



DISTRICT 23 DISPATCH

Published specifically for the members of Department of Alabama District 23

Fall 2022

Volume I , Issue 2

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American Legion World Series

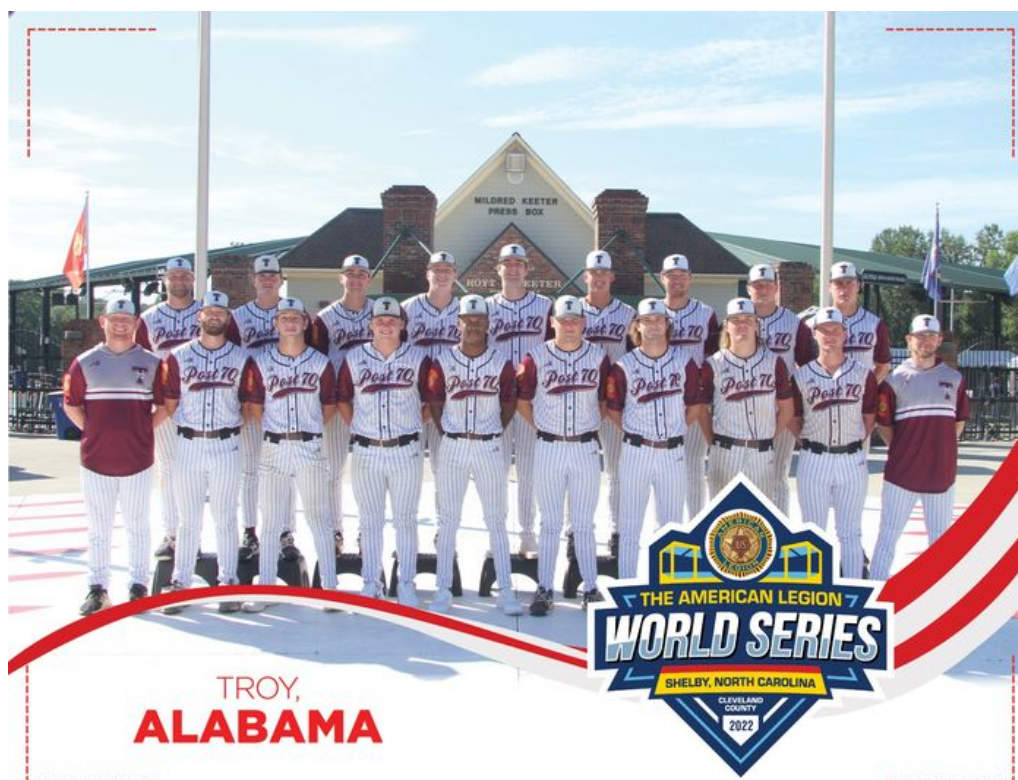


Photo Credit: [The Victorian Rose Studio](#)

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

The American Legion Mid-South Regional winner from American Legion Post 70 from Troy Alabama advanced to The American Legion World Series at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, NC where they won the 2022 American Legion World Series on August 16, 2022.

History was made when American Legion World Series Champions, Post 70 Troy, Alabama, won their first World Series Championship. It was the first ever appearance in a World Series game after 55 years bringing the title back home to sweet home Alabama!

It was a true fight to the finish and the Alabama team came out on top! Of course there had to be a little celebration when they made their way back Home in Tuscaloosa. Good luck to ALL of the American Legion World Series players as they start school and especially those entering their freshman year of college!



*Alabama Department State
Leadership Conference
Montgomery, Alabama*

Post members from District 23 attends the Alabama Department State Leadership Conference on September 23-24, 2022 held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Montgomery, AL.



L-R: Jimmy Moore, Paul Gonthier, Scott Shoemaker, Charles Knight, Tom Long



L-R: James Bryant, Ron koonce, Paul Gonthier, Charles Knight



This year's Conference will be held at The Admiral Hotel in Mobile. The dates are January 19-22, 2023. The room rates are \$119 a night. Self-parking is \$15.00 and valet is \$20.00. Each room will receive two breakfast vouchers also. Please call the reservation line at 855-680-3239. All reservations need to be made by December 1, 2020 to receive The Legion's room rate. Preregistration forms are available from the Department.

