elections in June!**

### **Auxiliary News**

The current Unit 372 Newsletter is on the Auxiliary page of the website. Please read for important information for upcoming events and how to donate. Our membership is over 100% with 33 members! 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](mailto:auxunit372@alpost372fl.org).

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Post Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Joe Maltese  1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Barry Litsky  2<sup>nd</sup> 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  1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Vacant  2<sup>nd</sup> 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  1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Michelle Maze  2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://alpost372fl.org). Contact our Service officer at [adjutant@alpost372fl.org](mailto: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](http://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.

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

**Cancelled Stamp Program:** Would members of the post please bring any cancelled stamps they have to the next general assembly meeting so a package can be sent to the Stamps for the Wounded program.

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 March 2023, American Legion Mandarin Post 372 will be meeting at the Williams Family YMCA, 10415 San Jose Blvd.** The YMCA is located North of Target/Publix. All Legion families will begin meeting at this location.

#### Meeting times:

General Assembly: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7 pm

SAL: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 6:15 pm

Auxiliary: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7 pm

ALR: May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander or Adjutant from the email on our website.**

### Post Home Brick Program Fundraiser

We have launched a memorial brick/paver fundraising program that will go towards our building fund. Remember your loved ones forever with a memorial brick. The engraved brick cost, availability dates and available levels will be communicated at a later date. We are also looking into memory benches. Consider having a permanent remembrance for you or your loved ones as a donation to our post building fund!



### May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 LEO Awards 4 pm Flyer below
7 5 <sup>th</sup> District Const Conf 8:30 am - Noon Post 137	8	9 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	10	11 6:15-7pm SAL mtg 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Fireside Chat 6-10 pm
21 10-11am ALR meeting	22	23	24	25 7-8 pm Auxiliary mtg	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

### June 2023

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



**American Legion  
 Fallen Heroes Mandarin Post #372  
 (904) 297-8344  
 www.alpost372fl.org**



**Supporting our local First Responders, American Legion Post 372  
 PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL  
 2023 LAW & ORDER AWARDS**

**SATURDAY, May 6, 2023, 4:00 PM**

**Please RSVP to [Adjutant@alpost372fl.org](mailto:Adjutant@alpost372fl.org) by April 26th to accommodate all guests.**

**FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF  
 THE YEAR**



***We want to show our appreciation and thanks to our first responders here in Duval County. Legion members, family and guests are invited for our awards presentation at 4:00 PM at the Mandarin Masonic Lodge, 2914 Loretto Road (see map below). A buffet will be served.***

