

# 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](http://www.alpost372fl.org)

Facebook page: American Legion Post 372, Mandarin, FL



October 2023

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**New Service Officer email:**  
[Serviceofficer@alpost372fl.org](mailto:Serviceofficer@alpost372fl.org).

## *Membership News*

2024 Membership – Our 2024 memberships are already coming in! Our goal is 240 and we have over 113 renewals! It's never too early to renew for the next year – renew by October 31<sup>st</sup> to qualify for a free Early-Bird dinner in December! Any questions, contact our membership officer at [Info@alpost372fl.org](mailto:Info@alpost372fl.org).

**Early Bird Dinner Info – Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>, Mandarin Garden Club starting at 6 pm with dinner served at 7. Menu is spaghetti & meatballs, salad and garlic bread. Donation of \$10 for those renewing after 10/31 and family/friends. We may have gift baskets for raffle and a 50/50 drawing!**

**Make sure you renew for 2024 before December 31, 2023 to avoid a lapse in membership. If you have not renewed by June 30, 2024, you will be dropped from the membership rolls and your continuous years of service restarts.**

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](mailto: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 as well. If you are a son of a veteran who served, you qualify to join our SAL. We are already at 60% for our 2024 renewals – our goal is 25 members. You can renew your dues at [mylegion.org](http://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**

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**

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. Our 2023 membership is over 100% with 33 members – 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](mailto: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!

**Read exciting news about our Post Home at the end of the newsletter and on our website!!!**

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Post Officers</i></p> <p>Commander: Joe Maltese  1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Craig Bernat  2<sup>nd</sup> 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  1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Steve Sullivan  2<sup>nd</sup> 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  1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Bernadette Montonera  2<sup>nd</sup> vice President: Vacant  Secretary: Lisa Doerler  Treasurer: Judy Bernat  Chaplain: Robin Maltese  Asst. Chaplin: Sandra Smith  Historian: Caitlin Bailey  Sergeant-at-Arms: Janelle Hempzell  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](http://alpost372fl.org). Contact our Service officer at [serviceofficer@alpost372fl.org](mailto: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](http://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:** Would members of the post please bring any cancelled stamps they have to the next general assembly meeting so a package can be sent to the Stamps for the Wounded program.

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.

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](http://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.

## ??? 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 begin meeting at this location.



### **Post Home Update**

Our Post purchased property on Old St. Augustine Road earlier this year for our Post home which required we submit a request to the City for a zoning change. Our application was read at the 9/12 City Council meeting, and a public hearing was held before the full Council on 9/26. The property is located on the south side of Old St Augustine Road, across from Whitmore Oaks subdivision (east of Caron Drive).



### ***Additional dates are:***

Planning Commission 10/5, 1 pm, City Council Chambers

Council LUZ Committee public hearing 10/17 @ 5pm

Public hearings, no council action 10/10 & 10/24

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](mailto:adjutant@alpost372fl.org)) or general information at [info@alpost372fl.org](mailto: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



October 2023

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

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Daylight Savings ends 	6 6:30-8:00pm Executive Committee mtg	7	8	9 6:15-7pm SAL mtg 7-8:30pm Gen Assembly mtg	10	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Fireside Chat
19 ALR meeting 10 am YMCA	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		