



DISTRICT 23 DISPATCH

Published specifically for the members of Department of Alabama District 23

Winter 2025

Volume IV Issue I

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Alabama Department Mid-Winter 2025

The Mid-Winter conference of the Department of Alabama American Legion was held at the Perdido Beach Resort on Thursday January 23rd to Sunday Jan 26th. Attendance was down due to the weather condition attended by representatives from across the state. Multiple sessions were held on varies topics including but not limited to 2025 convention, Membership, SAL, Auxiliary, Boys & Girls state meetings were also held. The DEC also met to discuss pressing issues of the department. From an education there were many very good subjects to attend and gain insight into those issues. Those legionnaires who attended had ample opportunity to gain knowledge in many areas. Finally, the meeting is well worth attending and members who wish to grow in the legion are encouraged in the future.

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





Squadron 555 members attended the [Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Alabama Mid-Winter Conference](#) in Mobile this past month. Guest speakers included [American Legion Department of Alabama Judge Advocate, Tom Long](#) that spoke on resolutions, general leadership, Roberts Rules). & Sr. Vice Commander Willie Rogers, and Southeast National Vice Commander speaking to SAL group.



Tom Long Department Judge Advocate Speaks to the Detachment.



Thomas Bell, Commander of Squadron 131.



National Southeast Viv Command with Detachment Commander



Alabama Department Sr. Vice Commander, Willie Rogers speaker to the Detachment.

District 23 Fall Meeting

Post 45 Sylacauga, Alabama



Message From the Commander's Desk



Charles Duncan
23rd District Commander
cduncan67@yahoo.com
1(205) 910-3258

Fellow Legionnaires, I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. Yes it's a new year but it is the second half of our Legion year. This means that all memberships are now delinquent and you have lost all privileges you had, your LIT insurance, magazine and most of all you are not eligible to vote on post business. We have been doing good for the most part but we have a few posts that need a little work. Let's start working the 1983 roster, contact unpaid members and try for new members. We had 6 posts that have not reached 85% but they are not that far away. Everybody should be at 100% by now, it just takes a little work.

I want to remind everyone about our next District meeting. It will be on February 8th at 9:00am. It will be held at Post 131 in Columbiana at the Recreation Bldg, 194 Washington St, 35051. I will send another email soon with more details but we would like a large crowd. We will have a couple of special guests if everything works out. Will let you know when we get a firm commitment.

I would also like to congratulate our past Division Commander and now our current Jr. Vice Commander Paul Gonthier on his graduation from the prestigious National American Legion College in November of 2024. This is the highest level of Legion education a Legionnaire can attain. Only 1 primary and 1 alternate is selected each year from each Department. If you meet the NALC application requirements, I strongly

encourage you to apply. Again, congratulations to Commander Gonthier on this achievement.

Mid Winter was a good conference this year. The attendance was off because of the weather but had some good classes which I hope to use some of in future meetings. The smaller attendance allowed for the opportunity to visit with more people and network. I brought away some good ideas that I hope to try .

Thank you for your work for the veterans and see you February 8th.



RENEW ONLINE NOW!

Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!
Simply visit www.legion.org/renew, and follow the easy instructions. You can renew your membership with a quick and secure credit card payment and even print out a temporary membership card. You can also sign up for renewal notices sent by email rather than postal mail by visiting www.legion.org/renew.

Tired of Renewal Notices? - Sign up for Automatic Annual Renewal to easily set up automatic payment with your credit card by visiting www.legion.org/renew.

Update your member information at www.legion.org/update. Stay connected!



