



THE BUGLER

The Official Newsletter of Post 137

American Legion
Lakeshore Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue
Jacksonville, FL. 32210

Meetings: 2nd Saturday 10am

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Commander
DENNIS
THOMPSON



Auxiliary President
JERI WEST



S.A.L. Commander
WM "BILL" KELLY



Chef de Gare
JOHN KELLEY



Commander's Report

Greetings Legionnaires! I am pleased to report the Annual Christmas Basket Program was a resounding success with approximately 80 families in the community receiving their Christmas dinner goods, including gifts for their minor age children.

Our Department Commander, Warren Post was at our December General Assembly and was able to see the groceries and gifts being readied for distribution. He was most impressed and was very complimentary of this program. Our chairperson, Mary Shope and all the volunteers once again did a tremendous job in the annual donation of time, effort, money and gifts. The Post 137 "**Teamwork**" makes us all proud to be members of the Post 137 Legion Family.

Everyone here in the office, including our 1st Vice Eddie Dykes, is working hard to process and encourage membership renewals. We have the resources and ability to produce 100% renewals in advance of the Department goals. In order to do this I again ask each and every Legionnaire to do their part by getting their renewals in. I also challenge each of them to bring in a new member. The office continues to be open between 1:30 and 5:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have the 2008 cards on hand and look forward to being able to issue yours. We urge you not to delay in your card. Remember, the new door key cards will be issued in January and without a 2008 membership card, access will be denied.

Our Entertainment Committee, under the guidance of 2nd Vice Dan Grant, has been hard at work trying to upgrade the weekend entertainment at our Post Home. Several new groups with new venues, as well as some of the existing entertainers, are being scheduled for 2008. The Committee is seeking to rejuvenate the membership by "**livening things up**" for your listening and dancing pleasure. We hope all of our members will support the Post in this endeavor by attending and enjoying our weekend entertainment.

I ask everyone to please keep the Service Men and Women who are doing their duty for our Country in their hearts and prayers. They deserve our support in doing the jobs they do on a daily basis in today's war on terrorism. Let's also remember they are Veterans who sooner or later will pick up the American Legion Banner which we hold so dear.

I firmly believe 2008 can and will be a banner year for Lakeshore Post 137! The "**Enthusiasm**" continues and let there be no doubt in any members mind that I will continue to pursue what is absolutely best for our Post. A lot of good was accomplished in 2007 by all of us pulling together. Let's continue to do the things that can and will make Post 137 the best in the 5th District, Department of Florida and the National Department of the American Legion. Together, we can make it happen.

For GOD and Country,
Dennis Thompson, Commander



Eddie Dykes

1ST VICE REPORT:

We are sad to report that 1st Vice Commander Eddie Dykes is out with back problems. Eddie get well soon. Membership depends on you for many chores. You are very important to the running of Post 137. Dept. Commander Warren Post visited Post 137 Dec. 8th Gen. Mtg. and stated Florida was presently #45 at Nat'l with Membership. LEGIONNAIRES, "EDDIE & DEPT" need your help to put Florida up front as a leader in the Nation with membership # 45!!!!!! Holy Molly that won't work!

Editor



Dannie Grant

2ND VICE REPORT:

"Happy New Year Everyone." January will have a few surprises for you in entertainment. The Post will showcase several new and exciting Bands. They will be performing for your enjoyment on two different week-ends. Plan to come out and see them. Olde' Santa had a wonderful time at Post 137 at the Children's Christmas Party in the Moon Bldg. He was so happy to see all the youngsters and get their requests for Christmas. He hopes he delivered all the right things to each boy and girl. Til next time.

For GOD and Country,

Danny Grant, 2nd Vice Commander



Barry Congressi

3RD VICE REPORT:

A new year is here and time has flown. The Children's Christmas Party was a big Success. Approximately 100-150 attendees. Thanks to everyone that helped. To my lovely Bride, Diane, Thank you. Santa you are bigger than life and all the children still love you. "Happy New Year to All."

