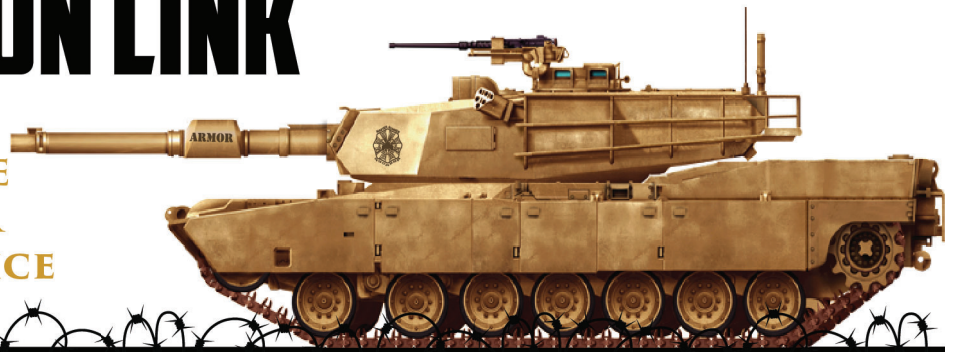




# THE LEGION LINK

★ SERVICE  
★ HONOR  
★ SACRIFICE



JUNE 2020

COMMANDER WILLIAM "RICK" JOHNSON VOLUME 28 ISSUE XI

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### From your Department Commander Rick Johnson

**Rick Johnson, Commander**  
[commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:commander@floridalegion.org)



I hope this finds everyone safe and in place. May has been a very busy month for the Department and staff, trying to do the right thing for the Legion family. I have been in weekly communications with

the family leadership during these trying times that we have been facing. A lot of great information has been discussed and done as a team.

We are doing well on membership as a state and a team. The chairmen have been doing their best to assist the District Commanders to accomplish their goals. Some Districts did not want any help and the numbers show that.

There have been numerous Posts around the state that have opened up during Phase 1, putting their posts in jeopardy of fines and jail time. I pray that no one gets sick from these premature openings and god forbid, passes away. We have put out the guidelines given to us from the Governor statewide, please follow those guidelines.

I have written the Governor in regard to us to try to reopen, but have not received a response back yet. Do not put your charter or members in jeopardy. We will all get there together and as a team will be even stronger.

PLEASE get your CPRs done before June 15th and if you need any help, please ask for it and we will assist you in getting the reports done. We will be having a virtual awards ceremony, OPERATION: Six Feet Apart, to announce all the winners in different categories that have received awards for the 2019-2020 year. We ask that our officers, area/district commanders, and chairmen please submit videos as outlined in a letter previously sent. Membership cards are in, and a plan will be put together very soon to get those out NO cards will be sent out until all the paperwork has been filled out and submitted to Department.

Congrats to the 6th District and the 15th District for being race to the top winners for their categories, they will be recognized at the 2021 National Convention. Job well done. You have a great team behind the scenes who are constantly working to keep us going. A big round of applause to all of them. As we move forward to another year, let's please work together to assist

*Continued on page 2 >>*



<< Commander - Continued from Page 1

everyone who needs guidance and help to reopen and return to somewhat normalcy in our lives.

Please be safe out there and as we will reopen soon, please use common sense and do not put anybody in jeopardy. Do the right thing in good faith and we will not have a problem out there. PLEASE stay safe as me and my wife are praying for this

*Congratulations!*

**Eunice Butts, 2nd Vice Commander**

[2ndvice@legionmail.org](mailto:2ndvice@legionmail.org)



This has been a very challenging, interesting, educational and rewarding year. Congratulations to 15th District Commander Bruce Carl for being the first

district to make 100% in membership. Central area is holding in second place in department. To all area, district and post commanders, thank you for your hard work and efforts in membership. It really paid off. The following post made 100% by 15 May 2020. 7th district (post 34, 15 and 339).

8th district (post 413, 317, 11, 30, 325, 254 and 24). 13th district (post 411, 192 and 404). 15th district (post 26, 147, 186, 389, 5, 99, 108, 334, 111, 278, 246, 167, 138 and 139). 16th district (post 275, 158, 273, 79 and 238)

to end and get back to some normalcy in the future.

God speed to everyone and God Bless the World through these hard times. Way too many lives had been lost and prayers to all the families.

Stay calm and calm will follow you. I look forward to seeing everyone again real soon. **Service. Honor. Sacrifice.**

I am very proud of all posts in zone 2.

