



Commanders Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT POST 27 FOR THE NEXT MONTH OR SO! on pages 2 and 3.

Adjutants Report:

Current Paid & Pending Membership
111 or **72.5%**
 of our goal!



**POST 27 AUXILIARY
 BACK IN BUSINESS
 AT THE POST!**



**OUR NEW
 VIRTUAL
 MEETING
 SOFTWARE
 PROGRAM IS ..JITSI..**

We will practice soon!
 See info on page 4

POST 27 - NEWSLETTER



Adjutants Membership Report

Officers and Executive Board Members: Don't forget, your membership dues for 2021 are required to be paid by September 1st. If you haven't already paid, please do so ASAP.

Post 27 membership drive is coming along great! Last year we had 146 members. This year, to meet or exceed that goal we need 151, however our Commander wants us to hit 300 (which is possible). Currently we stand at 96 paid, and 15 transfers from post 400, which makes our total 111. Let's not stop now. Over 500 Post 400 members live in the Ocala area, the FL Department is encouraging us to recruit them to local Posts. *(Continue page-2)*

**Membership is our
 lifeblood and the
 key to advancing
 our mission to the
 next generation!**

ADJUTANTS REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:

How many can we convince them to join us. The only way is to ask them, and convince them. Remember, everyone is a recruiter and by recruiting just 5 members which can be NEW Members or TRANSFER from Post 400, you can have your dues for next year paid or receive a \$35 Gift Card

A Post 400 contact list will be provided at a “Phone-a-Thon” in the next week or two at the post. You will have the option of making calls from home, as well as practice with our new Virtual Meeting Program “JITSI” (more on JITSI on Page 4).

Commanders Notes:

The following things have crossed my mind and I’d like to share them. Membership is our major problem and if I don’t accomplish anything else during my term, I want to double our current numbers from 150 to 300. I’d like to do it before December. This year is the start of a Second Century in Ocala for Post 27.



- Ocala is the largest city in Marion County, and it has one of the highest percentage of citizens that are veterans.** If this is true, and census figures show this to be a fact, it would seem reasonable that the Ocala Post would be the largest American Legion Post in Marion County. Unfortunately, this is not the case. In fact, there is only one post smaller than us and three that are larger.



THE POST 27 AUXILIARY UNIT IS SEEKING MEMBERS!

Please join and help us help our Veterans and their Families. The Auxiliary officers are being installed at the September 1st meeting, so be sure to attend the live meeting if possible. Officers can be installed from home since the installation will be held Virtually as well as live.

We are slowly returning to our famous "Always Good, Always Plenty" Pot-Luck Dinner, but we're not ready yet!

We will have “Finger Food” provided at the September 1st meeting for those who attend the Live Meeting!

*** PLEASE NOTE ***

ALL CDC COVID SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WILL BE MET! Temperature Checks, Safe Distancing (2 per table), Masks provided!