For GOD and Country,

Barry Congressi, 3rd Vice Commander



Lewis E. Gray

4TH VICE REPORT:

On December 7th, Post 137, Auxiliary Unit 137 and 40/8: Voiture 304, Cabane 304 and S.A.L. made our annual visit to Lake City V.A. Hospital. We departed Post 137 at 4 pm and arrived at Lake City a little after 5 pm. We had a very good dinner at a local restaurant prior to going to the Hospital.

The following dedicated members of the Post 137 family were Present; Lewis & Ann Gray, Dale Prewitt, Tony Romano, J.J. & Debbie Jennings, Ray Runyon, Jack & Connie Manning, Nora & Nola Marcantel (representing Juniors), Carl & Myra Jowers, Norman & Sandy Gentry, John & Jo Ann Kelley and Joel Gray (representing S.A.L.).

My personal "Thanks" go out to the above members for giving of their time, money and effort month after month in the support of our V.A.V.S. Program.

The Christmas activities started on time. We gave out 200 ditty bags. Our primary concern as always was the nursing home. Santa Claus and his helpers visited most every floor and room in the nursing home. We then moved on to deliver bags to the other wards in the hospital. Other items were donated however these items would not fit into the ditty bags.

As always, year after year, I would like to give a SPECIAL THANKS to my wife Ann Gray, for her many long hours of hard work and dedication to the V.A.V.S. Program. Without her help, the program would be at a loss. As you read this report; she is getting ready and planning for next year. Thanks to Myra Jowers for being Santa's Helper and Nora & Nola Marcantel for being Santa's Elves. Thank you Jack & Connie Manning for the use of your trailer, it was a big help in getting everything moved to Lake City.

Our next V.A.V.S. visit to Lake City V.A. Hospital will be January 25, 2008. Remember, if you would like to

participate or need a ride, let me know. We depart Post 137 at 4:00 pm and carpool to Lake City. We eat at a local restaurant and start our activities at the hospital at 7: pm. We get back to Jacksonville around 7: pm.

We had 18 members present for this visit. Miles were 2,178 and hours 90. Gas allowance for 4 was vehicles \$80.00.

The following is a list of items donated by: Post 137, Auxiliary Unit 137, Voiture 304 and Cabane 304 for the Christmas Party at Lake City V.A. Hospital. Each "DITTY BAG" had a cash value of \$15.00. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year

Yours in Service,
Lewis E. Gray, 4th Vice Commander

V.A.V.S. 2007

Christmas Items Donated

Restricted Items:

8 cases shampoo	6 cases shaving cream	4 cases hand sanitizer
3 cases hand lotion	3 cases razors	5 cases mouthwash
\$592.00		

DITTY BAGS / FRUIT

1,000	each postage stamps	\$441.00
200	pair socks	\$166.00
200	each tooth paste	\$100.00
200	each tooth brushes	\$100.00
200	each chap sticks	\$160.00
200	each combs	\$ 40.00
200	each Christmas cards	\$ 80.00
200	each Kleenex packets	\$ 32.00
200	packs sugarless gum	\$ 40.00
50	each puzzle books	\$ 50.00
25	packs pencils	\$ 25.00
	denture cleaner and powder	\$ 28.00
17	boxes zip lock bags	\$ 34.00
40	pair diabetic socks	\$ 80.00
	refreshments filling ditty bags	\$ 25.00
200	each 2008 calendars	\$200.00
3	cases bananas	\$ 60.00
12	bags tangerines	\$ 40.00
	boxes and tape	\$ 30.00

Other Items Donated:

50	pc sweatshirt and pants	\$ 300.00
150	pc sweatshirt and pants (car show)	\$ 900.00
1	set Bingo balls (car show)	\$ 75.00
1	27 inch television for the Jacksonville. V.A. Clinic (car show)	
		\$ 210.00

NOTE: All items TOTAL \$3,808.00



Dennis Thompson

COMMANDER'S NOTES:

Thanks to the Rod & Pole Club for the recent donation of \$500 to the Christmas Basket Program. These "Fishermen" know how to support Post projects and I am very proud of them for their contribution.

