



# DISTRICT 23 DISPATCH

*Published specifically for the members of Department of Alabama District 23*

**Spring 2024**

Volume III Issue II

## In This Issue

Convention Agenda	2-3
Commander's Desk Blue Star Salute Ride	4
Meeting Directions	5
Legion & District Activities	6-9

## *Alabama Department State Convention 2024* *June 20-23, 2024*

The annual Department Convention will be held in Montgomery at the Embassy Suites June 20, through June 23, 2024.

Room rates are \$139.00 and \$275.00 for hospitality suites. The cutoff for reservations is May 29, 2024. Please call 334-269-5055 or 1800-EMBASSY. Our reservation code is ALC.

### **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

All Legionnaires, especially Post Commanders, Adjutants and Officers, are strongly encouraged to attend this year's Department Convention on 20-22 June 2024 at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery, AL.

The Department Convention is a time to elect next year's Department leaders. It is also the time when our Division caucuses. Your votes are important to the success of the Department of Alabama. Our National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer, will be in attendance. Also, the Department has been listening to Legionnaires' comments has made training and the information presented more meaningful and relevant to our Post operations. Be sure to register using this form: [CALL TO CONVENTION \(legional.org\)](https://legional.org).



# TAL Convention Agenda

## June 20-24, 2024

### Thursday, June 20, 2024

- 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Legion Store **State**
- 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Registration
- 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Legion Training **ABC**
  - 12:00 pm New Officer Training Don Madden
  - 1:00 pm Mentorship James Bryant
  - 2:00 pm Oratorical Contest Willie Rogers
  - 3:00 pm New Member Train. #2 Rico Hall/Paul Gonthier
  - 4:30 pm Discipline/Trials Tony Berenotto
- 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm: ALR Officer Meetings **ABC**
- 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm: Auxiliary Meetings **DEF2**
- 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Trivia - Everyone is welcomed **Capitol**
- 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm: Poker Tournament 50/50 **Governor's Room**

### Friday, June 21, 2024

- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm: Registration
- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm: Legion Store **State**
- 9:00 am to 11:30 am: Joint Session
- 10:00 am to 3:00 pm: Blood Drive **Governor's Room**
- 11:30 am to 12:45 pm: Lunch
- 11:30 am to 12:45 pm: 100% LEG Luncheon **Restaurant**
- 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Auxiliary Meetings **DEF2**
- 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Legion Meeting **ABC1**
  - Membership Awards
  - Adoption of Rules
  - Constitution and Bylaws Changes
  - Credentials Report
  - Resolutions Accepted
  - SAL Cmdr. Report
  - LEG NEC Report
  - LEG Cmdr. Report
- 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm: LEG Finance Meeting **ABC1**
- 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm: LEG College Alumni Assoc. **Capitol II**
- 6:30 pm: 20-4 Assoc. Meeting **Capitol II**

Tentative Agenda as of 2/28/2024

**Saturday, June 22, 2024**

- 7:00 am to 8:30 am: Boys State Breakfast **MEPS Room**
- 8:00 am to NOON: Registration
- 8:00 am to NOON: Legion Store **State**
- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm: Auxiliary Meetings **DEF2**
- 9:00 am to 4:00 pm: SAL Meetings **Capitol BR**
- 9:00 am to 10:00 am: Legion Meetings **ABC1**
- Oratorical Report Willie Rogers
- Jr. Shooting Report Anthony Kissik
- Boy Scout Report Jeremy Blevins
- ALR Report Tony Berenotto
- Baseball Report Alan Phillips
- Boys State Report Judge Johnson
- 10:30 am to 11:30 am: 1<sup>st</sup> Div Caucus **Governor**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Div Caucus **State**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Div Caucus **ABC1**
- 11:30 am to 12:45 pm: Lunch
- 12:00 NOON: LEG Resolution Deadline
- 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Legion Election **ABC1**
- 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm: ALR Meetings **ABC1**
- 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm: LEG Installation **Atrium**
- 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm: Banquet **Ballroom**

**Sunday, June 23, 2024**

- 8:30 am to 10:00 am Memorial Service **Capitol BR**  
& Post Everlasting
- 10:30 am LEG DEC Meeting **Capitol BR**
- 10:30 am AUX Meeting **DEF1**

*Message From the Commander's Desk*  
*Charles Duncan*



Greetings fellow District legionaries. I hope all of you are doing well. This is the last newsletter for this year. We had some successes and some shortcomings. Most of us didn't reach our 100% goal but most came close. I want to thank you for your effort.

There is still time to add to this years total but it is also time to start working on next years membership. As soon as you elect your new officers, I would task my 1st Vice commander with forming a membership committee to start working on retention and new members.

It's also time to decide what kind of Post you want to be. An inactive post that is only a club for certain members or a Post that is actively involved in the community and does things that bring recognition to your post as one that supports the community and veterans. Our goal next year is to give you all the tools we can to help your Post grow and become a valued member of your community. This will also make your job of recruiting new members easier. Let us all strive to grow and be more involved in the coming year.

Again thanks for what was accomplished this past year and I look forward to what the new year brings.

