



DISTRICT 23 DISPATCH

Published specifically for the members of Department of Alabama District 23

Spring 2026

Volume V Issue II

In This Issue

Post 131 New Home	1
Meeting Information	2
Public Relations	3
Membership	4
Winter Meeting Photos	5
Depart Convention	6-8
District Oratorical	9
SAL Update	10
Post Activities	11-14

Member Posts

- Post 6 -Clanton
- Post 17 -Talladega
- Post 45 -Sylacauga
- Post 47 -W. Blockton
- Post 68 -Childersburg
- Post 105 -Goodwater
- Post 131-Columbiana
- Post 138 -Alabaster
- Post 195 -Sterrett
- Post 216- -Clanton
- Post 343 -Clanton
- Post 555 -Pelham



Post 131 Moves to a New Home



Post 131 would like to give a huge thank you to the City of Calera, Mayor Cost and the City Council for allowing us to use an older building the city was not using. The building does not need any repairs other than paint and a good cleaning. We are the only organization that will be using the building and will not be sharing it with anybody else. They are also letting our Auxiliary meet in an adjacent building for their activities.

This is the first permanent location for our Post since reorganized in May of 2010. Although, during that time, we have met in 6 different locations. Now we are set to hold our meetings without having to carry everything back and forth. Also, we can display Charters, awards and other historical items. We will also be able to open it up to the community for different functions. We think this is a win-win situation for both Legion and community.

Charles Duncan, Adjutant

Next District Meeting

Spring District 23 Meeting 2026

When: Saturday May 15, 2026
9:00 am-12:00 pm

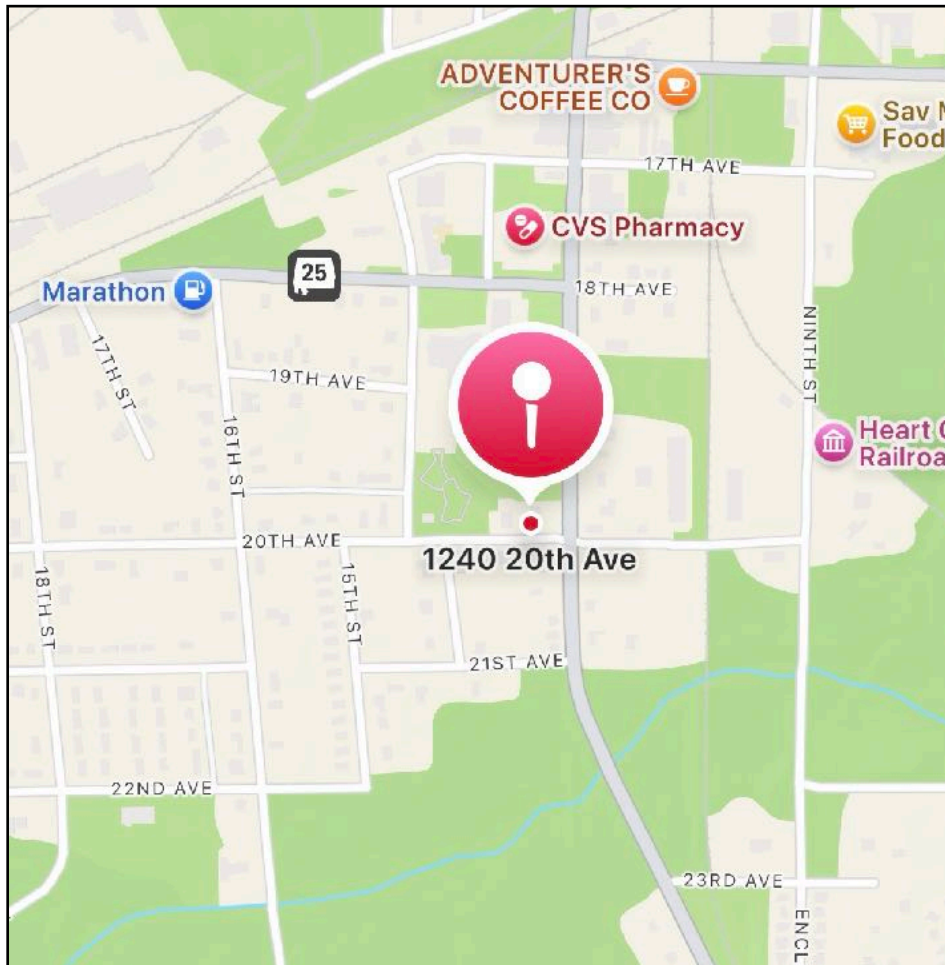
Where: Post 131
1240 20th Ave.
Calera, AL

Directions to Meeting Location

The American Legion Post 131

Take Highway 31 to Calera, AL.