To the post I visited; thanks for your gracious hospitality and sharing your post programs and history. To the post commanders/ adjutants I called by phone; thank you for sharing your post status, programs and activities. You are doing a great job. I encourage all post to keep up the good works.

From March 2020 to present, I am very impressed with the work your posts are doing during these trying times. Even though we do not see each other, I keep up with your activities in the community. Feeding the homeless, those who have lost their jobs, nurses, doctors, etc. Making donations of food, etc. to the food banks. Volunteering and seeing to it that our children and youth are receiving food daily. And the list goes on and on. Even though the post is closed, you continue to carry out the mission of The American Legion as a family.

By now all the CPR's and department addendums should be in. also, put in for

JUNE 2020	
6	D-Day (1944)
6	District 4 Zoom Meeting
10	100% Membership Goal
14	U.S. Army Birthday
14	Flag Day
16	CPR & Addendum Due
16	Post Information & Officer Report Due
16	Certification of Service (Post Officers) Due
20	American Eagle Day
21	Father's Day
21-30	Warrior Games Begin
23	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
25	Korean War Start (1950)
27	PTSD Awareness Day

Events are subject to change. Additional details can be found at [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org). We share the information we are provided, please contact Program, Area, District and Posts for additional details and events.

the various department awards. You do the programs and volunteering. Share with others. Continue to work on your membership.

Presently as I write this article, we are facing perils with the virus and fires. If you are any of your members need help contact your post or department. Start with your post and district. We are here for you and with you.

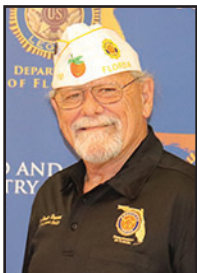
It has been an honor and privilege to work for and with you. If you should need me, remember, just call me.

*"Leadership is not about being the best. Leadership is about making everyone else better"*

*See the Light!*

**Michael Raymond, 3rd Vice Commander**

[3rdvice@legionmail.org](mailto:3rdvice@legionmail.org)



First and foremost, I'd like everyone to know I am in good health and doing well and hope everyone else is feeling the same. Some of you have seen me out there along with many others

participating in birthday rides, funeral rides and other events that I feel are essential to the well-being of our veteran community. In my opinion these are events that needed to happen now. Events for people that have been taken from us or will probably not be around much longer. Some of you may not agree with me and you have that right. We do our best to operate as safely as possible and everyone participating has accepted the risks involved.

The good news is we are on the downside of this pandemic and it shouldn't be too much longer before we are back to a degree of normalcy. The other good news is I get to do 3rd Vice again till I get it right! Seriously though, I'm sure it won't be too bad. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the "north" country. It's great to see how a lot of posts are not wasting time and making improvements that will benefit their

*Continued on page 3 >>*



<< 3rd Vice Commander - Continued from Page 2

members in the future. We still must keep our eye on the prize. Membership now is more important than ever. Department has recently sent out information regarding

accepting our 400 members automatically into your posts. Read the information and make an educated decision. I highly recommend accepting these members. CPR's are due now! Let's get them in.

They mean so much to the future of our great organization. If you need help with it, please don't hesitate to contact your District officers for help.

*Stay safe and I hope to see all of you very soon!*

*Chuck Weinberg's Memorial*

**Dennis Boland, NEC**  
[nec@legionmail.org](mailto:nec@legionmail.org)



During these trying times amid the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we as veterans still have a duty that we committed to upon our oath, when we entered the U.S.

Military.

Commitment comes in strange ways. Serving in battle brings a brotherhood together that the normal world has no conscious or concept of. A family bound by commitment to each other is at times, stronger than biological families.

No matter what job you were assigned to during your service to your country, your love and respect of those who served with you can never be diminished from your memory.

Through The American Legion we have created a family, whether it be Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, or American Legion Riders. Our main purpose is dedicating ourselves to serving our veterans and their families.

On April 25, 2020 my wife Dianne and I had the opportunity to participate and observe a most touching sight through The American Legion family.

Port Charlotte Post 110 put out the call to the Legion Family, which was answered by

almost 100 members of the 13th District Legion family. Those attending received an American flag with a small name tag with your name on it to be placed at Chuck Weinberg's, significant other, June Harbor's house.

We left Port Charlotte Post 110 with the Riders leading the way, followed by cars and trucks. Upon arrival at June's house each person would exit their vehicle and place the flag in her lawn in memory of Chuck Weinberg. You could see the joy in June's eyes and she will always cherish that memory.