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

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American Legion Alabama District 23



Public Relations Update

DISTRICT 23 DISPATCH

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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:

americanlegion.ala.23@gmail.com

For God & Country

Ron Koonce

Public Relations Officer

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Next District Meeting

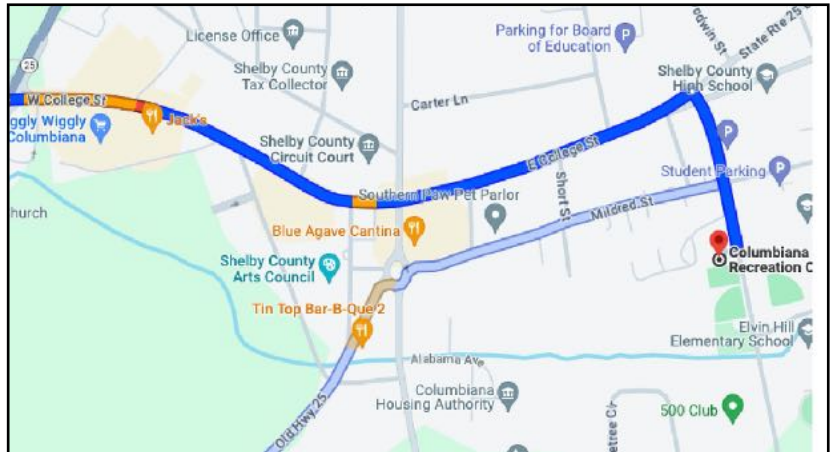
Winter District 23 Meeting 2025

When: Saturday February 8, 2025

Where: Post 131 at Columbiana Recreation Center
194 Washington Street , Columbiana, Alabama

Directions to Meeting Location

The American Legion Post 131 - Columbiana Recreation Center - Follow East College Street to Washington Street- Turn onto Washington Street .Follow Washington for a couple blocks. Recreation Center will be on the right.



*Matthew Blount Post 555
Pelham, AL Alabama*

VA Christmas Caravan



Members of the Post 555 family distributed 85 Christmas gift bags to patient of the VA Medical Center as part of the annual VA Christmas Caravan.

Post 555 RSVP Award



Adjutant Nancy Waller with members of Post 555 accepts RSVP award from Shelby County Director, Heather Laney for achieving over 5,00 hours of volunteer service to veterans and the local community.

Student Character Awards



Several Post 555 members attended an awards ceremony for students from schools in Calera, Chelsea, Columbiana, District, Helena, Montevallo, Oak Mountain, and Vincent. Each student received a certificate and medal sponsored by Post 555. Commander Bill Blank was also on hand to congratulate these wonderful students.

*Post 555 Family Thanksgiving
Dinner*



Eighty nine Post member and local and Shelby County VIP's was in attendance.



Veterans Day Ceremony

District 23/Winter 2025



Sons of The American Legion

Alabama Detachment

Area Three Report

Vice Commander Donald Walker



For those of you who were able to make it, it was a pleasure seeing you at the Midwinter Conference in Orange Beach. I've never been there before and it was a beautiful spot - but more importantly, we had a great conference.

Membership

First off, I want to say THANK YOU and great job on membership to everyone. I was able to report NO active zero-member squadrons, plus four squadrons over 100% - 30, 98, 131, and 114 with an awesome 178.6%! We also have quite a few squadrons at or very close to the next 75% target. One of Area 3's inactive squadrons came off the report, but we still have one left. Taking that into account, Area 3 overall is at a lucky 77.7%. I have attached the most recent 30 Jan membership report.

MWC & Be The One

I saw and heard some pretty great stuff at the conference. The Sons are doing amazing things, making a difference and really going places. One of the great stories recounted in Orange Beach came from SAL members down in Area 5. These men stepped up to help a distressed USMC veteran whose vehicle trouble left him stranded with all of his possessions (including the ashes of his friend and dog) in a broken down truck literally on the edge of a bridge. That Veteran is safely off that bridge, heading home on a ticket he couldn't buy with his belongings packed up and shipped back in boxes he didn't have because of the action of SAL members.

This highlights the importance of the Legion Family's BE THE ONE campaign. A call for help isn't always as obvious as a literal call from the side of a bridge. I encourage everyone to take the free online BE THE ONE training offered by The American Legion & Columbia University to get an overview of how to recognize and respond to warning signs. The schedule and class registration is at <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

V/R

Don Walker

Vice Commander, SAL Detachment of Alabama

