



## 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](http://www.mandarinpost372.org)



November 2020

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL

Vol. 20 No. 11



**\*\*\* 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 remains third in the district for membership, and SAL Squadron remains in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Now that we have turned our clocks back that reduces our evening outdoor time, please consider increasing participation at ours and other Posts. Veteran's Day in November 11<sup>th</sup>. Winn-Dixie on San Jose at Loretto will hold their Grand Re-opening at 0730 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and will be donating \$2,500 to Post 372 for our community Legion programs. All are encouraged to attend, and please wear Legion Family attire and service cap.

Our Fireside Chat on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge provided a fun family night for the Legion Family and Elks members. Hot dogs and marshmallows over a bonfire, and corn-hole games rounded out the evening. Plans for a repeat for November will be posted on our website.

### 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](mailto:Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org) for assistance in paying your dues.

2021 Membership – 152 members have renewed, are new or have transferred in putting us at 72.38% of our membership goal of our 210 quota placing us 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. General Squadron meetings are held at 6:30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:sonsofthelegionsquadron372@gmail.com), any Post or Squadron Office, or call 904-434-2901.

### Auxiliary News

The June 2020 Unit 372 Newsletter has been posted on the Post 372 website on the Auxiliary page. This Newsletter recaps and highlights all wonderful successes our Unit accomplished. If you are not already a member and qualify, please consider joining. Meetings are held at 6:30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Elks Lodge.

<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: 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  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: Vacant  2<sup>nd</sup> vice President: Vacant  Secretary: Marilyn Painter  Treasurer: Judy Bernat  Chaplain: Robin Maltese  Historian: Vacant  Sergeant-at-Arms: Michelle Maze  Membership: Vacant</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. 5<sup>th</sup> District is currently 1<sup>st</sup> in the state in the month-long Merry-Go-Round ride to raise money for children and youth services. Our riders rode 9,343 miles raising \$4,187.85 - Way to Go!!

\* 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

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



November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 ELECTION DAY 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours 6:30-8pm Auxiliary mtg 6:30-8pm SAL mtg	4	5	6	7
8 2:00 District meeting Post 202	9	10 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	11 Hotdogs at Elks 6:30 Veteran's Day 	12 7-8:30p Gen Assembly mtg	13	14
15	16	17 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours	18	19	20	21
22 10-11am ALR meeting	23	24 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours	25	26 	27	28
29	30					

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
13	14	15 4:30-6:00pm Office Hours	16	17	18	19 Wreaths across America
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		