



February 2024 Newsletter



VFW POST 3349
3201 REID ST., PALATKA, FL 32177
Phone: 386-328-2863
VFW3349.org

♥ *happy* ♥

Valentine's

♥ *day* ♥



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



All American Post

February 2024

**VFW POST 3349
P.O. BOX 218, PALATKA, FL 32178
PHONE: 386-328-2863**



FROM THE COMMANDER February 2024

On January 10th I met with Island Doctors and Aetna Insurance about working with the Post on some projects. Aetna is sponsoring our education night on January 10, 2024. On that night the post welcomed our Voice of Democracy winner Max Lyndon from Crest City High School. The Patriot Pen winner was Iris Fahnbulleh from Putnam Academy. The Teacher Of the Year from Crescent City High School was Katrina Feola. A thank you for all the participates that came.

On January 17th I went to the Mid Winter Meeting and talked to Humana. I am working with Humana on other events at the post. Some of the events are March 2nd is feeding the 993rd Reserve Unit. This event will be at the post at 1200 hours. I invited Humana and some VFW state people.

On March 4 I will be working on a Open House at Island Doctors from 10 to 2. The event will be at Island Doctors downtown on St. Johns Avenue. I will need help with March 2nd and 4th events.

I would like to see more people at our Friday Dinners. The post has some great meals at reasonable prices. The people who make the meals work hard to make the food.

On February 4th the state VFW would like the post to honor the Auxiliary for all they do. I would like to thank our Auxiliary for the help the Auxiliary gives to the post.

Respectfully,

Commander Gerald Donnelly

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT February 2024

Happy Valentines Day everyone. On January 19 and 20 Jan, Lucy, Joyce, Sherry, Valerie and myself attended the Mid Winter Conference in Orlando. We learned a lot and will be reporting on it at our February meeting on February 14, 2024.

February 4 is Auxiliary Appreciation Day, In 2021 it was declared that Auxiliary Appreciation Day would be the first Sunday in February. Department Commander Glenn Tilley was the one who had the posts to put this in affect for all the Auxiliaries in the state of Florida.

February will be busy for the Auxiliary:
February 7 Lunch at Bradleys at noon.

February 10 District Meeting at the Palatka post. Meeting starts at 10 and breakfast will be served at 9. The auxiliary will be donating the homemade sausage gravy and biscuits. The post will be serving bacon and eggs. Please plan on attending.

February 13 sewing at 10. You don't need to know how to sew there's lots of other things to do before the lap quilts can be sewed.

February 14 monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

February 23 auxiliary dinner. Linda Sliter will be making Spaghetti. Please come out and help support the auxiliary. Auxiliary dinners are one of the fund raisers that we do.-

Respectfully Submitted,

Marian Chialastri, Auxiliary President

New Canteen Hours & Prices

Beginning January 1st we will be charging an increase of 25 cents for each alcoholic beverage. We have not had an increase in years and we try to keep the lowest price possible for our members while still keeping the canteen as a self supporting entity.

We will change our hours of operation for the next few months to bring us more in line with our pre-covid open hours. We have had suggestions that we do not open early enough so we will open at noon on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. If we have enough members using this time period we will possibly open earlier in the week. If not, we will revert to our previous times in order to decrease overhead expenses. Thank you for your help and patronage in making our Post the best it

- Bingo workers are needed, especially additional Bingo Callers. No experience required, just a willingness to work with the public. We will train. Call the post or Email MediaVFW3349@gmail.com



February 2024

Canteen Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - 3:00 to 9:00 PM Thursday, Friday, Saturday - Noon to 9:00 PM

