



# DISTRICT 23 DISPATCH

Published specifically for the members of Department of Alabama District 23

Summer 2024

Volume III Issue III

## In This Issue

Convention Review	1
Commander's Desk	2
Meeting Directions	3
Legion & District Activities	4-10
Alabama National Cemetery	

## 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

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



Embassy Suites- Montgomery, AL



Posts with 100% Membership



District 21 Color Guard



2025 Officer Installation by National Commander



2025 State Judge Advocate  
Tom Long





## Message From the Commander's Desk Charles Duncan

Greetings to all.

I hope all of you had a good 4th and a month off from me bugging you. We are now in the second week of our new legion year. I have a few things to bring to you to start the new year.

First is our District meetings. I expect all Commanders and Adjutants along with all District Officers to attend all District meetings. I put out the schedule at our last meeting but I am going to repeat it for you.

**Aug. 17,2024 Post 131**, 194 Washington St. Columbiana, AL 35051

**Nov. 2,2024 Post 45**, 8 Hammett Dr. Sylacauga, AL

**Feb. 2025** Will be either the 8th or 15th place to be determined. Based on Oratorical contests.

**May 17, 2025 Post 138** 127 1st Street SW, Alabaster, AL 35007.

Please place these dates on your calendar now so you can plan for them.

Next is membership. We eased off a little last year on staying on you about membership but it is going to be a major emphasis this year. Our goal is the same, all Posts at 100% by Dec. 31. I would suggest that you first appoint a Membership team with the First Vice as head of the team. Spend the first part of the year working on renewals then the later part you can emphasize new members. My District Vice Commander has been tasked to work with each Post membership team through the year to offer what assistance you may need to meet your goals. I also want you be ready to report on your membership status at each District meeting. More on this later.

### Be the One

This is still a major emphasis for me. National is still pushing it and it should be a continuous emphasis. I would suggest you breaking down your membership list into groups and assign a person to each group to call at least every other month, more often if they are in bad health. Don't use this as a request for dues or coming to meetings, just a call to check on their welfare and if they have any needs.

### Communication

You have my email and phone number at the bottom. If you have any problems or need any help or just a question don't hesitate to contact me. Also I would like to see more Post to Post communications. We are not fighting each other, we all should have the same main goals, we just use different methods to meet them. By communicating with each other, we may learn new ideas, try it.

Finely, I want each Post to send me a list of current Commanders and Adjutants along with their address, phone # and email. Also Post meeting place address and meeting times. I want to verify I have correct info on your Post for my use and to help correct information at Department.

Thank you for your service to our veterans and country.

Will see you in Columbiana on August 17 at 9:00 AM.

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





## 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*  
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alabama23district](https://www.facebook.com/alabama23district)

## *Next District Meeting*

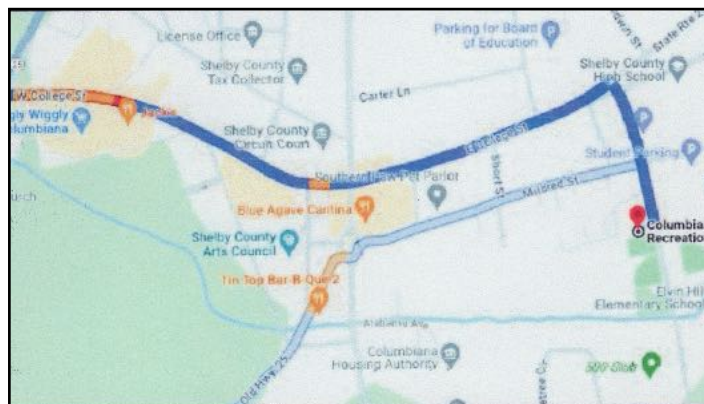
### Spring District 23 Meeting 2024

**When:** Aug. 17, 2024  
9:00 am-12:00 pm

**Where:** Post 131, 194 Washington St.  
Columbiana Recreation Center  
Columbiana, AL 35051

#### **Directions**

**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*

**Matthew Blount Post 555  
2025 Officers**



L-R: Oratorical Chair, Jerry McInain; 1st Vice Commander Skip Mize; 2nd Vice Commander, Dorian Ross; Adjutant, Nancy Waller; Finance Officer, Ron Koonce; Commander, Bill Blank; Judge Advocate, Tom Long; Chaplain, Joe Dunn; Service Officer, Curtis Orse; Auxiliary Coordinator, Vashone Smith; Trustee/School Award Chair, Frank Lakotich; Trustee, Tom McDaniel.

**Sons of The American Legion  
Matthew Blount Squadron 555  
2024-2025 Officers**



L-R: 2nd Vice Commander, Bill Blank; Commander, Don Walker; 1st Vice Commander, Skip Mize; Adjutant/ Finance Officer, Ron Koonce.

**First Responders of the Year**



Ronald Bowen- Pelham Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



Tyler Posten- Alabaster Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



Jessie Woodard- Shelby County Deputy Sheriff of the Year.



George Ingleright, Jr.- Pelham Firefighter Officer of the Year.



Stephanie Morris- Pelham Public Safety Telecommunicator of the Year.  
Morris also received this award from the Alabama Department .

## Matthew Blount Post 555

Pelham, AL



Tom Long receives Post 555 2024  
Legionnaire of the Year.

## American Legion Alabama Boys State 2024



The 87th Annual Alabama American Legion Boys State was held at Troy University from May 26 to June 1. Young men from all over Alabama arrived to participate in the week-long program which featured hands-on practical experience in forming and running a model state government. Delegates are recommended and selected based on their character, leadership, moral conviction, and work ethic. The American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555 proudly sponsored four delegates from local area high schools.