We are The American Legion Family. As Country music star, Michael Peterson's song about The American Legion says, "It's not just something we do, it's who we are".

*Final Membership Push*

**Marie Conti, Northern Area Commander**  
[northernarea@legionmail.org](mailto:northernarea@legionmail.org)



Congratulations to all posts that have exceeded their 100% Membership Goal.

Now is the time for a final membership push for the 2019-2020 membership year. We are still behind the power curve.

Congratulations to J.D. Hade, winner of the Northern Area Boys State Scholarship Fund Basket of Cheer Raffle, which was

held 01 May 2020. The money that was raised this year, \$1,000, will be rolled over into a Special Northern Area Boys State Scholarship Fund in memory of my Dad John Kraemer; who was Northern Area Commander 1988-1989, for next year.

If you have not yet submitted your end of year reports, please send them in as soon as possible as they are past due. Post Officer Reports are due no later than 16 Jun 2020 to Department Headquarters.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt Thanks to all my Northern Area Chairmen, 3rd District Commander Stuart Scott, 4th District Commander Cherie Korn, 5th

District Commander Troy Horsely, 17th District Commander Hank Mangles, and all their District Officers for a Job Well Done.

17th District Commander Hank Mangles has resigned due to personal reasons. Congratulations to Jim Bowers, Post 267, who was recently appointed as 17th District Commander by the Department Commander.

Now is the time to start planning next year's programs and calendars.

Let's finish this year Strong, and be ready to continue the work of The American Legion next year.

	2nd prize <b>\$2,500</b> CASH	3rd prize <b>\$1,000</b> CASH	<b>GRAND PRIZE</b> <b>\$10,000</b> CASH	4th-5th prize <b>\$500<sup>EA</sup></b> CASH	6th-10th prize <b>\$100<sup>EA</sup></b> CASH
	Learn more at <a href="http://floridalegion.org">floridalegion.org</a>				



*In Memorium*

**Paul Bosco, Southern Area Commander**

[southernarea@legionmail.org](mailto:southernarea@legionmail.org)



It is with a saddened heart that I inform you of the passing of Jean V. Mahoney. Jean was under hospice care and went peacefully in her sleep at about 3:50 PM on Saturday, May 9, 2020 – her 97th Birthday.

When WWII began Jean joined the US Navy as a nurse and was stationed at Norfolk Naval station. Jean was a proud member of The American Legion and American

Legion Auxiliary. Jean was a member of Lake Worth Post 47 in the Eleventh District. We were honored to have had her serve as Florida's Department President in 1972-1973 Jean was also instrumental in starting the Lantana's first American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 269 in 1972, and served as Southern Division National Vice-President in 1985-1986. She will be missed by all.

Here are a few dates to remember June 4th Battle of Midway Begins 1942, June 6 D-Day 1944, June 14th Flag Day, Deadline to submit your Post Officer Report is JUNE 16th\*

- Post Officer Report – [https://www.floridalegion.org/wp-content/](https://www.floridalegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-2021-Post-Officer-Report.pdf)

[uploads/2020/03/2020-2021-Post-Officer-Report.pdf](https://www.floridalegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-2021-Post-Officer-Report.pdf)

- Please mail the form to PO Box 547859 Orlando, FL 32854 Attn: Event Coordinator

June 21 Father's Day, June 25th Start of Korean War 1950.

Remember stay safe, wear your mask, and wash your hands.

Correction from my article of May 9th district members over 70 years service.

Lowell Ryan is from Post 180  
Roy Brandow is from Post 222

*Western Area News*

**John Eden, Western Area Commander**

[westernarea@legionmail.org](mailto:westernarea@legionmail.org)



**Western Area**, just like all our Florida Areas, is in dire times with all the "stay at home", "social distancing", and "closed businesses".

We are doing our best to help our Veterans with Buddy Checks and volunteer hours with local food and supply organizations where we can. 1st and 2nd District Commanders are

working hard to get all the updates from Department and National out to all our Post Commanders.

Our biggest concern right now is how to fill **Post Officer positions for the 2020-2021 year**. Our Department Judge Advocate has given us several options and all Posts must decide on how they will do this. As you have heard, the **National and Department levels had their Executive Boards vote on keeping all Officers and Chairmen from last year**, to remain for the upcoming year due to this National Emergency Pandemic. So, this is an additional option for all our Posts, if they feel they cannot

have a legitimate election right now. You could still have anyone that wants to drop out of a position do so, and when you can have legal meetings again, vote in new replacements.

