

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



March 2024

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Post Nominations

Post nominations for the Legion and all families are quickly approaching. Consider stepping up to put new blood in our Officer positions. Voting will follow.

Membership News

2024 Membership – Our 2024 goal is 240 and we have over 210 renewed, putting us at 90%! Any questions, contact our membership officer at Info@alpost372fl.org. A link apply to join our Post is on our Home page – share with friends and family who are eligible!

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 for 2025 is coming in 2024.

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! **Next meeting is March 28 at the YMCA.**

Legion Riders

The current newsletter and minutes are posted on the website. The application to join is available from the Legion Riders page on the Post website. Eligibility requirements to become a member are:

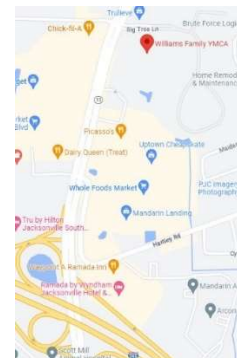
- Members must hold membership in, and be in good standing with, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.
- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.
- All operators must be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



<p><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 Judge Advocate: Bob Sussan Historian: Frank Nichols Sergeant-at-Arms: Chuck Benham</p> <p><i>Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Bob Sussan, Karen Tracy, Robert Berlandi, Mark Shelton</p> <p><i>Auxiliary Executive Committee</i></p> <p>Marilyn Painter, Judy Bernat, Robin Maltese, Reed Bailey</p>	<p><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><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><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 Hempzell Membership: Sandra Smith Member at Large: Sandra Shelton</p>
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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

Several fundraisers have been initiated with funds going towards our Post Home. Additional information, pictures and ordering information are available on our website.

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.

Post Coin: Our membership designed a Post Coin and it was voted on during our February meeting. The coins have been ordered and should be in soon. The 2” coins will sell for \$15 each.

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.

PACT Act Expansion – VA Health Care

Beginning March 5, 2024, the VA will be expanding eligibility to directly enroll in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Any Veteran who served during the Vietnam era, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the GWOT, or any other combat zone after 9/11 are eligible. Any Veteran NOT deployed but exposed to toxins or hazards during training or on Active Duty in the US are also eligible. Visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and apply for VA health care.

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.

Veteran Resource Links

There are several online sites with information about financial resources and healthcare guidance. These links are available from our home page under Important Links.

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.



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 Fireside Chat
17 ALR meeting 10 am YMCA St Patrick's Day 	18	19 Spring Begins 	20	21	22	23 NAS Jax Retiree Seminar 0900-1500
24	25 7-8 pm Auxiliary mtg	26	27	28 7-8pm SAL mtg - YMCA	29	30
31 Easter 						

April 2024

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



SAVE the DATE

Saturday, 23 March 2024

(0900 – 1500)

What?

- ***NAS Jacksonville Annual Military Retiree Seminar***

Where?

- ***River Cove Center – NAS JAX on Mustin Rd across from Golf Club***
- ***Also Available via Facebook Live on the NAS Jacksonville Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/NASJacksonville/events)***

Who?

- ❖ ***ALL Military retirees***
- ❖ ***ALL Retiree Family Members***
- ❖ ***Active/Reserve Personnel Planning to Retire***

Presentations on:

- **Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) – First time in JAX since 2019!**
- **TRICARE/TRICARE for Life**
- **Scams Targeting Seniors**
- **Military Medical Support**
- **Financial/Legal Advice**
- **FEDVIP Insurance**
- **Advisory/Support Svcs available to Retirees**
- **VA Programs**
- **SS/Medicare**

There will be a Health & Wellness Fair on site as well as numerous experts at Info Tables with even more Information.

[Check for periodic updates on the NAS Jacksonville Facebook Page](#)

For further information, contact Jacksonville Retired Activities Office – 904-542-5790