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | Pizza & Bowling 1:00 pm | Bingo 6 pm | Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM | <i>1</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm | <i>2</i> 6PM Friday Dinner- Grilled Hamburgers | <i>3</i> <i>Combat Vets Motorcycle Club Meeting 11 AM</i> |
| <i>4</i> | Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm | <i>6</i> Bingo 6 pm | <i>7</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00PM <i>Aux Lunch at Bradleys-Noon</i> | <i>8</i> House Committee at 6 pm <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm | <i>9</i> 6PM Friday Steak Night \$15.00 Please Pre-order <i>Live Music DJ tonight!</i> | <i>10</i> <i>District Meeting at 10 AM. Breakfast at 9:00 In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i> |
| <i>11</i> <i>NFL Superbowl. Post open at 3:00 PM. Game starts at 6:30.</i> | <i>12</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm | <i>13</i> Bingo 6 pm <i>Aux Sewing 10:00 AM</i> | <i>14</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM Post meeting at 7:00 PM <i>Valentines Day</i> | <i>15</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm | <i>16</i> 6PM Friday Dinner Bill's Ribs | <i>17</i> |
| <i>18</i> | <i>19</i>  Presidents Day Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm | <i>20</i> Bingo 6 pm | <i>21</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm | <i>22</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm | <i>23</i> 6PM Friday Night Dinner— <i>Spaghetti by the Auxiliary (Linda Sliter)</i> | <i>24</i> <i>In House Bowl- ing at 1:00 PM</i> |
| <i>25</i> | <i>26</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm | <i>27</i> Bingo 6 pm | <i>28</i> Queen of Hearts 7 pm | <i>29</i> <i>Darts / Bowling</i> 7 pm | <i>Mar 01</i> 6PM Friday Dinner—Grilled Hamburgers | <i>Mar 02</i> <i>Reserve Unit Luncheon at Noon</i> |
| <i>Mar 03</i> | <i>Mar 04</i> Pizza & Bowling 5:30 pm | <i>Mar 05</i> Bingo 6 pm | <i>Mar 06</i> Queen of Hearts 7:00 PM | <i>Mar 07</i> House Committee at 6 pm Darts 7 pm | <i>Mar 08</i> 6PM Dinner Steak Night \$15.00 Please Pre-order | <i>Mar 09</i> |



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Palatka Post 3349

Proudly serving our community

Annual School Awards

Congratulations to the Following 2023 Awardees

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States



*National Citizenship Education Teacher
Post Recognition Award*

Presented to

Teachers of the Year

Katrina Feola– Crescent City HS

Michael Maatta– Crescent City JS

Samantha Ditto– Putnam Academy

Jen Debarros– Moseley Elementary

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
and its



Auxiliary

Voice of Democracy Certificate of Merit



Presented to

Voice of Democracy

1st place - Max Lydon

2nd place - Brenda Alvarez

3rd place– Elizabeth Arrizon

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
and its



Auxiliary

Youth Essay Certificate of Merit



Presented to

Patriots Pen

1st place– Iris Fahnbulleh

2nd place– Bruce Prevatt

3rd place– Dakota Davis

4th place– Hope Layman

*Contact the Post at our Email with any
questions: Post3349@vfwfl.org*

AWARD PICTURES

Katrina Feola—TOY



Max Lydon —VOD 1ST



Iris Fahnbullah—PP 1st



Bruce Prevatt—PP 2nd



OUR LOCAL DIRECT VA NUMBERS TO USE FOR ASSISTANCE

Malcolm Randall VAMC Telephone Numbers

Main Number: **352-376-1611**

Audiology extension: 106171

Optometry extension: 235967

Podiatry extension: 106856

Champva extension: 105057

Patient Advocate extension: 106019

TRANSPORTATION from Palatka to Malcom Randall

Transportation 103696

Travel 104078

DAV 104148

Home Loan # 18778273702

Direct Scheduling Phone Numbers

Community Hospital Notification: 1-844-724-7842

Pharmacy: 386-329-8800, Option 1 for refills or Option 2 for Pharmacy Representative. Alternate REFILL Line: 1-800-349-9457

DENTAL: 1-800-324-8387 EXT 104040

PODIATRY

Gainesville: 352-376-1611 EXT 106856

Ocala: 352-547-1583

The Villages: 352-674-5000 X301331

St. Augustine: 904-823-2895

JOPC: 904-475-6319

AUDIOLOGY (Hearing)

Gainesville 352-548-6171 or 1-800-324-8387 x106171

Jacksonville 904-475-6126

Ocala 352-861-3940

Tallahassee 850-521-5772 or 850-878-0191 x1222

The Villages 352-674-5000 x301620

OPTOMETRY (Eye)

