



**JANUARY
2023**

**The American Legion Department of Florida
KEYSTONE-MELROSE POST 202, INC.
7441 State Road 21, Keystone Heights, FL 32656**

352-473-2503 email: alpost202adjutant@outlook.com

Executive Board meets 5:00 pm first Monday

General Membership meets monthly, 6:00 PM the second Tuesday



**Commander
Andrea Crews**

As the year 2022 closes to the arrival of 2023. I would like to express how proud I am of the American Legion Post 202 and its members. In a relatively short time, we have come together as a family. As a family we have made necessary changes that were needed to move forward. We come together in community and fellowship asking for Gods protection for those military personnel present and past.

I am very excited to be a part of this motivated team at Post 202 continuing to provide comradery and needed services to those who have served our country.

For God and Country
Commander Andrea Crews

**1st Vice
Debra Owen**



If you haven't renewed your membership please do so. As of Jan 1st anyone who has not paid dues for 2023 will not be served in the canteen or eligible for

date. If you are not planning to renew please let us know why. If you don't feel membership is worth the price or if you are struggling maybe we can help. We have a lot of great things planned for 2023. I hope to see you all at the post.

The blood drive for January has been cancelled due to scheduling issues and planned maintenance for the blood bus. The blood drive will resume on schedule in February.

For God and Country
Debra Owen

**Adjutant
George Owen**



As we have reduced the size of the Legion office, now we can host the poker players in the game area. There is also a sit/stand table with a computer & printer for all members to use if needed. You can access Legion202.org, our new website and find lots of information there.

George Owen
904-616-4197

**Chaplain
Robert Bell**



Happy New Year!

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. My prayer is for this to be a year filled with good things for each of you and for our country.

It is a common practice for individuals to make resolutions at the beginning of each New Year. Unfortunately the resolve to keep them quickly fades away we go back to our old practices. I encourage you to think about all the blessings you have in your life.

Our country is going through one of the most difficult times since the Civil War. In the latest poll that I have seen we are divided about like the government. As veterans' we have a history of being committed to the nation and to each other. In spite of our differences we know what it means to make a commitment. We are possibly the most united of all our population. We have the opportunity to show what it means to put others ahead of yourself. You understand what sacrifice means!

Christian principles and examples are decreasing not only here but around the world. Atheism is increasing and with it the individual is losing value. There is no morality for the atheist, whatever feels good do it. If you have something I want, I just take it and that is right because there is no wrong!. The individual is of no value except to himself. I believe that you hold to the old view that each person is of value and that there is a choice of doing what is right. I see that in this organization and each of you!

For God and Country
Robert

**Sons Squadron
Commander
John Lee**



HAPPY NEW YEAR to all,
As we start this New Year I want to thank everyone for their support of the Sons. Our membership is growing and we now have 50 members in Squadron 202.

I also want everyone to know that several of our members have health issues and I ask you to please keep them in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

As the calendar moves forward keep in mind the upcoming elections in May. All positions are open and need to be filled. If you would like to serve as an officer or volunteer please let it be known at the next meeting.

Thank you again for your support.

For God and Country

John H. Lee

Commander Squadron 202

**JROTC
Brian Rutowski**



No Report

**The Kitchen Squad
Pat Farnsworth**



Friday Dinners for January are:

- 6th - Country Fried Steak
- 13th - Reubens
- 20th - Fish Fry
- 27th - Rider's Ribs

Shrimp available at all dinners,

Don't forget our AUCE Breakfast on the 14th

**Canteen
352-473-2503**



The 3 canteen trustees continue to work closely with the canteen attendees.

Stop by and check out our new beverages and try one of hot drinks for the season.

We have installed another TV behind the bar for Tap TV. It is a live trivia game where we play with others across the country. After each game, you can see the other players and places, Post 250 has it. Tap Tv is free to play and you install the app on your phone to join in the fun.

We will be start bucket tournaments starting in January.

**Riders Director
Chip Nilsen**



Hello Riders,

I hope the holidays have received you well. It is now a new year and a new beginning.

We will have a Riders meeting this month on the 17th at 1800. I will have your new 2023 Riders cards and we can plan all our upcoming events.

See you at the post and ride safe.

Chip Nilsen
Riders Director



**Auxiliary President
Betty Dickens**

Hello Auxiliary Members, Happy New Year!!

A big Thank you to those that have renewed your membership.

Thanks to all that brought in homemade bake sale items it was a huge success. (over \$300) Thank you Kim for cashiering.

Santa (George) and Mrs. Claus' (Judy) visit was wonderful. Many children (31) received breakfast, pictures with Santa (Thanks Pat, Kim and Kathy) and toys. Thanks John and Fred for the pancake

PICTURES WITH SANTA – 2022

breakfast and all those elves that volunteered their time that morning. See pic below. Thanks to those that donated the toys and monies to purchase toys.

Don't forget Saturday January 28th we will be having a Community Rummage sale so start collecting items now that you can donate. We are limited in space so please drop off items the last week of January. No furniture please.

We always need volunteers so contact me at 904-239-1505 if you can give an hour or more.

At our November meeting, Kat Plummer was voted in as our new Chaplain. Also we have a vacancy in our Historian position, if you're interested in the position please contact me.

Our Auxiliary meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 4 pm. Would love to have you attend. Remember to please pay your membership dues if you haven't so we can get to a **100%**.

Service Not Self,
For God and Country

Betty Dickens
President