**Hopefully, having normal meetings will return by this fall.** I wish we knew when things will get back to our "new normal", but only our **All Mighty Lord** has that answer for now. I am looking forward to getting back out and visiting all our Posts in the very near future. Stay healthy and at home for now unless you have a need to travel for necessities. See ya'll soon!

*American Legion Riders*

**Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders**

[legionriders@legionmail.org](mailto:legionriders@legionmail.org)



I hope everyone is doing fine getting through the pandemic. I know it has not been easy on some of our older folks, I wish the best for you and your families.

one by one, I thought that was going to be a bad year. Then, Bob Sussan came up with this peer to peer marketing program, which kick-started our "Virtual Ride". Thank God for Jennifer Cooper, Department's Fundraising Director, as she snapped to the program and set the whole thing in motion.

This has been a real "Game Changer"! Normally, there are only 5 or 6 Districts that participate in the race for the trophy, but this year, we had representatives from all the Districts except for 2 & 11. We even had our Ohio folks participate, Thank You! Now, "Show me the Money"! A goal was

set for \$50,000 coming off the Unity Ride and the Rally. I got to tell y'all... Thank You... because as of Friday, May 22nd, it looks like we going to make it!

Many of you will be receiving incentive prizes to acknowledge your efforts during the program. **We are going to forward the incentive prizes to your District Chair for distribution.** Those details will be released soon. We are still working on the patch; we will have that ready at Fall Conference.

When this whole thing started and we were losing our PVR/SPI fundraisers

*Continued on page 5 >>*



<< *American Legion Riders - Continued from Page 4*

Many have asked me where the money has been distributed. Our Coalition presently has (6) six organizations that we have been working with: 22 Zero, Veterans Counseling Veterans, SOF Missions, K9 Line, Beach Warrior Retreat, Research and Recognition Program.

All the above organizations provide different types of support for our veterans. All of which is especially important to the over-all success of the program and helping to send veteran suicide.

**Again, Thank You for all your Efforts!**

Well, how do you think we did without the actual Unity Ride? With only 63 Chapters reporting at the time of this report; we have **3,067 members that rode 2,463,742 miles, cash donations of \$784,013 and 817,860 hours!** That is

why they call us Riders, Well Done! How are we ever going to top that?

We also have selected a Chapter of the year, guess who? Should we wait until Fall Conference to announce it?

We already have our schedule put together for next year. As you review it, you will see an added event. Jeff Hawk came up with a Car/Motorcycle show at Harley South in Kissimmee on Father's Day June 21st. More info coming. Here is our tentative schedule for next year for your review and comments:

- June 21st – Father's Day Bike/Car Show, Harley South in Kissimmee
- October – all month, Merry Go Round – For Children & Youth
- November 5-8, Fall Conference
- February 3, Wednesday - Summit Meet & Greet 6P – 8P
- February 4, 5, & 6 – Summit - Classroom,

- we may add AM Sunday for Road Captain Training
- April – all month, Round Robin, PVR/SPI
- April 18th Meet & Greet Marathon & Pensacola Fl.
- April 19th through 23rd North & South In-State Unity Rides
- April 24th In-State-Rally, Harley South Kissimmee Fl.
- June 16th – 19th, Department Convention

Need your help, do we want to move the Summit? Let us know.

Bev and I have been kicking around some ideas on how to take the riders to the next level, but to do that we are going to have to have designated committees. Please share your ideas and let us know.

Thank You for what you do, and I am proud to be the Chairman of such a great group!

*Donations are more important than ever...*

**Ray Perez, Blood Donor**  
teamperez@legionmail.org



This is the last Blood Donor Legion Link article for this year and I'm proud to say the program continues to grow with more Posts involvement and more blood drives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped us. Posts continue to schedule blood drives in the parking lots and not violating the Governor's orders. Thank you.

The need for a ready blood supply does not stop. Donated blood has a limited shelf life and needs to be replenished. **Please consider donating today.**

To protect our team members and other donors, please do not be present to donate if you have a fever. See below for our continuing safety measures.

Appointments are encouraged. Benefits of having an appointment:

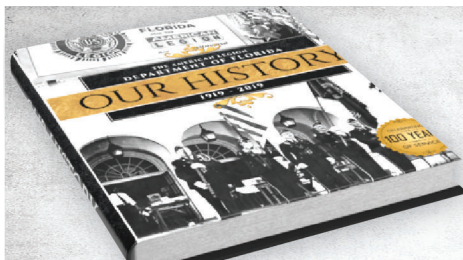
- Significantly reduces your wait time
- Helps everyone manage social distancing
- Ensures we collect enough blood each day to meet hospital needs

- Donate Now

Visit [www.oneblood.org](http://www.oneblood.org) and sign up to be a donor, you can either go to a donor center or find a big RED bus close to your home, either way please register on-line. You can make a difference! Stay tuned in for the announcement of the Best Blood Donor Program: Margaret Skaggs Memorial Award for 2020.

