

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



February 2024

Vol. 24 No. 02



Membership News

2024 Membership – Our 2024 goal is 240 and we have 200 renewed, putting us at 83.3% - 5th in the District! Any questions, contact our membership officer at Info@alpost372fl.org.

If you have not renewed by now, you are late. If not 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. 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

We have a great Sons of the American Legion Program. If you are a son of a veteran who served, you qualify to join our SAL. We are 116% for 2024 with 29 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. We will be starting a 50/50 raffle to raise money for the building fund once the tickets are received. Information in the weekly blast. The most recent newsletter is available on our page on the website – come check it out! **Meetings have changed to every other month, on the 4th Thursday at the YMCA. Next is March 28.**

Legion Riders

The current newsletter and minutes are posted on the website. Post 129 Casino night will be 2/24/24 with

proceeds going to Project:Vetreliet. The application to join is available from the Legion Riders page on the Post website. Eligibility requirements to become a member are:

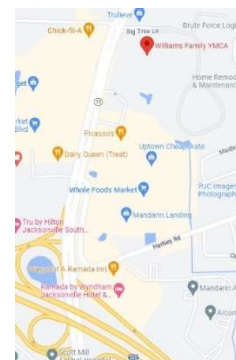
- Members must hold membership in, and be in good standing with, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.
- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.
- All operators must be 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

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. Donate your used tennis shoes to be repurposed or recycled. It's time to renew for 2024 - we are at 137% already! 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. **Meetings will be held at locations other than the YMCA. Contact us for meeting information.**

??? 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.



<i>Post Officers</i>	<i>SAL Officers</i>	<i>Auxiliary Officers</i>
Commander: Joe Maltese 1 st Vice Commander: Craig Bernat 2 nd Vice Commander: Steve Sullivan Finance Officer: Paul Arambula Adjutant: Frank Nichols Chaplain: Mike Montonera Service Officers: Barry Litsky Judge Advocate: Bob Sussan Historian: Frank Nichols Sergeant-at-Arms: Chuck Benham	Commander: Craig Bernat Adjutant: Chuck Benham 1 st Vice: Steve Sullivan 2 nd Vice: Vacant Finance Officer: Paul Arambula Chaplain: Chuck Benham Historian: Vacant Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Crawford Asst Sergeant-at-Arms: Vacant	President: Dee Stewart 1 st Vice President: Bernadette Montonera 2 nd 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
<i>Executive Committee</i> Bob Sussan, Karen Tracy, Robert Berlandi, Mark Shelton	<i>American Legion Riders</i> 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	
<i>Auxiliary Executive Committee</i> Marilyn Painter, Judy Bernat, Robin Maltese, Reed Bailey		

WE HAVE A POST HOME

Our Post property on Old St. Augustine Road purchased in 2023 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

Post Home Fundraisers

Memorial Bricks: Memorial brick/paver Details with pictures and an order form are available on the website via a link from the home page. You can also order online via <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/mfh>.

License Plates: Our ALR has Post 372 Fallen Heroes license plates for sale. These license plates are available at \$10 per plate – and a picture is available on the website. Anyone interested can reach out to the Riders Quartermaster at alr372quartermaster@gmail.com.

Metal Tumblers: The ALR also have engraved tumblers for sale starting at \$30 – personalize for an extra \$5. Contact alradjutant@alpost372fl.org or 904-923-0948 to order. Photos are on the website.

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.

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/>.

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](#)

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.

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.

****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.

Miscellaneous

Bob Berlandi has two 26 inch Schwinn bicycles for sale with proceeds going to the building fund. Anyone interested can contact Bob at bostonbob47@gmail.com for additional details.





February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	6	7	8 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	9	10
11	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 	15	16	17 Fireside Chat
18 ALR meeting 10 am YMCA	19 President's Day 	20	21	22 7-8 pm Auxiliary mtg – Location TBD	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 LEAP DAY		

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Spring Ahead 	11 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	12	13	14 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	15	16
17 St Patrick's Day 	18	19 Spring Begins 	20	21	22	23
24 ALR meeting 10 am YMCA	25	26	27	28 7-8pm SAL mtg - YMCA 7-8 pm Auxiliary mtg – Location TBD	29	30
31 Easter 						