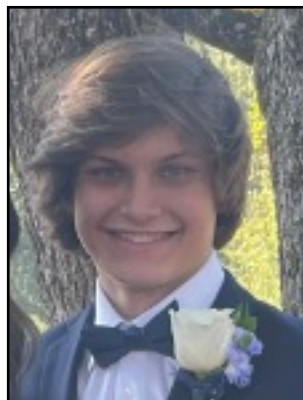
The young men are all appreciative of being sponsored by Post 555 and are honored that they were selected to attend. During this activity-packed event, the boys have

very little downtime. They were tasked with forming city and state governments. Separated into two fictional parties, they developed political platforms, created budgets, and passed legislation. The boys enjoyed the challenge as well as spending time with other like-minded students.

The delegates from Post 555 this year were Grant Gillespie and Nicholas Varvoutis from Oak Mountain High School, Cliff Windham from Pelham High School, and Thomas Graham from Cornerstone Christian School.



Grant Gillespie



Thomas Graham



Nicholas Varvoutis



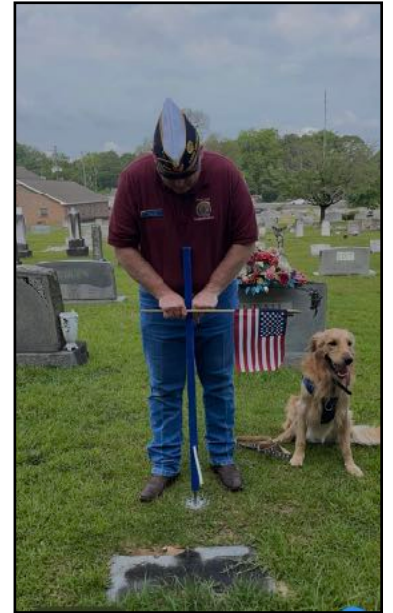
Cliff Windham



*Goodwin-Lee Post 138*

*Alabaster, AL*

American Legion Goodwin-Lee Post 138 and Scout Troop 20, along with Cub Pack 394, honored Alabaster Veterans who sacrificed for our freedom from the War of 1812 to the present by placing flags at Elliottsville and Siluria Cemeteries. It is a privilege to command such a dedicated group.





## *Alabaster Library's Reads and Deeds program.*

CDR Layton of Alabaster Post 138 was invited to do a community presentation for the participants of the Alabaster Library's Reads and Deeds program. The summer reading program serves as a way to engage children who are out of school for the summer in reading and active volunteerism in the community. CDR Layton was able to share all of the ways she volunteers in the community and the importance of the American Legion. She was also able to address stereotypes of women who chose to join the military and encourage both the young men and women to look into the varieties of opportunities that all the service branches offer. At the end of the presentation, she was presented with fleece hats and scarves the participants made for Veterans in need. These were donated along with hygiene items provided by the Oak Mountain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to the Homeless Veteran Clinic led by Dr. Stefan Kertesz at the Birmingham VA Health Care System.



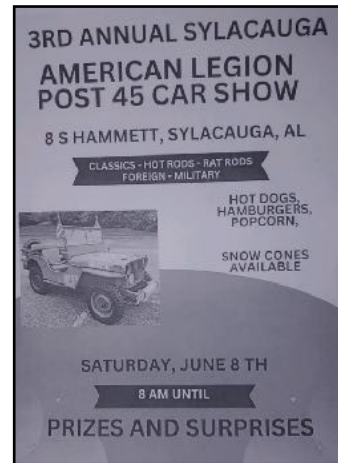


*Post 45 - Sylacauga, AL*

*Memorial Day Ceremonies*



*Successful Annual Car Show Post 45/Vietnam Vets Chapter 945*







# Alabama National Cemetery



## Grave Flag Placement



## Memorial Day Ceremonies



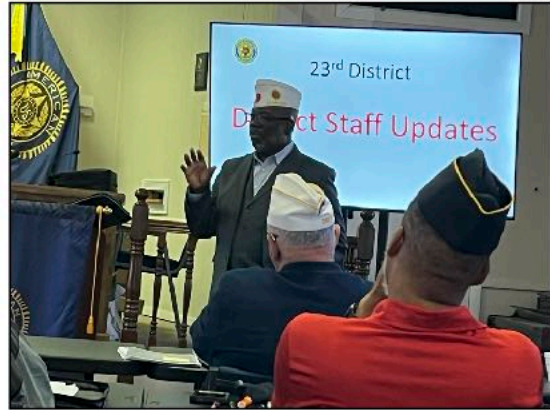
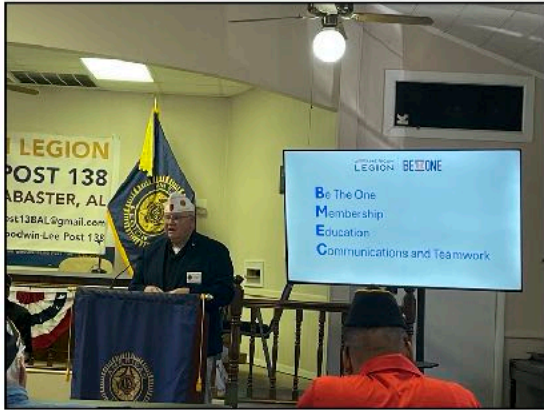
Select links below to view additional photos

[Flag Placement](#)

[Memorial Day Ceremonies](#)



# District 23 Spring Meeting







## *Share Your Post Activities*

*Other District Posts would like to know what great things you are doing for Veterans and Community*



KEEP THE LEGION  
STRONG

*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)*

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*American Legion Alabama District 23*