Rhonda and I thank all of the donors, volunteers, chairmen and Posts for their continued efforts to make the Blood Donor Program the success that has become!

**Stay safe, Wear a Mask & Keep Your Distance**



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**OUR HISTORY**  
*Celebrate 100 Years of Florida Legion history*

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*Broward County JROTC Cadet of the Year*

**Loretta Young, ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports**  
[jrotc@legionmail.org](mailto:jrotc@legionmail.org)



I would like to thank any of the JROTC Units that are able to conduct virtual programs and are able to share their experiences during this time of the COVID19 crisis that has brought the closure of the schools and the Year End Programs that would ordinarily be going on at this time. I know there were many Year End Award Ceremonies and Military Balls that have been cancelled across the state.

The Broward County JROTC Cadet of the

Year Award is an example of one of the events that was this year held by a virtual interview of all the candidates representing the 29 JROTC Units and the Entrepreneur Leadership Military Academy. I would like to congratulate the First Place Winner, C/LTC Taylor Pittman from West Broward HS, AJROTC Unit who will receive a \$1,000 Scholarship and C/LTC Adam Cohen from Everglades AJROTC Unit, Runner Up who will receive a \$750 Scholarship. There were also 6 Distinguished Awards for \$500 for cadets at Corals Springs, AFJROTC; Pompano Beach, AJROTC; Monarch AJROTC; Deerfield Beach MCJROTC; South Broward, AJROTC and Cooper City, AJROTC.

In addition, there will be other school Scholarship Awards presented to individual schools. Many thanks to all who worked

so hard to accomplish these awards and for your leadership. Also, thanks to the American Legion Posts that support this very important Youth Program that continues to support the Motto: "to build better citizens". These young people will be our future leaders and we wish them much success. This is the end of the year for this semester and all summer programs are also cancelled so there will not be further activities to report on an educational level.

I would like to thank Cmdr. Rick Johnson for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department ROTC/JSSP Chairman this year and as always, it has been a pleasure and joy to work with our youth, many instructors and posts who take pride in our youth programs.

*What next lies ahead for our First Responders*

**Daryl Bass, Law & Order**  
[laworder@legionmail.org](mailto:laworder@legionmail.org)



These last several months have been a challenge not only for us and our families, but for those standing on the line every day. That of our first responders. Police, Fire Rescue, Paramedics, State Troopers, even our Military Service Personnel have been working overtime during this Covid-19 Pandemic. Every day I have heard from the News that a Police Officer, Fire Fighter, Paramedic, Nurse and even Doctors has fallen to the

Covid-19 illness. We are all hopeful that we will recover, and our Legion family will be able to resume all the good works that the American Legion is known for. It will take a while for all of us to get back on our feet, but I am sure we will all rise again to the challenge.

We lost valuable time in our search last year for our Law Enforcement Officer, Fire Fighter, Paramedic due to the Pandemic and the restrictions placed upon us. With good reason it was our duty to follow the instructions given to us by our Governmental Leaders to Quarantine ourselves and our families. Our first Responders including our Health Care Professionals did not have that Luxury to do that and many paid with their lives.

Therefore, this coming year I request that all of our American Legion Post throughout Florida needs to recognize not only our First Responders (Police, Fire Fighters, and Paramedics) but our Health Care Professionals (Doctors, Nurses, P.A. s X-Ray Techs, Ect) also. We owe it to them. The American Legion is duty bound by the four pillars. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. To Wit: Service to our Military Personnel and their families is our first priority. Our Second is National Security. That includes all our citizens who by nature of their commitment to their profession of service to us as Police, Fire, Paramedic, Doctors, Nurses, and other essential personnel and by their sacrifice warrant recognition by our Honorable Organization. The American Legion.

*Thank You, Thank You, Thank You*

**Jim Ramos, Northern Membership**  
[teamramos@legionmail.org](mailto:teamramos@legionmail.org)



**Membership Plan 2019-2021 from The Department of Florida Membership Team**

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you all for helping with

membership we are doing very good, but this year is not over yet. So Please keep trying to make that 100% if you have not made it yet.