Mid-Winter Conference

Agenda

The Admiral Hotel Mobile, Alabama

Thursday, January 19, 2023

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Legion Family Registration	Prefunction Area	
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Legion Store	Queens Room	
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	1st Division Meeting	The Sumter	Commander Tim Howard
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	2nd Division Meeting	The Sumter	Commander Richard Kaster
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	3rd Division Meeting	The Sumter	Commander Willie Rogers
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Lunch - on your own		
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	Veterans Retreat Committee Meeting	The Sumter	Chairman Tim Howard
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	War Memorial Committee Meeting	The LeMoyne Room	Chairman Braxton Bridgers
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Internal Affairs Committee Meeting	The Sumter	Chairman Ron Haygood
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Resolutions Committee Meeting	The LeMoyne Room	Chairman Tony Berenotto
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Constitution and Bylaws Meeting	The LeMoyne Room	Chairman Tony Berenotto
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Convention Commission Meeting	The Sumter	Chairman James Bryant
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Public Relations Training	The Sumter	PR Officer Donna Stacey
TBA to	Auxiliary Finance Meeting	The LeMoyne Room	

Friday, January 20, 2023

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Legion Family Registration	Prefunction Area	
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Legion Store	Queens Room	
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Auxiliary Meetings	Chrystal Ballroom C	
9:00 AM to 9:15 AM	Break to allow hotel to open air walls		
9:15 AM to 10:15 AM	Joint Opening Session	Chrystal Ballroom	
	Posting of Colors	American Legion Post 164 Honor Guard	
	Welcome Remarks		
	TAL Commander	Buddy Keen	
	AUX President	Donna Hinkle	
	SAL Commander	George Krigbaum	
	ALR Director	Bill Kilde	
	Alabama Hospice Care of Mobile	Sissy Cunningham	
	Legion National Commander	Commander Troiola	
	Special Presentation		
	Yellow Hammer Legion College	Alt. NEC Ron Bradstreet	
	LIT Presentation	Alt. NEC Ron Bradstreet	
10:15 AM to 10:30 AM	Break to allow hotel to close Air Walls		
10:30 AM to 11:30 AM	Legion Opening Ceremony		
11:30 AM to 12:30 PM	MyLegion Training	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Membership Chair Tina Bush
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM	Break for Lunch	On your Own	
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	Investment Committee	The Sumter	
1:30 PM to 2:30 PM	This is The American Legion	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Adjutant Ryan Marshall
1:30 PM to 2:30 PM	Four Pillars Training	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Sr. Vice Charles Marsh
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM	Leadership Training	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Jr. Vice Don Madden
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM	Oratorical Program Training	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Chair Willie Rogers
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Legion Finance Meeting	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Chair Jim Jeffries
6:00 PM	National Commander Dinner	Post #76	

Mid-Winter Conference
 Agenda
 The Admiral Hotel Mobile, Alabama

Saturday, January 21, 2023

7:00 AM	to	8:00 AM	District Commander Breakfast	The Cove	
8:00 AM	to	1:00 PM	Legion Family Registration	Prefunction Area	
9:00 AM	to	1:00 PM	Legion Store	Queens Room	
8:00 AM	to	4:00 PM	Auxiliary Meetings	Chrystal Ballroom C	
9:00 AM	to	4:00 PM	Post Service Officer Training	The Sumter	
9:00 AM	to	10:00 AM	Grant Training	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Mary Day Smith
9:00 AM	to	10:00 AM	SAL Pre-DEC Meetings	The Alabama Room	
10:00 AM	to	12:00 PM	SAL General Session	The Alabama Room	
10:00 AM	to	11:00 AM	Baseball Training	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Chair Alan Phillips
11:30 AM	to	1:00 PM	Boys State Lunch Meeting	The Cove	Chair Judge Johnson
1:00 PM	to	2:00 PM	Past Department Commanders Meeting	Chrystal Ballroom AB	PDC Rico Hall
2:00 PM	to	3:00 PM	Commander's Huddle	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Commander Buddy Keen
3:00 PM	to	4:00 PM	District Commander Reports	Chrystal Ballroom AB	
2:00 PM	to	3:00 PM	SAL Finance Meeting	The Alabama Room	
4:00 PM	to	5:00 PM	ALR Meetings	Chrystal Ballroom AB	Director Rocky Smith
6:30 PM	to	8:00 PM	Banquet - Mardi Gras Theme	Chrystal Ballroom BC	