From Highway 31 into Calera- turn onto 20th Ave,





*Public Relations
Update*

DISTRICT 23 DISPATCH

Published specifically for the members of Department of Alabama District 23

The District 23 Quarterly welcomes articles from Posts within the District to be published.

Recommended subject matter is past and future activities of your Post or any American Legion or Veteran-related subject matter.

The articles need to be proofed and “print ready” prior to sending to the editor for publication. If the article includes graphics or photos, it is helpful to include additional separate photos in Jpeg format along with your article.

The newsletter will be published on the first of the quarter prior to the meeting month. Deadline for articles will be two weeks prior to the publishing date. A reminder will be sent to each Post prior to deadline.

Items for publication are accepted on Executive Committee approval, available space and American Legion regulations. Please submit articles via email to Ron Koonce, Editor at: ron.koonce@gmail.com

*For God & Country
Ron Koonce
Public Relations Officer*

Follow the District 23 news on Facebook
[https://www.facebook.com/
alabama23district](https://www.facebook.com/alabama23district)



The District 23 Dispatch Is published quarterly for the members of American Legion Alabama District 23. Items for publication are accepted on the Executive Committee approval and available space.

edit any submissions for the purpose of publication. Letters to the Editor must include name, address and telephone number. Names will be withheld upon re- quest. Send email to: ron.koonce@gmail.com

Submit articles prior to the no later than 14 days for publication the prior to the monthly quarterly meeting. We reserve the right to

Copyright 20226 American Legion Alabama District 23

District 23 Membership Status

The goal is still to have every post at or over 100% by end of March. As of May 1, 2026, District 23 is at 91.06%

Each Post is encourage to take advantage of your time to do buddy checks. We all know veterans that are alone at this time of the year. It is especially important to contact them. Make a visit if possible. Also local nursing homes with veterans. They would appreciate a visit.

23rd District Commander - Preston Bell - 205-532-3024

Post	New	PUFL	Reg	HQ Trans	Total	Goal	Percent
6	2	1	14	0	17	16	106.25%
17	3	2	48	0	53	57	92.98%
45	6	4	42	0	52	55	94.55%
47	0	4	25	0	29	32	90.63%
68	2	2	15	0	19	23	82.61%
105	0	1	15	0	16	16	100.00%
131	5	3	48	4	60	60	100.00%
138	0	7	53	0	60	82	73.17%
195	0	1	16	1	18	16	112.50%
216	2	3	25	2	32	30	106.67%
343	0	1	27	0	28	33	84.85%
555	1	14	156	5	176	195	90.26%
Total	21	43	484	12	560	615	91.06%



The District 23 Dispatch Is published quarterly for the members of American Legion Alabama District 23. Items for publication are accepted on the Executive Committee approval and available space.

Submit articles prior to the no later than 14 days for publication the prior to the monthly quarterly meeting. We reserve the right to

edit any submissions for the purpose of publication. Letters to the Editor must include name, address and telephone number. Names will be withheld upon re-quest.

*Send email to:
ron.koonce@gmail.com*

*Copyright 2022
American Legion Alabama
District 23*

**District 23 Winter Photos
Post 17- Talladega, AL**



Hosted by Post 17-Talladega

Department Convention

This year's Department Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery, Alabama. The dates are June 25 to June 28, 2026. The room rates are \$166.50. The deadline for making reservations is **May 25th**. Please call 334-269-5055. **Make sure you use our reservation code 91G. Or use [American Legion Convention 2026](#)**
If you are told that the hotel is sold out. Make sure you are using the reservation code.



Department Convention Tentative Agenda

Thursday, June 25, 2026

10:00 am to	Investment Committee Meeting – Capitol III
11:00 am to 4:00 pm	LEG & SAL Registration – Outside ABC
11:00 am to 4:00 pm	Legion Store – State Boardroom
12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Vendors – Pre-Function Area
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	Dist. Cmdrs. Training – Salon ABC1
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	Break for Lunch – On your own
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Legislative Training – Salon ABC1
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Corporate Responsibilities – Willie Rogers - Salon ABC1
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	990 Class – Aldridge and Borden CPA's - Salon ABC1
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm	PDC Club Meeting – Capitol III
5:00 pm to TBT	20-4 Meeting – Salon ABC1
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm	Auxiliary Finance Meeting – Capitol III
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Auxiliary DEC Meeting – Capitol III

Friday, June 26, 2026

8:00 am to 3:00 pm	LEG & SAL Registration – Outside Salon ABC
TBA	AUX Registration – Conference Registration Booth
8:00 am to 3:00 pm	Legion Store – State Boardroom
8:00 am to 4:00 pm	Vendors – Pre-Function Area
9:00 am to 11:30 am	Joint Session – Salon A-F
11:30 am to 12:30 pm	Break for Lunch - on your own
11:30 am to 12:45 pm	Legion 100% Membership Luncheon – Capitol Ballroom
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Auxiliary Opening Session – Salon DEF2

Remember to bring current membership. You will be asked at the door.