To ALL the Districts in the Northern part of Florida which are the District's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 17th . Thank you District Commander. Thank you for putting up with me and your continuous support throughout 2019-2020 year. I hope we

can continue to work together this year to make it better as a membership team. Again, Thanks

Now we need to start all over again with membership 2020-2021 (you will see it as 2019-2021), because we are the sum of the Department Membership Team. We must start with a plan to move forward and get every goal on time. Below is some idea

*Continued on page 8 >>*





## STILL FEELING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

As expected, May was another big month for financial assistance and providing emergency support to our veterans and their families during the coronavirus. Thankfully, our program has been able to accommodate to the immediate demand and **assisted over 90 veterans** who were unable to work due to the virus.

**However, we will not be able to sustain this level of support for much longer.** The program has already surpassed the amount of funding provided in 10 months than what we gave out the entire year last year.

### ***Our veterans need us! And, PROJECT: VetRelief need YOU!***

Now, more than ever, we need the support of the Legion Family to help us continue our mission of providing assistance to our service members in their time of need!

**Remember** - Commander Rick Johnson chose PROJECT: VetRelief as one of his charities. If your Post was planning to make a donation at the Department Convention, you can send it into Headquarters and contribute to his efforts.

We want to keep providing our services to veterans, active duty military and their families for years to come. In order to do that, we need everyone's continued support. Please remember we are veterans serving veterans, every day.

**The PROJECT: VetRelief Team has continued to support veterans through the coronavirus. Our Case Workers processed our highest-record number of cases. We partnered with SOF Missions to create COVID Care Kits for our veterans. As our state becomes more open, we need more fundraising events to fill the gap of funding needed due to the demand of this pandemic! Funds are needed to provide the necessary help our veterans need, even during these uncertain times.**

## FLORIDA LEGION RIDERS • REACHED THEIR GOAL!

The coronavirus, or COVID-19, did not stop the Florida American Legion Riders from raising awareness and much needed funds to end veteran suicide. The annual Unity Ride was scheduled to kick off Sunday, April 26th for a week-long journey through the entire state of Florida. However due to the current pandemic, Riders Chairman, Jim Wineland, was forced to take the ride VIRTUALLY.

All participants were asked to create a fundraising page to share with their friends and family to collect donations. The more funds they raised, the more prizes they earned.

Despite having to alter the annual Unity Ride event details, **the Legion Riders took on the challenge and collectively raised over \$55,000 for our Suicide Prevention Initiative!** The Virtual Ride also saw an increased participation of Legion Family Districts, as more people were able to get out and ride the 22-miles. Riders were also encouraged to share photos of their Rides on their social media accounts using #IRideforthe22.

Congratulations to Board Member and Florida Legion Riders Chairman Jim Wineland, Florida Legion Riders Adjutant Beverly Wooten and the entire Legion Riders Family for all their hard work to raise to End Veteran Suicide! We are overwhelmed with joy on how you all stepped up and didn't let the pandemic get in your way of supporting our veterans in their time of need.



**SUPPORT CASES**

\*Numbers reflect PVR Cases ONLY

JULY 2019 - APR 2020

**186**

families helped

**\$175,035.55**

amount distributed

<< Northern Membership- Continued from Page 6

to start with, but remember Training is everything a good membership timetable will can work with is for every Post. If you have any question Please contact me at Phone number 352-226-4370 or email at jramos149@bellsouth.net I'm here to help you and your Post be the best in the Department of Florida.

**Membership Committee at Post (need training)**

- a. Post Commander get the Adjutant and 1st vice CMDR and 1 or 2 move people to make up the Post membership team
- b. A general plan for the entire year
- c. With Legionnaires who are go-getters
- d. With goals of getting renewal, reinstatements, and new members

**Post membership campaign to reach your Goals:**

- 1. How are your present members contacted to get their dues for next year and who is responsible for doing it?
- 2. How are drop-outs to be reinstated/
- 3. How are you going to get usable information on prospective members; how are they to be contacted; by whom; and how are those selected to be taken into your post?
- 4. What publicity will be needed?
- 5. Who can be counted on to work at membership?

- 6. What awards or special recognition will be giving?
- 7. What special events will be tied in with membership, such as veterans Day, team competition, contest with other Posts, Legion Birthday observance, etc.?