Sunday, January 22, 2023

8:00AM to 9:00 Am	Legion Family Memorial Service	Chrystal Ballroom AB
9:30 AM to Until	Legion DEC Meeting	Chrystal Ballroom AB



From the Commander's Desk

Since we are in the home stretch of our membership drive, my message to you is simple: Work your renewals and work to get new members. Do not sit on any membership renewals. If you need assistance with renewing members, please let me, or any of the District officers know immediately and we will help you.

Remember, the goal is for all Posts to be at 100% by the end of December 2022. I am confident that we will attain that goal.

I want to thank all of you for the efforts you make every day to support our Veterans, our communities, and of course, our American Legion. I know that it is extremely difficult to juggle family, church, work, and everything else in your lives. That's what makes you all so special. You go that extra mile to do what it takes to accomplish your mission.

Just recently, we had a collection of goods for the folks down in Florida displaced by Hurricane Ian. Your quick response will make a difference in the lives of those who are in desperate need of water, food, cleaning supplies, etc., while they try to get their homes and lives repaired and back in order. Of course, I expect no less from Veterans. We are all good and decent people who sacrificed so much as Veterans, and now we give back at a moment's notice.

Lastly, please always "BE THE ONE" to:

- Ask Veterans how they are doing
- Listen when a Veteran needs to talk
- Reach out when a Veteran is struggling

Thank you once again for your loyalty and dedication to your families, to The American Legion, and to this Country. You are all truly the greatest generation.

Paul Gonthier



KEEP THE LEGION STRONG

Let's change the narrative. Instead of talking about the staggering number of daily suicides, BE THE ONE to save ONE veteran. We can end the stigma surrounding mental health with your help!



BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.



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:

americanlegion.ala.23@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)

Next District Meeting

Fall District 23 Meeting 2022

When: Saturday November 5, 2022
9:00 am-12:00 pm

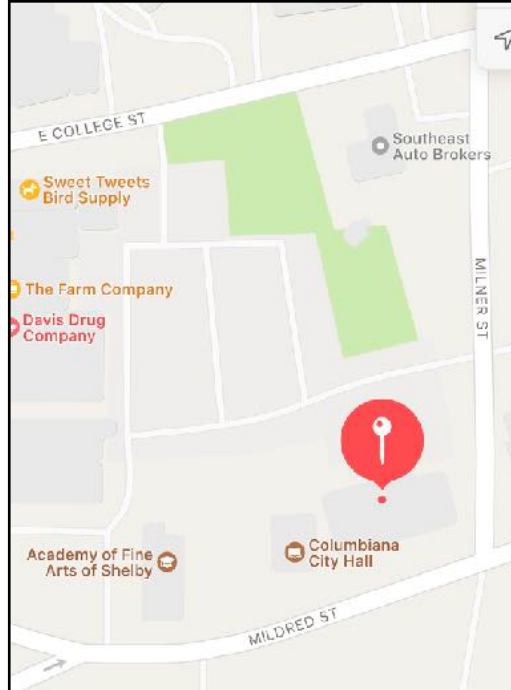
Where: Columbiana Post 195
Columbiana Senior Center.



Directions to Meeting Location

The American Legion Shirley-Holloway Post 131

Address: 110 Mildred Street, Columbiana, AL 35051
The back of the building faces Mildred Street. Turn left on Milner Street to access the front of the Building. The building faces East College Street.