Friday, June 26, 2026- Continued

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Legion Opening Session – **Salon ABC1**
Membership Awards – **Chair. James Bryant**
Commander’s Awards – **Cmdr. Willie Rogers**
Adoption of Rules – **JA Tom Long**
Resolutions Accepted – **JA Tom Long**
Const. & Bylaws Changes – **JA Tom Long**
Credentials Report – **Adjutant Marshall**
SAL Commander Report – **Cmdr. Paul Woodyard**
ALR Director Report – **Director Richard Sherrow**
LEG NEC Report – **NEC Rico Hall**
LEG Commander Report – **Cmdr. Willie Rogers**

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm LEG Finance Meeting – **Salon ABC1**

5:15 pm SAL DEC – **TBA**

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm College Alumni Assoc. – **Salon ABC1**

Saturday, June 27, 2026

7:00 am to 8:30 am Boys State Breakfast Mtng. – **Oasis**

Only for Commission Members

8:00 am to 12:00 pm LEG & SAL Registration – **Pre-function Area**

TBA Auxiliary Registration – **Registration Booth**

8:00 am to 4:00 pm Legion Store – **State Boardroom**

9:00 am to 5:00 pm Auxiliary Meetings – **Salon DEF2**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm SAL Meetings – **Capitol Ballroom**

9:00 am to 10:00 am Legion Annual Reports – **Salon ABC1**
Oratorical – **Chair. Willie Rogers**

Remember to bring current membership. You will be asked at the door.

Saturday, June 27, 2026- Continued

	TAL Gaming – Chair. Tim Howard
	Baseball – Chair. Alan Phillips
	Boys Scout – Chair. Jeremy Blevins
	Boys State – Director Mark Valentine
10:30 am	Division Caucus – <u>Salon ABC 1</u>
11:30 am to 12:45 pm	Break for Lunch – On your own
12:00 pm	LEG Resolution Deadline – <u>Registration Table</u>
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	LEG Election – <u>ABC1</u>

Installation of the Commander, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, and the 3 Division Commanders will take place after the close of the Convention.

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm	ALR Meeting – <u>ABC1</u>
7:00 pm to 10:30 pm	250 Banquet (RED, WHITE, & BLUE) – <u>ABC1</u>

Sunday, June 28, 2026

8:30 am to 9:30 am	Memorial Service – <u>Capitol Ball Room</u>
10:00 am to 12:30 pm	AUX Meeting – <u>Salon DEF</u>
9:45 am to 10:00 am	Installation of Officers – <u>Capitol Ball Room</u>

This installation will be for all officers that have not been installed.

10:30 am to TBD	LEG DEC meeting – <u>Capitol Ballroom</u>
-----------------	--

Remember to bring current membership. You will be asked at the door.



Oratorical Scholarship Competition

District 23 Oratorical



District 23 Oratorical competition was held on February 21, 2026 at the Pelham Senior Center. The staff and Judges above: LR: Preston Bell, Michael Sloane, Bill Daniel, Scott Martin, Kenneth Paschal, Bill Blank, Kenny Cost, Lucas Kalba, Nancy



Winner Lucas Kalba with Division II Commander Charles Duncan. Lucas will advance to the Division II Completion .



Sons of American Legion Alabama Detachment

Area Three Update

Upcoming Detachment Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting

We have a DEC meeting coming up in a few weeks, scheduled for 18 April at Department Headquarters in Montgomery. Keep an eye out for the official Call to DEC. This is an important opportunity to be involved with SAL operations and will include meetings of all Detachment Committees. Keep in mind that all squadron commanders and adjutants have standing roles on several committees and should attend this meeting as part of their regular officer duties. All members, especially those who are interested in officer positions, are welcome and encouraged to attend to gain information and learn about the process. If you plan to attend, please let me or Detachment Adj. Phillips know so we can have a rough headcount.

Membership

The latest Detachment Membership Report from yesterday is attached Area 3 is at 90% and the Detachment overall is at 87% of our goal. Keep up the great work and keep working on bringing back expired members and looking for new Sons to get involved in supporting our shared mission.

Alabama Yellowhammer Legion College (AYLC)

The 2026 iteration of AYLC is just around the corner and the final application deadline is coming up in just over a week. If you or anyone in your squadrons are interested in attending, please complete the attached **AYLC Application** and **SAL Application Addendum** and send them, along with your [American Legion online Basic Training Certificate of Completion](#), to me. The SAL Selection Committee needs these within the next week. This is a great 3-day course for current or prospective SAL officers.