**Key Points to get members:**

- 1. Reinstatements Team
- 2. Renewal team
- 3. Prospect team
- 4. New members team

**Setting the Goals: (specific dates and timetable) below**

- 1. Early what do you get? Dinner, gift, discount or some king raffle drawing
- 2. September free dinner if you have new membership card
- 3. November Veterans Day turn out and come with a new member
- 4. Christmas party (who will contact prospective new member?)
- 5. December 31, 100% for the Post or work for March 31, 100%
- 6. New year renew by Dec 31 (How about the dropouts from previous years?), as the new years Party
- 7. March Legion Birthday party or celebration (getting the last 10%)
- 8. Gathering up the loose ends (who is still unpaid?)
- 9. May 1st 100% for department awards

Post Membership Committee/ Early Planning Meeting

\*Who is on the membership team?

\*How to starts!

\*Progress checked/getting renewal members (from July 1st to September 10th) Goal 75% or more

\*Taking Up the Slack (October 1st to December 31st) Goal if possible 100%

\*Mopping Up (January 1st to March 31st) Goal 100%

\*Finishing the Job (April 1st and May 1st) Goal 100+1%

\*\*How does it work with Training the Sale person? Ask you Department Membership Team. We will come out and training your District/Posts. The more people in the training the more Post we help.

\*\*\*Key Points: Knowing the Legion, Knowing the prospects, Using sale aids, and Training in how to sell.

Make the New member a Legionnaire (Initiate in the Post officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies)

\*\*\*Recognition-- A way to say Thank you\*\*\*

*Southern Membership News*

**Ray Perez, Southern Membership**  
teamperez@legionmail.org



By the time you read this article, it will be about 13 days before 100% Goal. CPR's are complete. Most of you will have completed the elections or are in the process of doing so. The DMS Transfer form required by every Post will have been turned in. One of the hardest

processes for any Post Commander is the volunteers for Chairmanship. I realize that many of the Officers in the Posts occupy the Chairpersons for our important programs in addition to.

Consider this year, if you haven't done so already, building a Membership Team with specific details on what part of the membership process they will focus on. In my experience, the most important parts of the team begin with the Post Commander, 1st Vice Commander and the Adjutant. These positions have to work the daily functions at the Post so they need all

the help they can get. This year think of a Team Leader for Buddy Checks that also includes DMS Transfers, regular transfers, marketing and public relations. One of the most successful processes I've seen this past year are the quarterly Membership Rallies conducted by the 15th District. They're not the only ones. These have proven to get the Posts involved in Buddy Checks and they don't feel alone doing it. Classes are conducted, phone calls are made and they have fun doing it with food, drinks and contest.

*Continued on page 9>>*





<< Southern Membership- Continued from Page 8

Now let's talk about communication. After my lengthy career in the field, I spent a lot of time as a staff puke, Battalion and Brigade level in Operations. We conducted weekly staff Huddles. That communication process was key to our success. It was more laid back then what would be like your general membership meetings. It would involve your entire District Staff. I don't recommend weekly staff huddles at the District level but monthly, in between your quarterly District meetings worked for me. Even though many people are employed we managed to make it during a time that was good for everybody. So why do I emphasize communications as a membership chairman?

During the Pandemic Era that we're in, I've been a part of many virtual conferences such as Department Membership, North and South membership Meetings and one conducted by Kurt Gies and his team of Suicide Prevention. These meetings can be conducted using Free Conference Call, Zoom, Google and many more. Each of these applications has certain limitations but it is proven they work and are working for us right now starting at the Department level. We've survived 100 years; let's not let our communications fall because we don't want to think out of the box.

It is already in the works that PDC Jim Ramos and I will continue in our roles as Northern and Southern Membership Chairmen and along with the Department

Commander and the Department Staff have already started the 2020-2021 Commander's Membership and Awards Manual. When it comes out on the website every Post and every District should print one copy each at a minimum.

We are hoping that we will see each other at a Fall Conference but that has yet to be determined and by the time you read this may have been decided upon already. I pray for our Comrades, their families, our Veterans that we will be safe and act accordingly to make each other safe.

"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, and the safety of our Legion Family"

VA 3 Part Plan to Resume Full Services

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements  
veteranservices@legionmail.org



With the Pandemic going on and the possibility of slowly reopening, our posts cannot FORGET that we are HERE to still help our veterans and their families. Many of our brothers and sisters lost their jobs and are struggling more than

ever before. We must take time and check on them.