If you are having problems, just ask for assistance. We are more than willing to assist you any way we can.

*See you at the meeting*

*Charles Duncan*  
*23rd District Commander*  
[cduncan67@yahoo.com](mailto:cduncan67@yahoo.com)  
1(205) 910-3258



**Blue Star Salute Foundations Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joel Adkins Charity Ride.**

The ride started Saturday on May 4, 2024 9 AM at Pelham Heart of Dixie Harley-Davidson. The Motorcycle Ride raises funds for the Joel Adkins Veterans Assistance Fund providing assistance to Veterans & their families in need. Members of the community, local Posts, Patriot Guard participated in this event.





*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](mailto: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***

**Spring District 23 Meeting 2024**

**When:** Saturday May 11, 2024  
9:00 am-12:00 pm

**Where:** Goodwin-Lee Post 138  
Alabaster Veterans Center  
127 1st St SW  
Alabaster, AL 35007



**Directions to Meeting Location**

**The American Legion Goodwin-Lee Post 138**

Exit I-65 at 238 on to Highway 31 North towards Birmingham. Continue through Alabaster to 2nd PL NW streets Alabaster Police HQ. Turn on to 2nd PL NW cross the railroad tracks to the first building on the right, Alabaster Veterans Center(Annex)

***District 23 Elections in May 2023***

The 23<sup>rd</sup> District elections for Commander, Vice Commander, and Department Executive Committeeman (DEC) will be held at the final District meeting on 11May 2023. All other District positions are appointed by the incoming District Commander.

*Nominations will be accepted from the floor.*

*Matthew Blount Post 555  
Pelham, AL Alabama*

**MATTHEW BLOUNT SQUADRON 555  
TRIPLE NICKEL LEGION FAMILY  
VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR  
OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday 9 March, 2024 - 10:00-16:00  
Pelham Senior Center - 50 Barquet Club Pkwy - Pelham, AL

**VA Programs On Hand:**

- Primary Care - Outreach
- Women's Health - VHT
- Suicide Prevention
- Homeless Program
- Peer Support
- Veterans Experience
- VA Mobile Homeless Medical Unit

**Great resources from:**

- Blue Star Salute Foundation - SCALING
- Service Dogs of AL - Lakeshore
- Captain Call - And more!

**Learn about Legion Family Programs and Partners:**

- Post 555 - SAL Squadron 555 - Boys State
- Oratorical - Junior Shooters
- Texas Roadhouse - Margarita Grill - And more!!!

Icons: FOOD DRIVE, BLOOD DRIVE, SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION, AMERICAN LEGION



*Student Character Awards  
American Village - April 18, 2024*

*Post Holds Everlasting Ceremony for  
Six of its Fallen Comrades.*



Post 555 held its Student Character Award Banquet to recognize Shelby County students with high academic achievements and displayed high character during the last quarter.



*District 23/Spring 2024*

*Post 45*  
*Sylacauga, Alabama*

**Typical Tuesday morning breakfast at Post 45.**  
**Social and all Veterans are invited.**  
**We eat at 7:30 am.**



*Post 138 Cleans Up Local Cemetery*

Legionnaires Trenton Agee, Jim Tyson, and Paul Gonther, of Goodwin-Lee Post 138 in Alabaster teamed up with the local Thompson High School Television and Broadcasting Club to clean up a local cemetery hidden in plain sight within an Alabaster neighborhood.

The Summerbrook Homeowners Association (HOA) was deeded a small cemetery back in the 1970's. Over the years, the cemetery headstones have been broken apart due to weather and vandalism, but there are still several intact, including a Veteran of the War of 1812. Post 138 will place a flag on this Soldier's grave for Memorial Day.

"To be a part of this special place, and to have our youth from the local high school assist us with the cleanup of leaves, sticks and trash", remarked Jim Tyson, "made us all so proud and honored".





# Department Oratorical Finals



The Department of Alabama American Legion announces the winner of the 2024 State Oratorical Scholarship, Prattville High School senior, Mr. Caden Walker. The contest was held on Saturday, March 30th, at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Competing against finalists from Hoover and Huntsville, Alabama, Walker displayed exceptional oratory skills securing his spot as the state champion. Mr. Walker impressed the judges with his prepared oration, "The Constitution- Literated, Lived and Learned". Securing second place was Ms. Baylin Murphy and placing third was Mr. Thomas Fleming.



Mr. Walker now advances to the national stage, where he will represent The Department of Alabama against the best and brightest orators from across the nation and six foreign countries. The winner will receive \$25,000. scholarship.

The American Legion National Oratorical competition is scheduled to take place at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale Michigan, May 17-19, 2024.

Mr. Walker and his parents would like to thank the American Legion members of the 3rd Division, 32nd District, Americans Legion Post 122, and Veterans of Foreign War Post 1349 who volunteered their time, expertise, suggestions, and coaching.

Click here to view pictures from the weekend. <https://smugmug.link/hruawUumHnFe8dim8>

*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](mailto:ron.koonce@gmail.com)

Copyright 2023

American Legion Alabama District 23