



www.womenveteransunite.com

July 2024

PO BOX 14681 Tallahassee FL 32317

womenvunite@gmail.com

Mission: Becoming Visible



Debra Mann and Paula Hubert present a Certificate of Appreciation to Dee, Manager at BJ's to thank them for their generous food donation for the August 15th gathering. Thank you BJ's!!

If you would like to help obtain meals for the meetings join the Hospitality Committee. Interacting with restaurants in the community allows them to align with veterans, getting recognition for their generous support and provides WVU with dinner for the gatherings. A win/win for all!!



Birthday greetings to Glenda, Patti and Ranika!



Group picture

Topics covered during the gathering:

- Membership dues \$25.00 due September 30, 2024 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year
- Budget update by Treasurer Shirley Combass (See email Treasury report)
- Update and Nominations and Elections. Elections to be held at the Sept 19th gathering. Mail in ballots will be sent out to members in good standing who request them
- VP Paula Hubert informed members that the newly created Advisory Council will have the first meeting when the new committee chairs are identified.
- Sandi Smith Anderson provided an overview of the proposal form to be completed when requesting approval from the E Board for an activity or event. The form will be available via email.

Current Officers



**Audrey Alexander,
President**



**Paula Hubert,
Vice-President**



**Shirley Combass,
Treasurer**



**Sandi Smith Anderson,
Secretary**



**Pia Woodley,
Parliamentarian**

Upcoming Elections

Nominations for the Vice-President and Treasurer are in. Ballots will be distributed to members in good standing which means that membership dues were

paid for 2023-2024. Voting will take place at the September 19th gathering or mail in ballot for those who requested it.

Duties for upcoming elected positions:

Vice President-

- Presides at E board and membership meetings in the absence of the President.
- Chair of the Advisory Council (Advisory Council consists of Public Information Officer, Armed Forces Liaison, Historian, Chairs of Membership, Standing and Ad Hoc committees).

- Submit proposals and recommendations from members to the Eboard for review and discussion.

Treasurer-

- Responsible for maintenance of Women Veterans Unite financial records, receipts and disbursements of organization funds and collection of organization dues.
- Work with an independent financial auditor at the close of the fiscal year (September 30) to review all records of the organization.
- Be an authorized representative on the WVU bank account (along with President and Secretary).
- Chair the Budget Committee

Committees

The committee options include:

Membership-

Budget and Finance

Bylaws/Nomination and Elections

Fundraising- (coordinating fundraisers, donations and sponsors)

Public Relations/Marketing

Technology

Hospitality (Obtaining meal donations for the monthly gatherings)

Community Service and Outreach

National Observances

Please submit your interest in participating in a committee to womenvunite@gmail.com



Membership dues
\$25

Armed Forces Liaison position available.

This position provides an opportunity to network in the community, continuing the mission of educating the public about women veterans.

If interested contact the E Board.

womenvunite@gmail.com

Resources

Vanessa Thomas, State Women Veterans Coordinator for FDVA (Florida Department of Veterans Affairs)



Vanessa Thomas, FDVA

Vanessa works closely with Sharon Brooks who is the WVU regional representative for the Florida Women Veterans Advisory Council. Need help with disability claims? Contact Sharon at **850-728-0067**



Sharon Brooks, Florida Women Veterans Advisory Council rep

Felecia Brown, BJJ Missions, Inc. A former homeless Army veteran Felecia has a mission to provide transitional and permanent housing for homeless veterans and their families. **FREE**

Contact Felecia at 832-316-7475

www.bojohnsongirls.com



Felecia Brown

Debra Mann works for DAV. Her office is at the VA clinic.

DAV Debra Mann
850-272-6170
Disability Claims



Debbie Mann

Veterans Legal Collaborative-FREE legal information and help with disability or homeless issues meets every Thursday from 3 pm to 5 pm at the American Legion Hall Lake Ella Drive. Walk in encouraged.

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program
Brooklyn Enders
443-621-0579
Job information and retraining



Brooklyn Enders, DVOP



American Legion



Cindy Laskowski,
Commander, Sauls-
Bridges #13 American
Legion Post



Lynette Halter hosting
Game night at her
residence
Thursday Aug 29
Thursday Sept 5

7 pm

Lynette serves wine and
tea. Some people bring
snacks
The goal: TO PLAY!