Future Scheduled Meetings

February 11, 2023 - Pelham Post 555
May 20, 2023 - Alabaster Post 138

Legion/District 23 Activities

Goodwin-Lee Post 138/ Henrick-Hudson Post 96 Merger

15 September 2022

23rd District, 2nd Division
Dept of Alabama
American Legion

American Legion Department of Alabama
Department Executive Committee
PO Box 1069
Montgomery, AL 36101

SUBJECT: Merger of Post 96 with Post 138
To Department Executive Committee (DEC):

The members of Henrick-Hudson Post 96, located in Montevallo, AL, unanimously voted on 7 July 2022 that, in the absence of an elected Commander and Adjutant, they would merge their Post , will all monies and assets to accompany, with Goodwin-Lee Post 138 in Alabaster, AL. The members of Post 138, in anticipation of this merger, voted on 7 June 2022, to approve a merger of Post 96 and accept all members, monies, and assets of Post 96 into Post 138.

Certified letters were sent to ALL Post 96 members not in attendance for this vote, explaining the outcome of this vote, and that they had the option to be transferred into Post 138, Post 1983, or an American Legion post of their choice. All Post 96 members have agreed to transfer their membership to Post 138.

Henrick-Hudson Post 96, upon approval of the merger into Goodwin-Lee Post 138, will surrender its charter to the American Legion Department of Alabama and National organizations. Also, upon approval of the merger, all future business necessary to conclude and close Post 96 will be managed and handled by Post 138.

Post 138 welcomes all the members of Post 96 into their new Post with open arms and hearts.

PAUL GONTHIER
23rd District Commander/Post 138 Commander
2nd Division, Department of Alabama
American Legion

MEMBERSHIP

Expired membership incentive V.E.T.S. pin

To qualify for National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola’s V.E.T.S. (veterans, education, teamwork and sponsor) expired membership incentive pin, American Legion members will need to reinstate five expired members into The American Legion for the 2023 membership year who were not a member during the 2022 membership year.

Please make sure that members have been processed before submission of this award. Pins will not be mailed until they are verified on the national database.



100% American Legion Family Ribbon

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola will award his 100% American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by the 2023 100% membership target date. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and/or any combination of an Auxiliary unit or Sons squadron. Each must achieve 100% membership to qualify for the award.

The department adjutant will transmit information to:

The American Legion National Headquarters
Attn: Internal Affairs & Membership Division
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

Download the 100% Legion Family Ribbon form at www.legion.org/commander/ribbon.

103 % Membership Award

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola will award his national commander “Be the One” membership incentive pin to any post, district, county, division or department commander, or membership chairman, who achieves 103 percent of their assigned membership goal for 2023.

Download the 103% membership award form at www.legion.org/commander/103percent.





CONSTITUTION

The American Legion

Preamble

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to Posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Above is the American Legion Preamble. This preamble is repeated probably hundreds of times a day across our great country. We read it prior to our Post meetings. But what does it mean? Let's take it apart. **1) For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes.** Very self-explanatory. We meet together **2) to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order and foster and perpetuate one hundred percent Americanism.** This simply means we are all Americans. We maintain our laws and foster, promote, and preserve, and grow 100% Americanism. **3) To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars.** We always preserve the memories of our brothers and sisters who have fought in America's wars to defend freedom and paid for that freedom with the ultimate sacrifice. We never forget their sacrifices and we honor their memories. **4) To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses.** We inculcate, instill, and recognize and promote our obligation to our communities, our state, and our nation. We combat the autocracy, a system of government by one person with absolute power over all classes and all the population, by promoting our republic and its constitutional form of government. **5) To make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth.** We always strive to do the right thing, and we always promote peace and goodwill on earth which includes our own American Legion family. **6) To safeguard and transmit to Posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.** We keep safe and communicate to all future generations of people the truths of freedom and democracy and we consecrate, de, declare and sanctify, set apart, our comradeship and devotion to helping others.

So, as we meet and all repeat the preamble, remember each and every one of us, our Commitment to that statement and its meaning. We must not only state it, but we must also live it.

Columbiana, Alabama

Post 131 tries to stay involved in as many community events as we can. Our most recent event was the Fall Festival at the Shelby Iron Works. We manned a booth and had a good bit of traffic during the day. We gained four new or transferred members from this event. Following are events planned for the remainder of the year.



