



American Legion Mandarin Post 372 "Fallen Heroes"

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Located: 4280 Oldfield Crossing Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32223

904-297-8344

www.mandarinpost372.org

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL



August 2020

Vol. 20 No. 8



Some Post activities have been adjusted due to state and local changes to openings that impact the Elks Lodge where we hold our meetings. Refer to the calendar for information. All members are mandated per City rules to wear masks and practice social distancing during Post activities.

From the Commander

Congratulations to our newly elected Post Commander Joe Maltese. This election had the highest participation in the history of the Post. Please read his message on the Commander's Message page on our website where he notes significant accomplishments and thanks all our Post Legion Families.

Membership News

Eligibility Changes – Congress passed and the President has signed a bill on July 30, 2019 declaring the US has been in a state of war since Dec 7, 1941. The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service) expands eligibility to all Veteran's Honorable discharged from December 7, 1941 to a future date to be determined by the Federal Government.

You should have received your invitation to renew your membership, so time to renew for 2021!! Membership Dues remain at \$45 for our Post for 2021. As you know, on your membership card it shows how many continuous years you have been an American Legion member. If you have not paid your dues for the past year and then pay for the upcoming year, this will affect your years of continuous membership. 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.

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 (**NEW TIME**) on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Elks Lodge. The SAL is currently working on their 4th star of the 5 Star Program. The Squadron is also in the process of establishing a Junior Shooters team, ages 13 through 18. If you are interested in having your son or grandson participate, please contact and Commander Carl Zuber. Anyone interested in joining SAL please contact newly elected Commander Carl Zuber at: sonsofthelegionsquadron372@gmail.com, any Post or Squadron Office, or call 904-434-2901.

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)

Legion Riders

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

* *Relief Ride* on June 14th raised over \$3,000.

* 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.

<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>SAL Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Carl Zuber Adjutant: Carl Zuber 1st Vice: Carl Zuber 2nd Vice: Vacant Finance Officer: Vacant 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: Kathy Helmly 1st Vice President: Vacant 2nd vice President: Vacant Secretary: Marilyn Painter Treasurer: Christie Easton Chaplain: Sandy Smith Historian: Janelle Hemsall Sergeant-at-Arms: Judy Bernat Membership: Vacant</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Bill McGraw, Karen Tracy, Jim Hughes, Joe Maltese, Steve Sullivan, Alan Painter</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>ALR Committee Members</i></p> <p>June Crawford, Don Crawford, Reed Bailey, Tim Bailey</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>American Legion Riders</i></p> <p>Director: Joe Maltese Asst. Director: Chuck Benham Finance Officer: Jim Davis Chaplain: Reed Bailey Adjutant: Robin Maltese Sergeant-at-Arms: Paul Arambula Road Captain: June Crawford Safety Officer: Don Crawford Quartermaster: Paul Arambula</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Auxiliary Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Christie Easton, Robin Maltese, Sandy Smith</p>

Auxiliary News

Congratulations to Kathy Helmly, re-elected as the 2020-21 President! 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 (**NEW TIME**) on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Elks Lodge.

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>

Youth Elks Camp

During the 7th week, active duty military children can attend for free.

Fundraising News

Quarterly Fundraising Dinners

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

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/>.

Honeybee Quilters Guild donated a Patriotic quilt to raffle as a fundraiser. Raffle tickets are \$1 each and the raffle will continue until 1,000 tickets are sold.

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.

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 2nd Vice Commander or Adjutant from the email on our website.



August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 4:00-6pm Office Hours 6:30-8pm Auxiliary mtg 6:30-8pm SAL mtg	5	6	7	8
9 1:00pm Post Everlasting Ceremony, 5 th District mtg, Post 316 (Mayport)	10	11 4:00-6pm Office Hours 6-7:30pm Executive Committee mtg	12	13 6-7pm General Assembly Social 7-8:30p Gen Assembly mtg	14	15
16 10-11am ALR meeting	17	18 4:00-6pm Office Hours	19	20	21	22
23	23	25 4:00-6pm Office Hours	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

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