Address: 1515 Paul Russell
Road in the Village Square
Townhouses. Using GPS
will get you lost. The
complex is on the corner
of Paul Russell Road and
Old St. Augustine. #61

Call/text Lynette for
more info
850-405-0246



If you want to send, get well wishes to Muriel:
Muriel Kweyama
3980 Bobbin Brook Circle
East
Tallahassee, FL 32312



Best wishes to Donna Newton Lett Kittrell and Gwen Jamerson, formerly Membership Chair and committee on their new adventure moving to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Thank

you for all your help coordinating membership.

Pope Museum, Cairo, GA

Laura Pope Forrester, a self-taught artist, created an impressive museum at her home with over 200 sculptures and mesmerizing murals, signifying her artistic brilliance and early feminist beliefs. Born in 1873 as Cordelia Atkinson, Laura initially came from a location close to her museum, where she resided for most of her life. Her journey began in 1894 when she married her schoolteacher, Benjamin Hill Pope, and later, Julian Forrester in 1914 after Benjamin's tragic passing in 1911.

Laura's house, constructed in 1854, became her canvas as she expanded and transformed it over time, adding stories and sculptures. Her unwavering dedication to her close-knit Grady County community is evident through her artwork. Her story is not only an inspiration but also a testament to her innate artistic talent and her early feminist stance. She is considered one of the oldest self-taught outsider artists, a term that may be unfamiliar to many, referring to artists unrecognized by the mainstream art community during their active period.

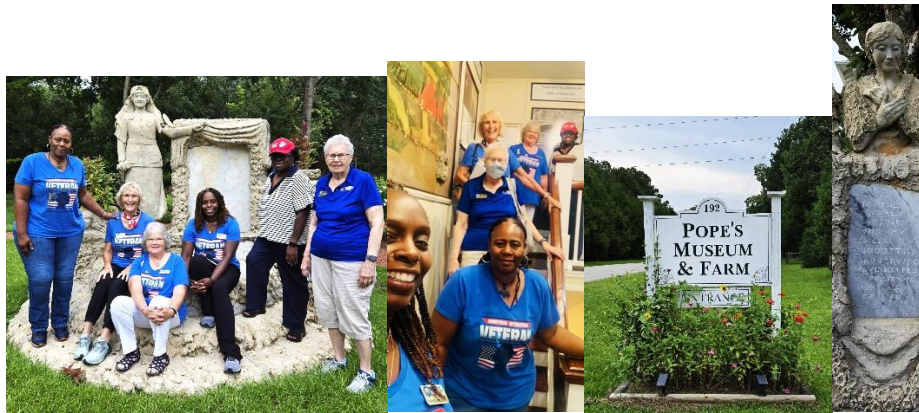
Laura's work comprises over 200 sculptures, including a 15-foot high, hundred-foot-long entry gate serving as a World War II memorial. She honored women in uniform way before women were recognized as veterans. On the western side of her property, she carved the names of local soldiers who didn't return from war onto marble slabs, providing a place for local families to pay tribute to their ancestors.

Her artwork not only holds historical significance but also carries a profound artistic message, emphasizing the power of determination to break through societal barriers and norms. ***With that in mind, current curator, Michelle Dean began a project to build a monument/mural on the property dedicated solely to women in the military, women veterans! Michelle wanted to collaborate with women veterans about some of her ideas.***

Women's History

In essence, Laura Pope Forrester's life and art epitomize the enduring and foundational truths of human skills and gifts. Her museum, Pope's Museum, remains a clarion call, resonating with its message of equality, enduring through time.

Group from WVU visiting Pope Museum and brainstorming with Michelle Dean.



Recently, Laura Pope Forrester and the Pope's Museum was selected for a Georgia Historical Society marker. When completed, this state and national site will be in the curriculum of Georgia public school students. Cultural tourists often use the historical marker program to plan their road trips. It takes about 12 months to finalize the process and create the signs but, in the meantime, share with your friends and family. Unveiling and dedication ceremony will be held May 17, 2025.

Lynette Halter is organizing a group to visit the museum on Saturday, August 31, 2024. It takes about a hour. She will need to make a reservation for them to open so let her know ASAP if you would like to go.