The same goes for the American Legion Riders Chapter 137, who contributed \$400 to the Christmas Basket Program. The Riders are a relatively new group in our Post and are most deserving of congratulations for a job well done. 2008 can and should be a good year for the Riders and I look for bigger and better things from them. Way to go guys and gals!

Kudos to, Byron Frederick and Volunteers, who put on the recent Saturday night Mexican Dinner here at the Post. This impromptu group was able to make a donation of \$275 from the proceeds, which were also put into the Christmas Basket Program.

Last but not least, let me extend my thanks to Diane Congressi and Joann Kelley, who did such a fine job this past holiday season heading our Events Committee. Their talents are unsurpassed in decorating and arranging the parties, which were all a success. Thanks again gals for a "job well done."

For GOD and Country,
Dennis Thompson, Commander



Jerri West

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

We held our regular meeting on Dec. 6, 2007. Post Commander, Dennis Thompson visited us. He commended the Unit on our participation in the many Legion Programs. He stressed the need for more VOLUNTEERS, younger and more able bodied being a factor. The Unit enjoyed his visit very much.

The Unit had one member pass a way this month, Elizabeth (Betty) Fritch. Pres. Jeri W. and Chap. Nora M. draped the Charter in her honor. Our condolences to the family.

2nd Vice Pres. Sue R. read the names of five new ladies. They were approved by the general assembly and voted into membership for Unit 137. The Unit total is now at 485 or 76% of the yearly goal.

Chap. Nora M. with Myra J. made her monthly trip to the Jacksonville V.A. Clinic with juice, coffee, sandwiches, boiled eggs and bananas. As always the Vets were very grateful. Nora, parent sponsor of the F.C.C.S. Jr. Beta Club, reported she and Nola delivered 94 Sweaters, which were collected by Beta Club members, to Channel 7 for the Mr. Rogers Neighborhood Sweater Program.

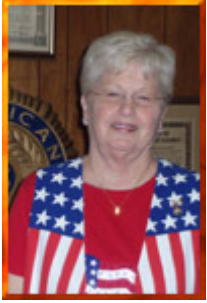
We voted to donate \$450.00 to the Landstuhl Hospital in Germany. This brings the total donation to \$1000.00. This money is used to buy clothing for some of the servicemen and women who are coming home and only have hospital gowns to arrive in.

The Wounded Warriors Rehab Center's National Headquarters is being based here in Jacksonville. We voted to donate \$500.00 to this program.

Jeri W. and Betty L. reported their Beta Sigma Phi Sorority City Council collected over 100 stuffed animals for Fire and Policemen to give to children at disaster scenes.

We hope all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours in Service,
Jeri West, Unit 137 President



Sandra Gentry

Cabane 304 Report:

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Cabane 304 Dames and your families! I hope everyone had a very nice Christmas.

With the beginning of January we start the second half of our year. Let's start it off with all our Dames at the January 22nd Rendezvous. Our program starts at 7 pm. Please plan to attend. You are all needed.

Merci,
Sandra Gentry, La Presidente



John Kelley

Voiture 304 Report:

Did we have a good time or what at our "Christmas Party"? Good Food, Good Friends And Good Times! Merci to the Dames, Voyageurs and Bill Kelly who helped put on the Party. Santa and his Elf was a big hit as always.

We still have several Voyageurs who have not paid their dues. Come on Voyageurs get it done. If you have a problem meeting this obligation, please, let me know and I am sure we can work something out. We need our membership to stay afloat....

Next Cheminot / Promenade will be January 3, 2008.

Yours in Service,
Chef de Gare, John Kelley



Gene Odom

Chaplain's Report:

Seems hard to believe that we are into a New Year. Hope all had a very enjoyable holiday with friends and family.

