



American Legion Mandarin Post 372 "Fallen Heroes"

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904-297-8344

www.mandarinpost372.org

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL



June 2020

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All Post activities are in the process of reopening with Governor DeSantis allowing Florida to move into Phase II. All members are encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines and wear masks.

Post Officers Elections Information Voting for Post Officers and Executive Committee members has closed. The election results will be officially released soon. Thank you to all who took the time to cast your votes!

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.

We are approaching the time when the 2020-2021 Membership Dues will be due. If you have not paid your 2019-2020 due for the last year, please do so. 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. As noted, Congress passed a law that removes all the conflict requirements to be a member so this will open membership up to all who served. This will allow fellow veterans that you know to become members if they didn't qualify in the past, so please encourage them to join.

All memberships now require us to verify your service with a DD-214. This is due to Stolen Valor and people who were found to be members at other posts nationwide and even in leadership positions who never served in any branch of our military.

Come up to the Elks Lodge during reinstated office hours, monthly General Assembly meetings or our dinners. If

those times are not convenient, please email our Adjutant at Adjutant@MandarinPost372.org for assistance in paying your dues.

Your American Legion Membership in Post 372 helps us provide needed assistance for local veteran and youth programs in our area. As you know, Post 372 does not have a physical building with a canteen in order to raise funds to support these programs. We rely on memberships, donations, and the Saturday Dinners in order to support our programs. With the COVID-19 pandemic, this has hurt our efforts on all fronts.

Even before the shutdown, our monthly Saturday fundraising dinner was poorly attended. We started making the dinner a quarterly event to hopefully boost attendance and will resume in the next month or so. We are very limited as to what kind of dinners that we can provide due to not having a kitchen and storage for food items.

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 7:00 on the 4th Thursday 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 Squadron Adjutant and Vice-Commander Carl Zuber. Anyone interested in joining SAL please contact Commander Joe Maltese 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)
\$8 (under 21)

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Post Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Alan Painter 1st Vice Commander: Barry Litsky 2nd Vice Commander: Craig Bernat Finance Officer: Craig Bernat Adjutant: Barry Litsky Chaplain: Wayne Lee Service Officer: Barry Litsky Judge Advocate: Dan Hemsall Historian: Vacant Sergeant-at-Arms: Paul Arambula</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Executive Board</i></p> <p>Dan Hemsall, Franklin Hunt, Jim Hughes, Joe Maltese, Steve Sullivan, Frank Nichols</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>SAL Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Joe Maltese 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>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 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>Auxiliary Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Christie Easton, Robin Maltese, Sandy Smith</p>
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Legion Riders

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

* 5th District Ride on June 14th.

* 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 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.

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.



June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 4:30-6pm Office Hours	3	4	5 Florida enters Phase 2 of reopening	6
7	8	9 4:30-6pm Office Hours 6-7:30pm Executive Committee mtg	10	11 6-7pm General Assembly Social; Annual Law & Order Award Ceremony 7-8:30p Gen Assembly mtg	12	13
14 ALR 5 th District Ride	15	16 4:30-6pm Office Hours	17	18 Post Service Officers Report due	19	20
21 Father's Day 10-11am ALR meeting	22	23 4:30-6pm Office Hours	24	25 7-8pm Auxiliary mtg 7-8pm SAL mtg	26	27
28	29	30 4:30-6pm Office Hours				

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Independence Day observed	4 th of July 
5	6	7 4:30-6pm Office Hours 6-7:30pm Executive Committee mtg	8	9 6-7pm General Assembly Social 7-8:30p Gen Assembly mtg	10	11
12	13	14 4:30-6pm Office Hours	15 Tax Day	16 Post Service Officers Report due	17	18
19 10-11am ALR meeting	20	21 4:30-6pm Office Hours	22	23 7-8pm Auxiliary mtg 7-8pm SAL mtg	24	25
26	27	28 4:30-6pm Office Hours	29	30	31	