Admission \$12 Children under 10 \$7

Meet at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church on Thomasville Rd.

Park as close as you can to Capital Circle on the right side of their driveway.

Lynette suggests going to lunch at El Tarasco.

Museum address: 192 Popes Store Road Ochlocknee, GA 31773

www.Popesmuseum.org

Upcoming Events in September

Wednesday **September 4, 2024** Commander's Coalition 10 am American Legion Hall

Thursday **September 5, 2024** At Ease Campground and Marina Meet and Greet.
Hosting a Blood drive 5pm to 8 pm

Tuesday **September 17, 2024** 7 pm E Board WVU Zoom

Thursday **September 19, 2024** WVU monthly gathering: Elections and Fellowship

September 20: The POW/MIA Ceremony will be held on the west side of the Administration Building at the Tallahassee National Cemetery on Friday, September 20, 2024, at 8 p.m.

September 25: Final Salute will be held at Committal Shelter #1 at the Tallahassee National Cemetery on Wednesday, September 25 at 3 p.m. Final Salute Service is a quarterly ceremony that pays tribute to the service and sacrifice of all unclaimed or unaccompanied veterans as well as veterans who were laid to rest without the rendering of military honors. Family and friends of veterans who were laid to rest without military honors, members of Veteran Service Organizations, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Looking ahead to October

October 18-20, 2024 2nd annual Cabin Camping retreat at At Ease Campground and Marina



Pictures from 2023 October Retreat

Sunset cruises, fishing, kayaking, hiking, bon fires, food, massage and more.

\$30 for the weekend which includes lodging, food, and all activities.

Payment is due before the weekend so we can provide Patti and Don Fabian, owners, with the number of people attending.

The cabins have a 3-person capacity so you will be rooming with someone.

Payment to Shirley Combass, Treasurer. Cash, check, Cash App.

Sponsors



Sherlock Springs Sherlock Springs may be North Florida's best kept secret. This sprawling nature retreat, event venue and environmental educational facility is in Crawfordville, Wakulla County about 15 miles south of Tallahassee, FL. Owner/operator Rich Abrams champions veterans and graciously offers WVU the venue for the fourth year in a row.



VyStar was founded in 1952 as the JAX Navy Federal Credit Union at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. Our goal was to serve the financial needs of military service members, civil service employees and their families.



Pam Moyer at **Haven Spa** provides half spa day as a prize for the WVU fundraiser.



INSURANCE • BONDS **Earl Bacon Agency** is one of the oldest and largest independent insurance agencies in North Florida providing business and family insurance services. Robert Bacon, CEO. Robert and his daughter Lauren have sponsored WVU for three years. They are the agents for the WVU event insurance.



A trusted Nissan dealer in Tallahassee, **Kraft Nissan** is known for its exceptional customer service including a wide selection of vehicles, helpful financial experts and trained service technicians. They pride themselves in their commitment to the community and welcome partnerships with local organizations.



Best convenience store and gas station. Bringing everyone amazing moments.



Mission BBQ always ready to feed veterans and first responders.



BARBRA BOUTIN Barbra Boutin is the daughter of Jack Richard Bayer, Vietnam Veteran, 183rd Airborne Brigade who served as a medic in the United States Army. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Jack's honor. Barbra is a multi-million-dollar Florida licensed Real Estate Advisor and Broker Associate with Engel & Völkers serving Greater Tallahassee.



The ALA answers the call of *Service Not Self*. They are the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The

American Legion. Some are veterans themselves. The American Legion, the ALA has grown to be one of the largest veterans' support organizations. Nell Hewitt, President of Tallahassee ALA #13.



The **NSDAR (National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution)** is a nonprofit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. **FT San Luis Chapter, DAR** Regent Becky Berensten.



Vietnam Veterans of Big Bend Chapter 96 works with other veteran organizations to provide veterans with services that enhance their health. Joe West, President



Healthy Trak-Karen Bauer, RN, MS, Wellness Coordinator. Juice Plus Rep-because no one eats the recommended daily number of fruits, vegetables, and berries.

Donors and Supporters Tallahassee Chinese Medicine Parrotheads of Tallahassee Charles Mohr
Maggie Finch Helen Wohlrab Savour Restaurant