Our Annual Christmas Basket Project was a great success. Thank you to all who contributed to the funding and to those who gave their time and effort to get the baskets assembled and delivered.

On the subject of holiday season, please be reminded of our men and women serving in the military who are in different parts of the world protecting our freedom. We, as military veterans know what it is like being away from family and loved ones during this time of year. Please keep these dedicated people in your thoughts and pray that in 2008 we will see a speedy end to this war and achieve worldwide peace.

Again it is my sad duty to list the following Legionnaire comrade who has transferred to Post Everlasting.

JOE GARRISON

Please keep this Legionnaire and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Also, remember the sick and disabled that they may feel better soon.

For GOD and Country,
Gene Odom, Chaplain



Bill Kelly

Son's of the American Legion Report:

Your Sons membership is at 65%. This puts us above Detachment goal for last month. Thanks to everyone who has renewed. Please remind anyone who hasn't renewed to please do so as soon as possible.

Our Canteen Sandwich Program continues to do very well. Thanks to everyone who donated to the success.

Special Thanks to Mary Shope and the Legion Family Crew for their time and effort in helping make Christmas for over 80 families a little brighter. Job Well Done.

Thanks to everyone and Joey Gray who chairs our VAVS Program for their time and effort in service to our Veterans at the Lake City V.A. Christmas Party. Job Well Done.

Special Thanks to Barry & Diane Congressi and the Legion Family Crew for the Best Legion Children's Christmas Party in the Department of Florida. Excellent Job.

Detachment Commander John Jennings and his wife Martha would like to "Thank" all the Legion Family members at Post 137 that they got to meet for their warm hospitality. "Job Well Done Post 137 Legion Family."

For God, Country & Our Legion Family

Bill Kelly, Squadron Commander

sonsoftheal137@aol.com

Sons of the American Legion,
Lakeshore Squadron 137
**Next Meeting: Thursday, January
10th, 7:30 p.m.**



Bill Kelly

Club Manager's Report:

Well, we hope all is well in this New Year. Our Entertainment Committee is working hard to provide **New Quality Entertainment** to our membership every weekend. Thanks to Danny G, Bill S, John K, Gary L. and Emory A. for their hard work. New Bands for the month of January include **Gunslingers on 4th & 5th**. Come on down and check'em out.

A "**Big Thanks**" to Diane Congressi and the Events Committee for all their hard work at our Christmas Party and New Years Eve Party. Job Well Done.

We have been contacted by the bread people and asked if we would like to start a Thursday bread day. What it requires is two to four people with a pick-up truck, to work in the early morning. If you are interested please contact J.W. or myself in the club. Let's provide this service again to our membership.

The **New Juke Box** seems to be a big hit. The Jukebox now contains 10,000 songs with online access to 120,000 more. It's going to be hard now, not to find something you like.

The Club has just purchased a now commercial frosty mug & pitcher cooler. This freezer keeps the mugs at zero degrees. Come on in and try our new "**frosty mugs.**" We hope you will be happy with our newest addition.

The 2007 Financial Statement is still in the works at this writing date. Look for the Monthly and Yearly Finance Report posting on the Legion Bulletin Board in the club by the pool table in the second week of the New Year.

Serviing Veterans and our Legion Family,

Bill Kelly, Club Manager

clubmanager@americanlegion137.com



Rick Wiggs

American Legion Riders Report:

Congratulations to Rick Wiggs on his appointment as 5th District Chairman for the American Legion Riders. As usual, we know that Rick will do well in his new position.

Legion Riders sponsored Friday Night Dinner on December 14th. This report was due in before the Dinner was held so I hope everyone enjoyed it. The Legion Riders also participated in assisting with the annual Christmas Basket program by donating funds and helping pre-stage gifts. Membership renewal is underway; please expedite your renewal so that we can all enjoy our Legion Riders chapter. Meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, please attend.

