



SEPTEMBER  
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](mailto:alpost202adjutant@outlook.com)

Executive Board meets 5:00 pm prior to the Membership meeting.

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



**Commander  
Betty Kendrick**

First, I would like to thank everyone who donated blood last month when the One Blood Mobile was at the Post. Fourteen people donated, some members of the Post and some members of our community. We are off to a good start. The next opportunity for us all to donate is September 10<sup>th</sup> from 8-12 a.m., so please come out and donate. I was able to donate for the first time in 35+ years because they have done away with the Mad Cow's disease restriction. So, you won't know until you try whether any restrictions have been lifted to allow you to donate now. **PLEASE** come out and donate and have breakfast at the Post before you donate. It's a win win!!

The monthly meeting for Legionnaires is September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. There is so much going on at the Post and the monthly meeting is important to all of us. It's everyone's opportunity to vote on what the Post will or will not be doing. It's YOUR Post so please come out and have a say on where we go from here.

The Post is looking for a Sgt-at-Arms. This is a very important position, especially during our monthly meetings. If you are interested in helping the Post by becoming our Sgt-at-Arms, please call me @ 352-318-7953.

Don't forget to stop by on Friday nights for a great meal to eat in or take out. The kitchen is also open on Wednesdays from 11-3 so stop by for lunch. You won't find a better place to eat great food for a great price.

For those of you who enjoy Trivia, we have Trivia Night on Tuesday nights which is a lot of fun. Right now we have four teams but there is plenty of room for more teams. We start at 6:00 P.M. and we have food as well. We still have Bingo on Wednesdays from 1-5 PM. It's a lot of fun and you are supporting your Post when you come out and play. I hope to see you all soon!!

For God and Country,  
Betty J Kendrick

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**1st Vice Commander  
Andrea Crews**



## Welcome to September

With July behind us. We are working on a new year for membership. Our current roster is 201 members of which 77 members have paid for the new year. I want to give a shout out to Shannon our Canteen Manager. So far, she is working hard on the Recruiting of new members.

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 or any other board member know.

Myself and 3 other board members went to the Northern Area Training on August 13 at Post 57 in Lake City. It was very informative. Lots of good information and what the American Legion is doing overall. The Post has around 600 members. If you get a chance stop by and visit.

Do not forget LABOR DAY weekend. The post will be celebrating on Saturday September 3rd. The Old Mam Band will be performing starting at 6 pm in the pavilion!!! Going to have hamburger, hotdogs, and sides for sale from 5-7 pm. Come on out and enjoy the celebration.

Andrea Crews

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**2nd Vice  
Commander  
Les Squire**



The following maintenance was done in August:

Got the dirt for the landscaping  
Redid the A/C vent in the Canteen  
Cleaned up out back

Also the road crew working on the road out front has finished laying the sod so we can get our sign put back and Hoodz will be here the last week in August to clean the range hood.

Les Squire

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**Adjutant  
George Owen**

Hello Legionnaires. We have a bulletin board outside of the office on the left as you enter the front of the building. I have updated the information for the month of August and will post updates monthly. You can view meeting minutes, upcoming events and awards here.

A few of us had an opportunity to attend Department training and it was a very informative event. These type trainings are offered to all members of the Post. We met the Florida Department officers and our District 5 officers were there as well.

George Owen,  
Adjutant

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**Chaplain  
Robert Bell**



September is a month filled with history. Japan signed its formal surrender, the Air Force was established, and the US Construction was approved, POW/MIA Remembrance Day and Gold Star mother's day. There is more, but this reminds us of just how much this country has survived.

Have you ever stopped to think about how fortunate you have been to be an American? Many of us have seen how the "other half" live. Have you ever asked yourself, "What did I do to deserve being born here?" If you haven't you need to take the time to think about it.

For my part I thank God that I have been blessed so many ways. I was born here in Florida; and after

seeing a lot of this world I am convinced it is the best of all possible places. May I suggest that you take the time to think about the events of your life. How about the choices you made that changed the course of your life? Also those times when you found yourself in situations you should not have survived, but did?

Like many, you dismissed what took place as “luck” or perhaps “fate”. In most lives these events take place too many times to have been just “accidents”. If you consider everything that you have survived you will see it was neither “luck” nor “fate”. If you haven’t taken the time as yet, perhaps you should take a moment to thank the One who has spared you. I assure you He is there and wants to hear from you!

For God and Country

Robert

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**Judge Advocate  
Debbie Owen**



Hello Legionnaires

We are still waiting for approval of our constitution and bylaws and they will be posted as soon as they are approved. I encourage everyone to familiarize yourself with them along with the house rules.

