



**ALL AMERICAN POST 7909**  
**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**"NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"**

**COMMANDERS CORNER**

Membership is key to any organization. We have nearly 700 members with over 500 Life Members. We are currently at 1.3% of our membership goal to have all of our annual members up to date on dues by December, help us get back to 100% membership. If your membership is about to expire, please reinstate and consider a Life Membership.

We have a diverse group of members who contribute to our continued success through volunteer work and the various programs we support. I thank you all for the support! Remember we are here to support Veterans, their families and the community we live in. Don't be too stubborn to ask for help, we are here for you! When you see a Vet needing help; lend a hand or let us know and we will do all we can to assist.

The youth scholarship programs 'Voice of Democracy' and 'Patriot's Pen' are available for students K-12. The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you know a democracy-loving high school student interested in a \$30,000 college scholarship or a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, these scholarships may be for them. Program details available at the Post.

See you at our Post!

**Joe Casey, Commander**



## SERVICE OFFICER

**Beware of all those so called organizations and lawyers who say they can help you with your VA claim,**

Camp Lajeune Water: Anybody who served aboard Camp Lajeune for 30 days or more from August 1953 to December 1987 could be eligible for compensation. Numerous ailments were caused by the water on Camp Lajeune. If you have any questions please stop by or call me or Scott.

PACT ACT: I am sure some of you have heard of the PACT ACT, what the act is, the Senate telling the VA you will treat veterans who were exposed to various chemicals, radioactive materials and burn pits and anything else that may come up. Good example is Agent Orange, Oil rigs burning and sarin gas nerve agent from the Gulf War and burn Pits from all wars. This is just a small example. We have pages from each war on what they could have contracted or what injury they received.

The one thing we are all eligible to do is apply for compensation, it is our privilege. Our country sent us to war, now it is time for the government to take care of us. So call one of us and make an appointment and we will take care of you.

**Robert Hernandez (904) 524-2714**

**Scott Sutherland (651) 755-644**

### EMPLOYMENT INFO

### **Jobs for Veterans**



The following websites are provided:

Federal Jobs (USAJOBS) <https://my.usajobs.gov>

State Jobs (People First) <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com/peoplefirst> for help (877)562-7287

Local Jobs (Career Source) <http://www.careersourcenortheastflorida.com> for help (904) 356-5627

VA jobs <http://www.va.gov/jobs>

Employ FL Vets <http://veterans.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/> for more info 1 (866) 352-2345

Transition & Employment Services <http://www.vfw.org> go to Assistance then Trans & Emp Svcs

**J.R. Wood**

### MOC PUP TENT 23

Greetings from the Cooties of Pup Tent 23! I hope everyone's summer has been going well as we move into Fall. The Post has been doing its part in both remembering our fallen comrades, and supporting our currently serving and veteran military family. In my last Cootie Corner writing, I brought your attention to remembering America's 78th D-Day Anniversary in June. At our last scratch, the term we use for a meeting of the Cooties, it was my honor to partake in a toast! As military members do, once the business of the day was taken care of, our topic of discussion turned to "sea stories" and "war stories". Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, and Marines all told their stories of Vietnam, Dessert Storm, and exotic ports of call around the world. Then, we discussed "our fathers" ....grandfathers in my case.....the World War Two generation. We recited their passed down tales we all remembered as children. The stories of hardship as well as some tales of the more humorous kind. But the most important part came at the end. "To our fathers!" we all bellowed as we raised our glasses. "Cheers!"

So as we move into Fall and then Winter, let's all keep in mind what makes the VFW and Cooties so special. WE'RE ALL ONE BIG FAMILY! Our support for our active duty military and veterans is crucial to keeping not only our organizations alive, but our armed forces thriving as well. When our men and women in uniform see our support, they understand and appreciate the bond. So in wrapping this installment up, I just want to tell each and every one of you.....THANK YOU! Your support at the post and through the Cooties will keep tradition alive. And one day, our kids and grandkids will be raising a toast in OUR names at "The Post" .

God Bless! and "Keep Em' Smiling"

**All the Best, David Grodt, Seam Squirrel: Pup Tent 23**

## **AUXILIARY NEWS**

Aloha All,

I would like to begin by saying Mahalo "Thank You" to each of you for having faith in me to be your auxiliary president for the 2022-2023 year.

The department auxiliary website has changed. **The new website is [vfwauxfl.org](http://vfwauxfl.org)**

We are already off to a running start. I am excited to see all the things we can accomplish with our programs. Please make sure that you are recording all that you do for our programs (mileage, hours you have worked and money spent etc.), reporting is one of the ways the Auxiliary keeps our not-for-profit status.

Our program chairmen for this year are...

Americanism- Machel Leverage

Hospital- Nancy Gossage

Youth Activities- Lori Steichen

Membership- Linda Seiler

Historian/Media Relations- Mike Cramer

Buddy Poppy/Nat'l home- Chelsea Ware

Legislative & Scholarships – Kathy Wright

Mentoring for Leadership- Debbie Tilley

Veterans & Family Support- Robyn Manzo

Department President's Special Project (Southeastern guide dogs)- Cecelia Swihart

Auxiliary Outreach & Extension & Revitalization- Leilani Jones

School of Instruction "Boot Camp" will be August 5-7 at the Florida Hotel in Orlando. This is a terrific time to meet new people and learn about this year's Auxiliary programs.

We are calling all volunteers. We are always in need of kitchen help. Helping out can be washing dishes, prepping for pizza, making salads or cooking the entire meal. All help is appreciated.

Mahalo,

Leilani Jones      [vfwleilani@outlook.com](mailto:vfwleilani@outlook.com)

## **MOCA CATFISH 23**

The MOCA (Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary) Needs YOU!!! What are cooties and what do they do??

With the outbreak of World War II, the Cooties recognized a need to entertain hospitalized troops and veterans during their confinement and rehabilitation at Veterans Administration facilities throughout the country. Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White." Each year the Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to DVA Hospitals and domiciliaries throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC /MOCA apart as Foreign Service and Combat Veterans who are fully engaged in their communities, and their fellow comrades in arms and their families. Our distinctive red hat and unusual uniform sets us apart and draws attention to the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves. We sacrifice a little of ourselves to bring a smile or a laugh during what is normally a difficult time for our heroes. We seek others like us to join and help us help them in their times of stress and anxiety. You are invited to join the MOCA Catfish 23 at our post the third Tuesday of every month at 7:01 pm. We work hard but have fun, too. Our next MOCA poor-man's dinner will be Sept. 21st. Come join the fun.!

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
AND AUXILIARY**

**All American Post 7909**

**6204 Blanding Blvd.**

**Jacksonville, FL 32244**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**POST OFFICERS**

**Commander**

**SR Vice**

**JR Vice**

**Quartermaster**

**Chaplain**

**Surgeon**

**Judge Advocate**

**Adjutant**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee**

**Joe Casey**

**Bernice Gorman**

**Paul Syverson**

**John Daniels**

**Roger Gregory**

**J R Wood**

**Dani Hernandez**

**Scott Sutherland**

**Howard Maas**

**George Higginbotham**

**Robert Hernandez**

**AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

**President**

**Sr Vice**

**Jr Vice**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Chaplain**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee**

**Conductress**

**Guard**

**Patriotic Instructor**

**Leilani Jones**

**Donna Casey**

**Kathleen Danahoo**

**Frances Cramer**

**Linda Seiler**

**Lola Higgins**

**Margaret Latimer**

**Keith Epps**

**Robin Manzo**

**Machelle Leverock**

**Lori Steichen**

**None**