For God and Country,
Bill Johnson, Acting Director

VAVS Report:

Unit 137 and Cabane 304, I want to "THANK" everyone who made the trip with us to Lake City for the Veterans Christmas Party. A "Special Thank You," to all those that made donations for this most important event. Our Veterans are our most treasured people and they should be our first priority. I have been doing this job for many years and believe me it is a year-long job. If the different groups could get their donations to me earlier it would be appreciated.

I do appreciate the help this year with filling the bags. A "Special Thanks" to Jack and Connie Manning for loading their trailer and hauling everything to Lake City Veterans Hospital for me.

Thanks & Merci,
Ann Gray, V.A.V.S. Chairman



Ray Runyan

Rod and Pole Benders Report:

The Rod and Pole Benders Club members, hopes everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and that your New Year is Happy.

NEW CLUB OFFICERS have been elected for the year 2008.

President..... Binion Williams
Vice President... Ray Runyan
Treasurer..... Nick Henderson
Secretary..... Dave Kooker

The Club encourages everyone to participate in and support American Legion Post 137 functions.

The Rod and Pole Benders generously donated the following funds to Post 137

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

\$500.00	Christmas Baskets	\$300.00	Jingle Bell Rock
\$300.00	Color Guard	\$200.00	Golf Charity Hole
\$1000.00	V.A.V.S		

TOTAL DONATIONS YEAR 2007 -- \$2300.00

A reminder to current members and potential future members, Club dues are due in January 2008.

For GOD and Country,
Ray Runyan



Visitors come to Post 137

Fifth District Cmdr. Sean Compton and Detachment of FI. Northern Area Cmdr. Bill Kelly escorted Dept. Cmdr. Warren Post, Northern Area Cmdr. Bill Nelson and S.A.L. Detachment of FI. Cmdr. John Jennings around during their visit in our area. Much Pomp and Circumstance. A funny sight was when Post 137 Cmdr. Dennis Thompson presented Dept. Cmdr. Warren Post with a copy of "The Red Neck Follies Picture Calendar." Words can't express the moment. However, the look was priceless!!!!!!

FOUR CHAPLAIN'S PROGRAM. We will present The Four Chaplain's Program on Saturday February 2, 2008 at 2: pm. This year we will offer a different look at these Four Brave Chaplains and the servicemen they ministered too. Join us, Let's Celebrate!

ENJOYED TRIP TO V.A. HOSPITAL. We had a wonderful time visiting with the Vets. They are so appreciative. If you have not gone over to visit with the Vets put this on your to do list. They enjoy and you will be so happy you went. LOVE THOSE VETS.

Hey, Tom T. I hear "Nipper" wanted to go Christmas shopping alone. He locked you out of the car! W O W must have been quite a present. Folks "Nipper" is Tom's dog. Ha Ha.

SANTA'S ELVES: OLE' Santa arrived in a red convertible along with two of the Cutest Local Elves. He put them right to work handing out presents to all the children that attended the Christmas party Dec. 16th at the Moon Bldg. The Cuties were Ashley Lane and Julia Roberts. Great job ladies.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS: 80 families received Food Baskets and 208 Presents were delivered to needy children before Christmas. A full report will be in the February Bugler. Mary Shope, Christmas Basket Chairmen.

Folks we were at the fill the baskets, wrap gifts day of work. I can tell you, Mary and her sidekick/sister, Caroline, were two busy beavers. Mary had an assembly line going in the hall and over in the 40/8 Chateau Caroline had all of us wrapping gifts like professionals.



These are two ladies with a "git-r-done" attitude. Thanks, for all your effort.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAPRICORNS; or more lovingly known as Goats! Born from December 22nd-January 20th. You are most always right and are not usually a lime light seeker. Best Wishes for a very happy year ahead.

UNDER THE WEATHER LIST: Eddie Dykes, Ron Henningfeld and Gene Odom. We wish you all a speedy recovery, you are missed. Also "TAZ" get well soon.