Here is the VA's 3- Part Plan to Resume Full Services for Veterans:

- The first phase, to occur within the next month, will largely consist of assessments by VA facilities to determine the risks and impact of increasing operations, such as non-emergency procedures like clinical visits and lab tests and admissions to spinal cord injury units. Officials will also explore the capacity for community health care providers to resume seeing veteran patients. In this phase, the Veterans Benefits Administration will increase virtual hearings and formulate plans to resume face-to-face

compensation and pension exams, while the National Cemetery Administration will prepare for resuming memorial services and burials that will be held later.

- Phase 2 will include expanding non-emergency procedures and medical visits to hospitals and clinics; reopening the department's Fisher Houses; resuming memorial services and burials with military honors, with limited attendance based on local conditions; and in-person services at VBA regional offices, by appointment.
- The final phase will build on others: resuming visitor access to all VA health facilities, including nursing homes, expanding services at VHA and VBA locations, and resuming all other normal operations.

The effort will largely depend on local COVID-19 conditions, including a declining number of patients with symptoms, a reduction in those testing positive and widespread availability of testing.

While the VA's Central Office has drafted a tiered plan for operations, decisions will be made at local level and may not be in line with other state or federal reopening goals, VA officials have said.

(This information for the VA's 3- Part Plan was from Military.com.)

- Membership cards will not be released to Posts until the following forms are submitted to Department:
- \*Instructions for Shipping 2021 Membership cards – Due May 31st
- CPR & Addendum - Due June 16th
- Post Information & Officer Report - Due June 16th
- Certification of Service Record of American Legion Post Officers – Due June 16th
- \*Membership cards can't be shipped to a P.O. Box address. Please make sure to provide a physical address.



May 29, 2020 100% Target Report (Currently 97.3% )		
15	Bruce Carl	105.54%
11	Johnny Castro	104.47%
12	Chris Hamrick	102.12%
6	Robert Suelter	100.84%
16	Randall McNabb	99.06%
8	Skip Felicito	98.27%
1	Lamar Carroll	97.77%
17	Jim Bowers	97.38%
4	Cherie Korn	97.24%
9	Arthur Barber	95.24%
5	Troy Horsley	94.89%
13	Brian Gehling	93.93%
7	Rick Orzechewski	90.36%
3	Stuart Scott	90.35%
2	Roger Hewitt	89.41%
14	Rocco LaPace	88.12%
Eastern	T.C. Biddle	101.4%
Central	Sid Damsgard	99.23%
Southern	Paul Bosco	96.65%
Western	John Edens	96.28%
Southwestern	Jerry Faight	95.91%
Northern	Marie Conti	95.48%
Post 400		94.33%
Post 208		87.08%



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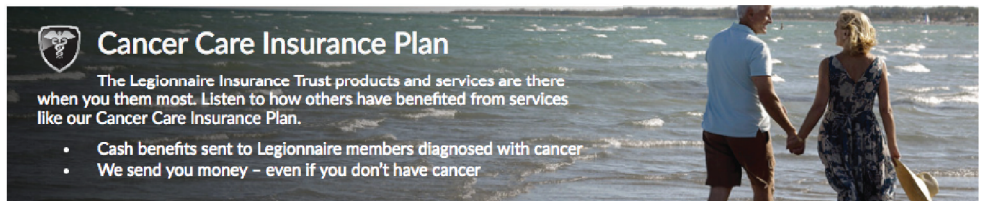
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**NEXT MEMBERSHIP GOAL**  
**100%** 6/10/2020

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# THE AMERICAN LEGION

*For God and Country*

## Memo

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DATE: June 1, 2020

TO: Post Commanders & Post Adjutants

FROM: Michael McDaniel, Department Adjutant

SUBJECT: Department Finance Committee

In accordance with Article XI, Section 12 of the Department Constitution, all newly appointed members of the Finance Committee are required to be screened by a three-person panel consisting of the Department Adjutant, Department Comptroller, and the current Department Finance Committee Chairman. This panel will identify Legionnaires best suited for this appointment and submit selected candidates to the Department Commander for final approval.

Please notify your members that there is a position open for a member to serve on The American Legion, Department of Florida Finance Committee, for a full five (5) year term or until removed by a majority vote of the Department Executive Committee.

Criteria requested:

Should have professional experience and qualifications commensurate with the appointment to this important committee, such as Corporate Chief Executive Officer, or Chief Finance Officer, Accounting or Finance, Entrepreneur or Senior Management. Experience in fundraising and membership would be a plus.

Please have anyone interested in this position submit his/her resume to [rcastleberry@floridalegion.org](mailto:rcastleberry@floridalegion.org) by June 15, 2020. Applicants will be contacted by phone as to when the interviews will be conducted.