

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
Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL



December 2023

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***** THERE WILL BE A DECEMBER GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ON 12/14 *****

Membership News

2024 Membership – Our 2024 goal is 240 and we have over 149 renewed, putting us at over 62.08%! Any questions, contact our membership officer at Info@alpost372fl.org.

Our Early Bird dinner/Holiday Party was a HUGE success with many members attending. Food was fantastic, comradery was all around and fun was had by all! Next year we will be in our new building!!!!

Make sure you renew for 2024 before December 31, 2023 to avoid a lapse in membership. If you have not renewed by June 30th 2024, you will be dropped from the membership rolls and your continuous years of service restarts. NOTE: A fee increase is coming in 2024. More information will be communicated in the weekly blast!

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 Info@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

Our next meeting is January 2024. 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 are at 108% of our 2024 renewals. You can renew your dues at mylegion.org, or by mailing a check made out to 'Sons of the American Legion Post 372' to the mailing address above. Our Junior Shooters Program is currently

suspended. The most recent newsletter is available on our page on the website – come check it out!

Legion Riders

Our next meeting is January 2024. The current newsletter and minutes are posted on the website. There are several rides coming up – check the weekly blast for information! 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

Our next meeting is January 2024. 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. Please donate your used tennis shoes to be repurposed or recycled. It's time to renew for 2024! 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.

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!

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Post Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Joe Maltese 1st Vice Commander: Craig Bernat 2nd Vice Commander: Steve Sullivan Finance Officer: Paul Arambula Adjutant: Frank Nichols Chaplain: Mike Montonera Service Officers: Barry Litsky, Chuck Benham Judge Advocate: Bob Sussan Historian: Frank Nichols Sergeant-at-Arms: Chuck Benham</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Bob Sussan, Karen Tracy, Robert Berlandi, Mark Shelton</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auxiliary Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Marilyn Painter, Judy Bernat, Robin Maltese, Reed Bailey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>SAL Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Craig Bernat Adjutant: Chuck Benham 1st Vice: Steve Sullivan 2nd Vice: Vacant Finance Officer: Paul Arambula Chaplain: Chuck Benham Historian: Vacant Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Crawford Asst Sergeant-at-Arms: Vacant</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>American Legion Riders</i></p> <p>Director: June Crawford Asst. Director: Don Crawford Treasurer: Sandra Shelton Chaplain: Joe Maltese Adjutant: Allane Strode Sergeant-at-Arms: Blaine Demmons Road Captain: Charlie McFarland Safety Officer: Tim Bailey Quartermaster: Mark Shelton</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auxiliary Officers</i></p> <p>President: Dee Stewart 1st Vice President: Bernadette Montonera 2nd vice President: Vacant Secretary: Lisa Doerler Treasurer: Judy Bernat Chaplain: Robin Maltese Asst. Chaplin: Sandra Smith Historian: Caitlin Bailey Sergeant-at-Arms: Janelle Hemsell Membership: Sandra Smith Member at Large: Sandra Shelton</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 serviceofficer@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.

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.

General Information

Cancelled Stamp Program: We need your cancelled stamps! Our Post participates in the Stamps for the Wounded Program for rehabilitating disabled veterans. Please bring your cancelled stamps to the next General Assembly meeting.

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.

VA Travel Pay Reimbursement – You or your caregivers may be eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses related to approved health care visits. To learn more, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay/>.

Military Records Request Information

Do you need your DD-214 or other military records? You can request them from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. Visit <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/> for guidance on requesting military records online, by mail or fax. The form used is DD Form 180.

Career Opportunities for Veterans

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>

Blood Donations

You can still donate blood to benefit our Post. The One Blood donation location in Mandarin is:

10501 San Jose Blvd

M-Tu 7-2:30 pm

W-Th 11:00-6:30 pm

F 10-6:30 pm

Sa-Su 8-3:30 pm

Let them know you are an American Legion Member and what Post you are affiliated with. You can find other locations and times for The Big Red Bus at oneblood.org.

??? Where Do We Meet ???

American Legion Mandarin Post 372 meets at the Williams Family YMCA, 10415 San Jose Blvd. The YMCA is located North of Target/Publix. All Legion families will be meeting at this location.



Post Home Update – WE HAVE A POST HOME

Our Post property on Old St. Augustine Road purchased earlier this year has passed the date of appeal. The property is located on the south side of Old St Augustine Road, across from Whitmore Oaks subdivision (east of Caron Drive).



We are in FULL swing with permitting, ordering the building, fund raising and staffing our committees. Groundbreaking will be soon – stay tuned!!!

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsorship or donating to the building of our Post, please reach out to info@alpost372fl.org for information on sponsor levels.

Several committees have been established for our Post Home project. If you are interested in being on one or for information on what each is responsible for, please reach out to the Adjutant (adjutant@alpost372fl.org) or general information at info@alpost372fl.org



Communication/Community Relations
Logistics
Funding Acquisition
Exterior Design and Landscape
Interior Design and Build-out
Post Brand/Image
Human Resources and Recruiting

****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.



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Early Bird Dinner 6 pm Mandarin Garden Club	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	12	13	14 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 						

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	9	10	11 6:15-7pm SAL mtg 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr Day 	16	17	18	19	20
21 ALR meeting 10 am YMCA Fireside Chat 4 pm	22	23	24	25 7-8 pm Auxiliary mtg	26	27
28	29	30	31			