TO ALL A WONDERFUL YEAR, GREAT HEALTH and GOD BLESS.

Editor

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAPPY NEW YEAR						
6 BREAKFAST Rod 'N Pole 8:30a – 11 am	7 Rod & Pole Mtg. – 7 p BINGO 6:30pm	1  DARTS Sign-up 7:00 Play 7:30	2 Steering Com. 6:30 p Color Guard 7 pm KARAOKE w/ Bill Scott 7:30 P	3 Aux. Exe Mtg 6:30p Gen Mtg 7:30 p V-304 Cheminot 7p V-304 Promenade 7:30 pm VIDEO BOWLING 7 PM	4 LEGION DINNER T-Bone Steak Burn your own 5:30 pm GUN SLINGERS 8pm	5 Welcome!! GUN SLINGERS 8pm
13 BREAKFAST Auxiliary 8:30a – 11 am	14 BINGO 6:30pm	8 DARTS Sign-up 7:00 Play 7:30	9 KARAOKE w/ Bill Scott 7:30 P	10 Legion Rider's Mtg. – 7:00 pm S.A.L. Mtg 7:30 pm VIDEO BOWLING 7 PM	11 ROD & POLE T-Bone Steak Burn your own 5:30 pm GHOST RADIO 8pm	12 Leg Exe Mtg 9 am Gen Mtg 10 am Jr. Mtg. 11:30 am Welcome!! GHOST RADIO 8pm
20 BREAKFAST Darts Club 8:30a – 11 am	21 BINGO 6:30pm	15 Color Guard 7pm DARTS Sign-up 7:00 Play 7:30	16 Birthday Covered Dish 7:30p KARAOKE w/ Bill Scott 7:30 P	17 VIDEO BOWLING 7 PM	18 COLOR GUARD DINNER Country Fried Steak 5:30 pm PEGGY & HOSS - 8pm	19 "THE" PEGGY & HOSS 8pm
27 BREAKFAST Rod 'N Pole 8:30a – 11 am	28 BINGO 6:30pm	22 Cabane 304 Rendezvous 7 pm DARTS Sign-up 7:00 Play 7:30	23 KARAOKE w/ Bill Scott 7:30 P	24 VIDEO BOWLING 7 PM	25 AUXILIARY -- TEXAS STYLE BBQ BRISKET by "Charles" 5:30 pm V.A.V.S. Visit Lake City – 4:00 P VICKI LEE 8p	26 "One & Only" VICKI LEE 8pm
 JANUARY 2008						
27 BREAKFAST Rod 'N Pole 8:30a – 11 am	28 BINGO 6:30pm	29 DARTS Sign-up 7:00 Play 7:30	30 KARAOKE w/ Bill Scott 7:30 P	31 VIDEO BOWLING 7 PM		

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Loyal Order of Moose



American Legion Post 137
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Fleet Reserve Assoc.

Biloxi Bash

The Legion Biloxi Trip is Coming UP
17 – 20 of February 2008
Money must be paid by Jan 5th, 2008.
Bus leaves 8:00 a.m. sharp!!

HAVING A GET-TOGEHER!!

DO YOU NEED A SPACE?

Contact: Mr. Bill Lomax
for information
about the use of
the **"MOON BLDG"**
or **"La Chapeau et 40/8"**
CALL: 778-2116

Apologies to Mr. John Kelley

John,
Please excuse my lapse of memory in the
December Bugler when I listed Barry Congressi
as the Chef de Gare. Please accept my
apologies for this oversight.

--Editor

EXCITING NEW ENTERTAINMENT

For your pleasure the Entertainment Committee has
signed-up three new Bands. This month **"GUNSLINGERS"**
and **"GHOST RADIO"** will play for your dancing
enjoyment. Check out the BUGLER Calendar for Dates and
Times. Next month **"FINDERS KEEPERS"** will be added to
the list of fine entertainment offered by the Post
Club. Call your friends and make it a party. Friday
and Saturday nights 8pm. --Editor