2. **We should all be inspired by the famous quote from “USMC General Lewis “Chesty” Puller, when his troops were surrounded by Communist troops in the Battle of the Chosen Reservoir in Korea.** He said, *“We’re surrounded, Great! That simplifies the problem – Now we can shoot at those bastards from every direction.”* Using General Pullers attitude, we can recruit from any direction in Ocala since there are so many veterans. The challenge for the Post is to bring our membership to 300 members by December. Since we are on target to meet last years membership level. If member convinced one other veteran to join we would achieve our goal and I’d be very happy! As a special deal, if a member can bring in 5 members we will either pay for your membership or give you a \$35 Gift Card. Some members are going even further and trying to bring in 10 or 15 members. For any member who recruits 15 eligible members we will have a special reward. Not saying what it is, but you and your spouse will love it.
3. **Why does the post need more members?** The answer is simple, our members are getting older and younger veterans are not joining in the numbers needed to replace us and keep this 100 year old post alive to serve other veterans. It seems this is common with almost all veteran organizations.
4. **Are we looking for any veterans, yes!** It doesn’t matter which era you served, from World War Two to the Present, War-time or Peace-time, it doesn’t matter. However, there are certain classifications of Veterans that are under-represented:
 - **Women Veterans** - They are probably the most under served and under appreciated group of Veterans, and they are not joining the American Legion in significant numbers.
 - **Veterans of Color** - The time has passed many years ago that people, especially veterans ,were separated by the color of their skin. It is time to acknowledge how alike we are, and not focus on the differences. The American Legion has one primary mission, and that is to support fellow veterans and assure they recover from any damage they received during their service, and are able to live a safe and healthy life.
5. **The Post Building is being under-utilized.** It sits unused and empty all day Friday and Saturday. If anyone has any ideas on what we could be doing, the Executive Board would like to hear them. To meet the terms of our lease with theCity, it must be a Legion Sponsored or Supported Activity.
6. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - (*Volunteer position do not necessarily need to be veterans.*)
 - **MORNING “VETERANS WALK” COORDINATOR** - If anyone is into morning walks, the Executive Board has discussed having a morning “Veterans Walk” around Jervey-Gantt walking trails, then provide coffee for any veteran who participates for any distance. The coffee pots are available in the kitchen, we have disposable cups, masks, and wipes to clean the tables. This program catch-on as many people use the park on a daily basis, especially in the morning.
 - **SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR** - This person would be skilled in the use of modern computer technology and social media specifically. We need someone who can create and maintain contact with our public to assure our Post is represented well on the internet. We would need someone able to manage a domain website for the Post and keep it ranked and useful for our members.

HOW TO USE JITSI -



Here are some things you should know about Jitsi!

First and foremost, Jitsi is easy to use, it does about 90% of what ZOOM is capable of doing, and it is FREE. In addition, it is a bit more secure than Zoom.

Consider that Zoom is encrypted only from the meeting to Zoom. Then it is stored on their cloud (for paid programs). There's also been scrutiny of Zoom's privacy policies, which until recently

seemed to give Zoom the right to do whatever it wanted with users' personal data, and its encryption policies, which have been more than a tad misleading.

- ★ Jitsi on the other hand allows you to store the recording wherever you want, Dropbox, your computer, on a thumb Drive. They have no access or control of your program recording. It is totally encrypted.
- ★ Jitsi Meet lets you stay in touch with all your teams, family, friends, and colleagues with instant video conferences, efficiently adapting to your scale.
- ★ Unlimited users: There are no artificial restrictions on the number of users or conference participants. Server power and bandwidth are the only limiting factors.
- ★ No account needed.
- ★ Lock-protected rooms: Control the access to your conferences with a password.
- ★ Encrypted by default.
- ★ High quality: Audio and video are delivered with the clarity and richness of Opus and VP8.
- ★ Web browser ready: No downloads are required of your friends to join the conversation. Jitsi Meet works directly within their browsers as well. Simply share your conference URL with others to get started.
- ★ 100% open source: Powered by awesome communities from all over the world.

While Virtual Conferencing has become the major way to keep businesses and organizations going during this pandemic, I feel that it may have forever changed the way we do business in the future. That may not be a bad thing, I can see it working to our advantage.

The majority of Post 27 members have probably never been to any of our meetings due to many factors. Most relate to either health reasons, scheduling issues, or distance. Virtual meetings solve all of those problems. Members can watch from home, or watch at a later date. We basically have two levels of members, Active and Supporting. Both are needed and welcomed to our Post. Virtual meetings make it easier to have both levels aware of our many successes and projects.

Whats Happening at Post 27?