I will be posting some good to know information on the post’s Facebook page now and then so please watch for that.

A few of us went to Department training recently in Lake City. They had a great turnout and the training was very informative.

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**Sons Squadron  
Commander  
John Lee**



No Report

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**JROTC  
Brian Rutowski**



Happy September, Fellow Legionnaires!

The 2022-23 school year began on August 10, 2022. That means the same applies to the Keystone Heights AJROTC Indian Battalion. This first month we are spending to prepare resources and people for the activities that are to come throughout the year.

The first step in this process was to find the right people for the right jobs. Our selection process was swift and decisive, and we have our operating staff for the school year ready to go. They are:

- Battalion Adjutant (S-1): Sylvia Hunter
- Battalion Security and Intelligence Officer (S-2): Cameron Wiggins
- Battalion Operations and Training Officer (S-3): Hayden Sargable
- Battalion Supply Officer (S-4): Iris Switzer
- Battalion Public Affairs Officer (S-5): Emily McFarland
- Battalion Command Sergeant Major (CSM): Damion Fox

Our weekly meetings began on August 23, 2022. Here, all six of these fine young men and women were signed into their respective positions, learned their obligations as staff officers, and deliberated on a project list for the upcoming school year. Our plans for this year include multiple fundraisers,

trips, and service learning projects. Be on the lookout for what we are doing in future newsletters and in the local news.

Over the summer, multiple cadets have been busy with opportunities to boost their leadership capabilities and reach out into the community. Our Battalion Commander, CTLC Matthew Delano, went to Washington, DC for a national security seminar, where he got to listen to many high-ranking officials and tour some of the hotspots around the city. I went to Tallahassee for the 78<sup>th</sup> session of Florida American Legion Boys State, where I got to learn more about the inner workings of our local governments. Multiple other cadets went to the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge for the last week of June, where they got to push themselves past their limits in multiple exercises, like rappelling and various obstacle courses. We also presented our national and state colors for the race and parade on My Country Day, held here at Keystone Heights on July 2.

We have been anxious to get back into action, and we hope that you all are as excited as we are for what is to come during the new school year!

My best,  
CMAJ Brian Rutkowski

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**The Kitchen Squad**  
**Pat Farnsworth**



Friday Dinners for September are:

2<sup>nd</sup> – Stuffed Shells

9<sup>th</sup> - Reubens

16<sup>th</sup> - Fish Fry

23<sup>rd</sup> - Rider's Night – Ribs

Shrimp available at all dinners except Riders night.

Don't forget our AUCE Breakfast on the 10<sup>th</sup>

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**Canteen**  
**352-473-2503**



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

Labor Day Weekend, Saturday September 3rd, we will have hamburgers, hotdogs and appetizers on the menu! Live music in the pavilion, weather permitting!

September Special: Samuel Adams \$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!

Monday is game night! September will be Outburst, the Midnight Edition. \$3.00 per person to play. Starts at 6pm!

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!

Canteen Hours:

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!

Canteen Facebook



See you soon!

Shannon McCollister  
Canteen Manager

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**Riders Director  
Chip Nilsen**



Hello Riders,

Riders Ribs went well this past Friday. We made over \$500.00 for our K-9 Line cause. Our K-9 Line Ride this year is on October 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at our post 202 and ending at post 250 in Middleburg. I am still working out if Donny Van Zant will make it this year. He just went through hip replacement and is on the mend. I want to thank Pat and John for all the help during Rib Night.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup> my band "I Can't Remember" will be playing at the post starting at 5pm. I hope you can make it down and have a great time. Please pass the word and hope to see you all there, ride safe.

Chip Nilsen  
Riders Director

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**Auxiliary President  
Betty Dickens**

The Auxiliary is now holding the monthly meeting the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 instead of Saturday mornings.

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

The Auxiliary will be cooking three Tuesdays (at trivia) and one Monday in September. 5-7pm. 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 after breakfast.

The Auxiliary will be having a Casino Fun Nite Fundraiser on October 22nd at 7pm. We are looking for donations from local vendors for the silent and live auction we will be having on Casino nite. So if someone you know would like to advertise their business with a donated item that nite let me know. Or if you would like to donate an item for the auction please contact me. This will be our Fundraiser for this year. We will sell play money for the Casino games that can be used in the live auction. The silent auction items will be "real" money bids.

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

We ordered Poppy coloring books for children so if you have children or grandchildren that would enjoy coloring stop by the post and pick up an educational poppy coloring book for them, no cost but a donation would be appreciated.

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

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

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# TRAINING DAY AT THE DISTRICT

