



AUGUST
2022

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 prior to the Membership meeting.



Commander
Betty Kendrick

Hello Comrades:

I want to start out with a reminder to you all that July is the start of the new year for membership in the American Legion. You will be receiving your renewal for dues for the 2022-2023 membership if you haven't already. **PLEASE** pay your dues when you receive the renewal. Our goal is to be at 100% paid membership by December 31st. We have two chances within a year to reach 100% membership paid. The first is December 30th and the second is March 31st. We have reached March 31st goal for the past six years straight which is great. Not many Posts can claim that honor, however I would like to see us reach the December 31st goal this year. It'll be a first for this Post to my knowledge, and it would be such an honor to represent all our members at the Convention in May when that plaque is given to us. It may not seem like that big a deal to some of you, but I can tell you that when you are surrounded by hundreds of Legionnaires from the state of Florida, it is a big deal when your Post is called out for such an achievement. **OPERATION: BLOOD DRIVE**. The objective is to bring awareness that the blood supply is low in our Nation and needs to be replenished. So, we are

instituting Operation Blood drive to help the cause. Starting August 13th, the second Saturday of every month through April 2023, the Post will have a One Blood "blood mobile" at the Post. It is also the day we have **All U Can Eat breakfast** so you can come in for breakfast and then donate blood. This program is an American Legion 5th District Program to help increase blood donations. This is open to everyone of course so talk to your neighbors and family members and ask them to visit the Post for breakfast and to donate blood while they are here. The blood drive is from 8-12 Saturday morning and our breakfast is from 8-10:30. Please visit the Post and donate to help replenish this vital resource.

The Post meeting this month is on **Tuesday, August 9** at 6:00. Please do your very best to attend the meeting. All members should care about having a say in what happens at the Post. When you attend the meetings, you have a say by voting on agenda items that require membership approval or disapproval. Its also an opportunity for you to ask questions or make suggestions to help improve your Post. Please attend!!

I know these are hard times for many of you due to the increase of costs for just about everything. Remember, the Post is here to help all Veterans and their families how ever we can. The American Legion Department and National also have programs to help Veterans, that we can help you get access to. Come see us and talk to us about your needs and we will do everything we can to help. Don't forget to look at the calendar because we always have something going on at the Post for our members.

For God and Country, Betty J Kendrick

**1st Vice Commander
Andrea Crews**



With June behind us and a new membership year started, I would like to thank everyone for a GREAT 2021-2022 membership year. We had 103% for this past year. We received a plaque, and it is hanging in the Post with other outstanding years. Lets see what we can do in 2022-2023!!

We have our list together for the Buddy System. This is for Veterans that are at post 202 70 yrs and older. If anyone would like to volunteer to help reach out to this Veterans, please let me know. More to following.

We had a great 4th July celebration on July 2nd. The open house was very successful. We had a house full to say the least. Thank you to you to everyone who helped. Because of you all we were successful.

July 12 was our installation of the newly elected officer. District officer from all four organizations were here to represent their organization. The Oath of the office was performed by their organization. We had a great turn out.

We have started a contest to see who can recruit the most members. (See form to be used at end of this newsletter). I will be keeping a log according to the form of the new members, so please be sure to put your name on the top of the form the work Recruiter.

Andrea Crews

**2nd Vice
Commander
Les Squire**



In July I helped install a new air conditioner in the canteen. I also moved the garden everlasting as the installation of a new drainage system on SR 21 would have run through it. I repaired the lights out front and also worked on the electric wheelchair that was given to the post.

Les Squire

**Adjutant
George Owen**



Hello all!

If Legionnaires would like to learn about myLegion.org, just let me know. You can print your Legion card anytime from the site and view the various programs that the Legion offers.

Even if you don't do much online, the American Legion will send you articles about what they are doing to support veterans. Some great information about their influence with Congress and improving benefits.

We can set you up at the Post if you don't have a computer and it is soooo easy!

Thanks
For God & Country
George Owen

**Chaplain
Robert Bell**



**Judge Advocate
Debbie Owen**



We had our new officers installed in the month of July. We are now official!

The District Commander was very impressed with the blend of new faces and experienced officers for the new year.

We have recently submitted our updates to the Post Constitution & Bylaws to the Florida Department for approval.

Once we have approval, we will send an update.