- **8/31/2020 @ 6:00pm at the Post** - Executive Board Meeting - Live & Virtual
- **9/1/2020 @ 6:30pm at the Post** - Monthly Membership Meeting - We will be slowly restarting our famous “Always Good, Always Plenty” Pot-Luck Dinners.. The Auxiliary will be installing 2021 Officers Live & Virtual
- **9/5/2020 @ 4:30 to 7:00pm at VFW Post 4209** - Friday Night Fish Fry Returns - Their bar is still not open at this time, but they are starting to return to a normal schedule. If you haven't tried their 11 ounce Haddock dinners with all the fixing, you must attend (Take Out Available). Help our friends at the VFW recover from this pandemic.
- **9/20/2020 POW/MIA Day** - I believe that the Veterans Park is holding some sort of event to honor our POW/MIA's. We need to raise awareness of the fate of those who never returned.
- **10/5/2020 TACO Night Resumes @ VFW Post 4209** - Although, they are changing the menu every Monday night, it will still be a way for the Legion to help the VFW and raise a few dollars for ourselves in the process. Please come and support the VFW.
- **10/16/2020 Post 27 Legion Riders** - will be visited by representatives of all Riders Chapters in District 4 to celebrate our newly formed Chapter. The event will be held at the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Park with presentations by the Mayor & County Commissioners, music, and several Food Trucks at the event. They expect 100 plus motorcycles to come to this event, NOTE: the dates may change based on the Covid-19 restrictions. We will evaluate and adjust the date as conditions allow.

What else is happening?

1. **Boy's and Girl's State Team Leaders** will be calling on Counselors at the High Schools that we sponsor and Home School Juniors to begin the search for Delegates & Alternates for 2021.
2. **Oratorical Contest Team Leader** will be calling on schools grade 9 to 12 searching for boys and girls who want to compete in the Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest. We stood a great chance of winning our 2nd National Oratorical Contest last year, except that Covid-19 prevented the National Competition. We did win the State Contest again last year.
3. **COVID-19 Restrictions** are causing everyone fear, isolation, inconvenience, and loss of income. They are affecting the Post in the same manner. Last Summer the three young men who were supposed to go to Boys State were disappointed by the cancellation, Our State winner in the Oratorical Contest was denied a chance to be our second National Winner when the National contest was cancelled. Our plans to provide programs for Veterans at Assisted Living Facilities have been put on hold. Our monthly meetings have suffered because members are wisely choosing to self-isolate.
4. **Virtual Meetings** seem to be our major form of communication for the foreseeable future. To attend any of our Post meetings click on this link: <https://meet.jit.si/27gunghopilgrimgi>

Chaplain's Message to the Post:

Memoirs from Within

Dear Friends,

I was having a hard time understanding what being a Christian should look like. I remember before when I would go to church and see people with problems and sometimes they were sad or upset. These were Christians who were walking as close as they could with God and yet they still struggled. I would always wonder why they were not happy all the time like Jesus was. So, I wrote to God hoping to unload all the things I had on my mind.

Then all of a sudden things were put into the light and God gave me a revelation about my dilemma. He said, "its not that simple son. Don't you see that the closer you get to me the more attacks you will receive?" It took me about 30 minutes battling with my thoughts and that revelation to regroup and kick that devil in the face. I saw how blessed I was to be in this walk with the Lord. I realized what a true Christian's walk is. I shouted out, "not today devil, not today".

I understood that I had to give all that was me to the Lord. This meant all of my burdens and all of my trust. Like His word says: Come to me all those who are heavy burdened, lay your burdens on me and take up mine (Matthew 11:28). This means that I let it all go and give it over to God. He will take care of all of my burdens.

I said to God, "Father, I now realize that this is not a path where I will not encounter any obstacles. But I now see that I don't have to carry any of these burdens alone." I am now going to focus on one thing at a time so that I can stay on track with you. This will be hard but I can achieve it. I will never quit and I will never accept defeat. Oh Lord, I am now equipped and ready for the battle. I am a warrior walking the Christian path. A child of light, because the Lord said so.

Bible Verse: Matthew 11:28

Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rests for your souls. For my yolk is easy and my burden is light.