Future Activities

Oct. 29th. Flag raising and dedication at Old Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery in honor of a Revolutionary War Soldier. Post 131 is supplying the pole and flag and will be assisted by the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Oct 31st. Monster walk in Columbiana. Will have a tent set up and will be passing out candy to over a thousand children.

Nov. 5th. Hosting 23rd District meeting and after the meeting will be placing over 500 flags on Veterans graves in 10 cemeteries.

Nov. 11th. Veteran's breakfast and lunch at Recreation Building in Columbiana.

Nov. 12th. Riders meeting at 10 am then meet at 1pm to gather flags from cemeteries.

Nov. 14th. Monthly meeting with John Pinion from the VA as our guest speaker.

Nov. 19th. Cookout for Veterans at Cedar Ridge Veterans Home in Chilton County.

Dec. 2nd. Post 131 plans to have a float in the 2022 Columbiana Christmas Parade .

Matthew Blount Post 555

Pelham, Alabama

Sons Flag Replacement for Widow of Post 555 Member

On Wed., 21 Sep 22, three members of the Post 555 Sons, Bill Blank, Ron Koonce, and Don Walker, performed a flag replacement for Kathy Gassner, the widow of Post 555 member Butch Gassner. The flag was a replacement of one a gifted to Butch back in 2018 when he was homebound, so they were proud replace it in his honor. Kathy was very appreciative of what our Sons Squadron did for her, and the new flag is proudly flying by her front door.



L-R- Ron Koonce, Don Walker, Kathy Gassner, Bill Blank



L-R-Bill Blank, Don Walker,



L-R-Bill Blank, Don Walker,

Pelham National Night Out for Post 555

Members of Post 555 family have been involved with the Pelham Police Department and First Responders National Night Out for several years, and we were invited again this year on Tues., 04 Oct 22. We had a set-up crew, members who stayed to help throughout the event, and a close-down crew. Our members who volunteered to help were Jeff Monday (member, Rider, and Son), Nancy Waller (member and Auxiliary), Frank Lakotich, Cheryl Gilliam, Frank Chacon, Ray Pata (member, Rider, and Son), Harry "Skip" Mize, Chic Cecchini (member, Rider, and our photographer extraordinaire), Caroline Culpepper (Auxiliary President), Vashone Smith (member and Auxiliary), Beth Phillips (Auxiliary), Linda Johnston (Auxiliary), Linda Colvard (Auxiliary), Rachel Sills (Auxiliary), Ron Koonce (member and Son), and Don Walker (Son). We were visited by Pelham Mayor (and Post 555 member) Gary Waters and Kenneth Paschal.



Pot 555 Family



Sons Squadron 555



Auxiliary Trunk a Treat

Bill Blank Honored as Post 555 Legionnaire of the Year!!!

Commander Jeff Monday surprised 1st Vice Commander Bill Blank with the Legionnaire of the Year during our September Post meeting. Bill had no idea, and was definitely caught off-guard with absolutely nothing to say (if you can imagine that). He was given a standing ovation with a huge round of applause by all present; well deserved, Bill!!!



Bill Blank, Jeff Monday

Matthew Blount Annual Memorial Ride

Legion Riders, Mazda Miatas, and Blount family members hit the road on Sat., 17 Sep 22 to pay their respects to the Post 555 namesake, Matthew Blount, who is interred at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo. With the contributions from the Riders and a local restaurant owner, 200 wreaths will be provided to the Wreaths Across America Ceremony scheduled for Sat., 17 Dec 22. Riders' Director Doug McDaniel partnered with the Central Alabama Miata Society for this ride which included 15 motorcycles and 15 Mazda Miatas participating. Matthew's father, Past Post 555 Commander Barry Blount, introduced his son and Post 555 member A.J. Blount who spoke about Matthew while they were visiting his graveside.



Mazda Club



Triple Nickel Riders



Blount Family

Wreaths Across America

Deadline for Wreaths Donations is

November 30th.

14th Annual Wreaths Across America
Alabama National Cemetery
Montevallo, Alabama
Saturday, December 17, 2022



Sponsor a Wreath

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 10th of the month for publication the prior to the month of the quarterly meeting. We reserve the right to edit

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

Send email to:
americanlegion.ala.23@gmail.com

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