Gainesville 1-800-324-8387 x234908

Jacksonville 904-475-6310

Tallahassee 800-324-8387 x6355 or 850-878-0191

The Villages 352-674-5130

Lake City 386-755-3016 or 800-308-8387 x3148 or x2857

Ocala 352-861-3940

WHEELCHAIR CLINIC

Gainesville: 352-548-6000 EXT 105481

Lake City: 386-755-3016 EXT 392117

JOPC (Southpoint): 904-470-6900 EXT 531221

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Jacksonville (Southpoint): 904-470-6900 Option 2, then Option 4

Jacksonville (Jefferson): 904-475-5800, ext. 506127

The Villages: 352-674-5000 x301208

SLEEP CLINIC 800-324-8387 X 105616

Mission ACT Communication Plan

Billing /Claims issues: 1-866-606-8198

In collections/Adverse Credit Report line:

1-877-881-7618

Appointments, Referrals and Authorization Assistance:
1-888-493-3260

General Questions or basic eligibility:

1-844-698-2311

Foreign Medical Program: 1-877-345-8179

Traveling abroad— svc connected, aggravated conditions only.

TELECARE afterhours: 1-877-741-3400

Scheduling Call Center: 1-800-324-8387 EXT 106355

1-352-548-6355

VA Video Connect (VVC) Help Line: 1-866-651-3180

Customer Service for traveling Veterans with questions regarding Appointments, referrals and authorizations NOT coordinated at

North Florida/So Georgia:

Bay Pines: 1-727-398-3252

Miami: 1-305-575-7666

Orlando: 1-407-646-4100

San Juan: 1-787-641-7582

Tampa: 1-866-972-8201

West Palm: 1-561-422-6470

POST OFFICERS

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Commander | Gerald Donnelly |
| Sr Vice Commander | Tammy Spaulding |
| Jr Vice Commander | Jack Gibbs |
| Judge Advocate | Weldon Taylor |
| Adjutant | Gerald Shuler |
| Quartermaster | Gerald Shuler |
| Chaplin | Kevin Donnelly |
| Surgeon | Valerie Johns |
| Service Officer | Bruce Howe |
| Trustees 1 yr | William Thompson |
| 2 yr | Weldon Taylor |
| 3 yr | Ron Sliter |
| Membership Chairman | Commander |
| Employment Officer | Weldon Taylor |
| Legislative Officer | John Dillingham |
| Disaster Preparedness/Relief | |
| Historian | John Dillingham |
| House Committee Chairman | Gene Nieman |
| National Home for Children | Quartermaster |
| Communications/Media Relations | Commander |

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Chairman | Bruce Howe |
| Members | Commander and ALL Members |

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA RELATIONS

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| Chairman | Commander |
| Members | Adjutant and Quartermaster |

HOUSE COMMITTEE

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Chairman | Gene Nieman |
| Members | Gerald Donnelly Jack Gibbs |
| | Gerald Shuler Rubin Myers |
| | Kevin Donnelly Bruce Howe |
| Canteen Manager | Vickie Dixon |

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| President | Marian Chialastri |
| Sr. Vice | Joyce Donnelly |
| Jr. Vice | Malinda Taylor |
| Treasurer | Valerie French |
| Secretary | Minnie Stephens |
| Chaplain | Dorothy Donovan |
| Conductress | Linda Sliter |
| Guard | Robert Stephens |
| 1Yr. Trustee | Kathy Thompson |
| 2Yr. Trustee | Rebecca Burnham |
| 3Yr. Trustee | Dorothy Donovan |
| Patriotic Inst. | Dorothy Donovan |

DISTRICT 14 MEETING SCHEDULE

| Qtr | Date | Post | Location | Time |
|-----|-------|------|----------|-------|
| 3rd | Feb10 | 3349 | Palatka | 10:00 |

Useful Web Sites

Get copy of DD Form 214 or other discharge documents: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Request Lost and Replacement Medals: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/public/awards-and-decorations.html>

VFW National Headquarters Web Site: www.vfw.org

VFW Magazine: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/vfw-magazine>

VFW Store Online: www.vfwstore.org

VFW Department of Florida Web Site: <https://vfwfl.org>

National Do Not Call Registry www.donotcall.gov

VFW Post Website <http://vfw3349.org>

From the Publisher:

Please forward any news, pictures, or article submissions to:

MediaVFW3349@gmail.com

by the 20th of each month.

Thank you

Newsletter Editor