If you would like to know more about them, please let me know.

For God & Country
Debra Owen

**Sons Squadron
Commander
John Lee**



Greetings All,

I want to say thank you to everyone for supporting the kitchen on Wednesday. This is our main source of funding for all of our projects throughout the year.

As all of you know, inflation is here. As a result we have adjusted the prices on the menu slightly and removed some items at this time. Our goal is to keep costs down so we can continue to fund projects for our veterans.

We are also changing our Wednesday hours for the kitchen. We will be open from 12:00 to 4:30 through September.

The fourteenth of this month marks the end of WWII with the surrender of Japan. Some of us remember that day. People were cheering and shooting in the air. As a kid I couldn't remember a time when I could go to the store and buy a candy bar. Evert thing was rationed. How times have changed!

There are those who will tell you Christians think they are better than anyone else. They will also say they are all a bunch of hypocrites. The truth is there are some who claim to be Christians who are guilty as charged. The problem with these arguments is they don't apply to everyone. Basically this kind of statement in intended to make the person making it feel better about themselves and justify their own beliefs.

All men have the God given right to choose what they believe. Along with that goes the right to be judged on the basis of your own actions. I only answer for what I believe and do. It is called personal responsibility, which is in short supply in our society today.

The third leading cause of death in the US is Doctor error. Between 220,000 and 440,000 persons die every year even though you never hear about it. [According to Johns Hopkins] Using the same reasoning about Doctors as about Christians, a logical person would quit going to the doctor! Somehow I don't think this turns out to be the case. My first wife nearly died in the Emergency Room of a local hospital as result of multiple doctors failures. I still go to the doctor regularly, and the hospital when I need to. I suspect you do the same.

For God and Country

Robert

Hopefully in the fall we can return to regular hours and an expanded menu.

Again, thank you. We could not continue funding our projects for veterans without 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 August are:

5th – Smoked Pork Chops

12th - Meatloaf

19th - Fish Fry

26th - Rider's Night – Ribs

Shrimp and wings available at all dinners except Riders night.

Don't forget our AUCE Breakfast on the 13th

Canteen
352-473-2503



The American Legion Post 202 Canteen is looking forward to seeing you!

August 6th! Brett Russell will be performing between 6pm and 9pm! Rain or shine!

August Special: Twisted Tea \$2.00

While you're here you can roll the dice for a chance to win!

Don't forget to get your Queen of Hearts tickets! \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Drawing every Friday at 7pm!

Trivia every Tuesday @ 6pm excluding the 2nd Tuesday of the month, it will then be moved to Monday. The price to play is \$2.00 per person.

Starting in August, the canteen will be opening at 3pm on Friday.

Monday 3pm - 8pm

Tuesday 3pm - 8pm

Wednesday 12pm - 8pm

Thursday 3pm - 8pm

Friday 3pm - 8pm

Saturday 1pm - 8pm

Sunday 2pm - 8pm

Like us on Facebook for to get updates on events, dinners and drink specials!

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost202>

See you soon!

Shannon McCollister
Canteen Manager

**Riders Director
Chip Nilsen**



Hello Riders,

Our K9-Line ride is now set in stone for October 15th. I am working on the route we will be taking and other items that go along with the ride. I want to have a meeting on August 16th which is the third Tuesday of the month at 1800. I will send out emails to remind everyone.

Rib night went well and I want to thank Pat and John for all their help.

See you all at the post, ride safe,

Chip Nilsen
Riders Director

The Auxiliary will be cooking three Tuesdays (trivia) and one Monday this month. 5-7. Come out to eat and support the Auxiliary.

On the “All You can Eat Saturday” the bloodmobile will be at the post if you're interested in donating.

Brett Russell will be performing in our new Pavilion on August 6th, 6-9, Rain or shine. All Members of the Post and their guests are welcome.

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

If you know of a Veteran in need also let me or the Commander know.

Service Not Self,
Betty Dickens,
President
904-239-1505



**Auxiliary President
Betty Dickens**

The Installation of your officers and executive board took place at the post on July 12th.

Welcome all !! Looking forward to another good year. The new District 5 President Nancy Chandler officiated.

The Auxiliary has changed the monthly meeting to the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 instead of Saturday mornings, hoping more members will be able to attend during the week.

We are still collecting POP Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