Stay Faithful my Friends,

Chaplain Saul Serrano
American Legion Post 27

Legion Post 27 - Ocala

July 17, 2020

Print out these applications, get your friends to fill them out, collect the money, issue the receipt to your friend and turn it in to the Post! Turn in 5 Legion Applications during the year and your dues for the 2021 or 22 year will be paid, or you will receive a \$35 gift card.

THE AMERICAN LEGION - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Legion Post 27 Ocala

All veterans who served between Dec. 7th 1941 & Present are Eligible!

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 First Initial Last

Address _____
 Street City State ZIP

Membership ID# former member **27** Post # Email Gender Male Female

Check Conflict below:
 WWI Lebanon/Grenada
 WWII Panama
 Merchant Marines Gulf War/War on Terrorism
 Korea Other
 Vietnam

Check Branch of Service below:
 U.S. Army U.S. Marine Corps
 U.S. Navy U.S. Coast Guard
 U.S. Air Force U.S. Merchant Marine (12/1941-12/1946)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signed by applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____

DUES RECEIPT (Please print clearly)
 Date _____
 Received From _____
 \$35 for 2021 Dues
 Recruiter's Name _____
 Recruiter's Signature _____
 Recruiter's Phone # _____

If you are a new member, send this completed application with annual dues to The American Legion, Department of Florida, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854 (check www.floridalegion.org/join for dues amount), or take it to a local post. To locate a post near you, click on "Post Locator" at www.floridalegion.org.

For more information: Call (407) 295-2631 or (800) 393-3378 Email mail@floridalegion.org Visit www.floridalegion.org

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Squadron 27 Ocala

Son or Grandson of a veteran who served between Dec. 7th 1941 & Present are Eligible!

Date _____ Squad # **27** Phone _____ Email _____

First Name _____ Initial _____ Last Name _____ Suffix _____ Birth Date _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of veteran whom eligibility is established _____ Relationship of applicant to veteran _____

Choose one: Above is a member in good standing of Post No # _____ Above is deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____
 I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.

Signed by Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

DUES RECEIPT (Please print clearly)
 Date _____
 Received From _____
 \$15 for 2021 Dues
 Recruiter's Name _____
 Recruiter's Phone # _____
 Squadron No # _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion, Department of Florida, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854
 Annual dues must accompany application. Ask local contact for amount due.

For more information: Call (407) 295-2631 or (800) 393-3378 Email floridasons@legionmail.org Visit www.floridasons.org

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Auxiliary Unit 27 Ocala

Spouse, daughter or granddaughter of a veteran who served between Dec. 7th 1941 & Present are Eligible!

First Name _____ Initial _____ Last Name _____ Suffix _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Unit # and location **#27 - Ocala, FL** Date of Birth _____ Birth - 17 18 and older
\$7 membership 0-17

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION
 Eligible through / name of veteran (if living, must be American Legion member) Living Deceased American Legion Member ID Number _____ Post # _____ City _____

Veteran served: (check all that apply)
 WWI Korea Panama
 WWII Vietnam Gulf War/War on Terrorism
 Merchant Marines Lebanon/Grenada Other

Applicant's relationship to the veteran:
 Self Mother Daughter
 Male Spouse Grandmother Granddaughter
 Female Spouse Sister

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Applicant Signature (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____ Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____

DUES RECEIPT (Please print clearly)
 Date _____
 Received From _____
 \$7 under 17 2021 Dues
 \$35 Adult 2021 Dues
 Recruiter's Name _____
 Recruiter's Signature _____
 Recruiter's Phone # _____

Mail completed application to American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 547917, Orlando, FL 32854
 Annual dues must accompany application. Ask local contact for amount due.

For more information: Call (407) 293-7411 or (866) 710-4192 Email secretary@alaff.org Visit www.alaff.org

LEGION MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO "ALL" VETERANS WHO SERVED FROM WWII TO THE PRESENT - SAL & AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO THOSE WHOSE SPOUSE, PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS WERE VETERANS! - GET THEM TO JOIN!