Note that your *Squadron Commander* should sign off on the application line that says "Post Commander." The "District Commander" line should be left blank as Detachment Commander Woodyard will sign that line. Sons are only allotted six (6) spots state-wide - Legionnaires and Dual-Members should follow the process indicated on applications which involves District approval.

Child Wellbeing Foundation (CWF) Support

I'm also attaching the latest CWF report as distributed yesterday by Southeast SAL Membership Chairman, Scott Williams. I don't know how else to describe Alabama SAL's contribution so far other than "abysmal" - \$50 statewide. Remember that CWF has always been a program spearheaded by the Sons of the American Legion and Alabama has historically gone above and beyond the **\$1 per member baseline** contribution. We're **currently at 2¢ per member**. Please don't forget to get your CWF contributions in as soon as possible and don't forget to include it on your CSR. I have attached the form to receive your 2025-2026 CWF Banner once your squadron passes the \$1 per capita contribution.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you in Montgomery in a few weeks.

--

V/R

Don Walker

Vice Commander, SAL Detachment of Alabama

Commander, SAL Squadron 555

Matthew Blount Post 555

Pelham, AL



Shelby County Sheriff Samaniego gives update on actives of the Shelby County Sheriff Department.



Post 555 holds Post Everlasting for three fallen comrades.



Post 555 continues to hold monthly lunch with the Relative Old Veterans Eating Out group. All veterans are welcome, young and old.



Post 555 Hold Oratorical Competition at Pelham City Hall- Winner Lucas Kalba.



Matthew Blount Auxiliary Unit 555 participates in the Texas Road House Easter Party.



*Prepare for your Memorial Day Meal while supporting
American Legion Youth Programs.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION MATTHEW BLOUNT POST 555
JUNIOR SHOOTERS' FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

(FOR YOUR MEMORIAL DAY WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS)

BOSTON BUTT (8-10 LBS.) @ \$40 (PICK-UP AT 1:00 P.M.)
PULLED PORK @ \$15/LB. (PICK-UP AT 1:00 P.M.)
BRISKET (APPROX. 8 LBS.) @ \$65 (PICK-UP AT 1:00 P.M.)
BABY BACK RIBS @ \$30 (PICK-UP AT 1:00 P.M.)
CHICKEN BREAST PLATE @ 5 EA./\$35 (PICK-UP AT 1:00 P.M.)
BOLOGNA LOG @ \$20 (PICK-UP AT 1:00 P.M.)

*EXACT CASH, PLEASE, OR CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO "MATTHEW BLOUNT
POST 555" WITH "JUNIOR SHOOTERS' FUNDRAISER" ON THE MEMO LINE.*

COMPLETE A SIGN-UP SHEET AT THE MAY 7, 2026 GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, OR E-MAIL YOUR ORDERS TO
wallernj@gmail.com. OR CALL ME @ 251-554-6986.

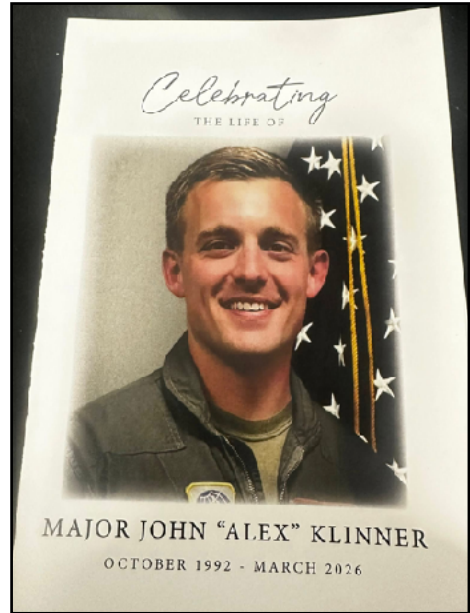
DEADLINE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER IS
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026.

PICK-UP AT PELHAM SENIOR CENTER
50 RACQUET CLUB PARKWAY
PELHAM, AL 35124





On Gold Star Spouses Day, we honor the surviving spouses of military service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Today, and always, our thoughts are with all Gold Star families.



Three airmen of the 117th Air Refueling Squadron in Birmingham died in the KC-135 Stratotanker crash during Iraq operation Epic Fury of which Major Klinner was one of the three.

Several of our American Legion Riders from Post 17 and other American Legion Riders from surrounding posts had the honor of being asked by the Patriot Guard to escort and participate in the Flag Line in honor of Major John "Alex" Klinner for his sacrifice in serving our country. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.



Some of our Riders had the honor of escorting Major John Klinner to the funeral home. Thank you to the all the American Legion Riders who participated.



**Post 131
Columbiana, Alabama**



Post 131 held a fundraising fishing tournament at Beeswax Park and raffle. James Hurst receives the winning gift card from Commander Dave Swanson and Vice Commander David Miller.



Post 131 participates in Columbiana's Cowboy Day