

# The Legion Link

April 2012

Vol. 19 Issue 9



## AIMING HIGH FOR VETERANS



Web Site: [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org)

E-mail: [mail@floridalegion.org](mailto:mail@floridalegion.org)

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FALPA

**Happy  
Spring!**

**Fletcher Williams, Jr.**  
**Department Commander**  
**[Commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:Commander@floridalegion.org)**  
**407.247.5232**

As the current Legion year comes to a close, it is time to think about elections of new officers for the New Year. As you know the Department Convention (7 – 10 June 2012) has been moved up, therefore your elections will also have to be moved up. The following is taken directly from our constitution.

#### ARTICLE X, section 13 POST ORGANIZATION

"All officers of Posts, except the Post Adjutant, Post Service Officer and Post Judge Advocate, shall be elected and certified to the Department Adjutant, not more than ninety (90) days, nor less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Department Convention, certification to be made on forms furnished or prescribed by the Department Adjutant. Post Officers shall be installed by the District Commander or his/her designated representative. Post Officers shall take office and enter upon their duties at a date to be fixed by the Post, which date shall be subsequent to, but not later than sixty (60) days after the adjournment of the Annual Department Convention, unless waived in writing by the incoming District Commander. In the event of a vacancy caused by the death, resignation or removal from office, the name and address of the successor shall be reported to the Department Adjutant within one (1) week after such vacancy has been filled. No Post officer shall assume office prior to providing the Post Adjutant with proof of eligibility."

Please review this and if you have questions as it pertains to your annual election, please ask your District or Area Commander.



**AL "GUNNER" DUDLEY**  
**American Legion, Department Of Florida**  
**Vice Commander**

I want to thank everyone for all your effort in winning the Big 12 Competition from National! We still have more work to do, yet I have the utmost confidence that we will continue to be successful. We all must continue to strive on all veterans' issues and saturate the State of Florida with all the great things The American Legion stands for. Whenever you have an event contact your local paper, news media, TV station or any other source to let them know what the American Legion represents. This is accomplished from the individual Legionnaire, Post's, District's, Area's and Department. It is not one individual's responsibility. We must work together. Also, it is that time of the year to work on your Post Consolidated Reports, they are due to Department by the 28th of May! Our goal is for Florida to set the example that all the other Departments want to Emulate! Again, thank you for all you do, and thank you for all you are going to do. I wish everyone a happy and safe Easter! Remember, Divided we fall, United we stand! "REMEMBER, EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY".

**Florida American Legion Department Commander  
Fletcher Williams, Jr.  
Homecoming  
Saturday, April 28, 2012**

Where: American Legion Post 19, 2101 Lee Road, Orl. 32810

Main Contact: Lois Stachelrodt - 407-929-7161

Time: 5:00pm-9:00pm

Cocktail Hour: Assorted cheese, seasonal fruit platter, flat-breads and assorted nuts; cash bar

Dinner: Chicken Picata with Capers, Artichoke Hearts, Sun-dried Tomatoes, Oven Roasted Pork Loin with mushroom Sauce, Whipped Yukon Gold Potatoes, Golden Rice Pilaf, Italian Style Green Beans, Tossed Field Salad, Dinner Rolls and Dessert!

Recommended Hotel: Comfort Inn & Suites(\$55+tax) 2 miles away, 626 Lee Road Orlando, 32810, 407.645.5600. Don't forget to mention the American Legion! Enjoy a Free Continental Breakfast from 7am to 10:30am!

Ticket Cost: \$22 per person

Dress: Casual - 50/50 Raffle to Benefit CWF

RESERVE TICKETS BY APRIL 13, 2012

**Art Schwabe  
Department Sgt.-at-Arms**

I would like to thank the Honor Guard from Post 138 for the fine job they did at the Oratorical Contest at Headquarters. They kept things running smoothly during the contest. The Honor Guard has been helping with this contest for a number of years and has always looked sharp and very professional. Post 138 You can truly be proud of your Honor Guard for the work they do representing your Post.

Attention Sgt-at-Arms! If you wish to participate as Sgt-at-Arms during the Convention please E-mail me with the times you will be available. You will be needed on Friday from 7:30 AM till about 4:30 PM and Saturday from 7:30 till about 3:30PM . If you can help out please let me know: Sgt-at-Arms@floridalegion.org or schwabearthur@yahoo.com

NO VOLUNTEER WILL BE TURNED DOWN!!!

**WHO IS EDDIE HUMER??**

Eddie was the Department Sgt-at-Arms from 1936 till about 1956. He replaced Slim Summerfeld from Post 8 Winter Haven. Eddie was from Post 32 in Miami. He was a stickler for detail regarding the Sgt-at-Arms duties. Because of his dedication to the Department, the Sgt-at-Arms Award is named after him. Thanks to Larry Sheets for the information!



**Roster Changes through March 15, 2012**

Post #

344  
12th Dist. Law & Order Chr  
Dept. Judge Advocate  
183  
  
270  
138  
  
29  
  
91  
  
2  
3RD Dist. Vice Cmdr

New Information

Adjutant John O'Connor, 3083 Nina Ct. Merritt Island, FL 32953  
Ron Saxby, 2030 Belmont Way, Melbourne, FL 32904 cell: 321.914.9046  
Dick Mondro, 407.295.2631  
Adjutant, Karen Coll, 240 Oakhurst Street, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701  
(h) 407.339.0466 (c) 407.384.3981 [karen\\_coll@hotmail.com](mailto:karen_coll@hotmail.com)  
Commander Steven Green, [sgreen711@att.net](mailto:sgreen711@att.net)  
Post address, email and web, 5535 W Prescott St, Tampa, FL 33616  
email: [post138florida@gmail.com](mailto:post138florida@gmail.com) web: [www.orgsites.com/fl/alpost138](http://www.orgsites.com/fl/alpost138)  
Adjutant Stephen Campos, 2910 Point East Drive, M412, Aventura, FL 33160  
(h) 786.284.8512 (c) 561.212.7799 [scampos33154@com.inc.net](mailto:scampos33154@com.inc.net)  
Adjutant Mark Hilliard, 7220 SW 50th St. Bell, FL 32619 (h) 352.463.8793  
(c) 352.221.4783 [machilliard@flcrown.org](mailto:machilliard@flcrown.org)  
mailing address, 117 W Palmetto St, Wauchula, FL 33873-2638  
Jim Troupe, cell: 386.365.1695 home: 386.752.8316

*Any one who says sunshine brings happiness  
has not danced in the rain*

# 95% Goal

## April 4, 2012

Membership Report as of March 29, 2012

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Robert Kiley	9,710	9,897	101.93
4	Jay Conti	4,065	4,120	101.35
2	Homer Frailey	1,322	1,316	99.55
5	Jerry Brandt	7,405	7,305	98.65
12	Mark Johnson	8,357	8,095	96.86
3	Larry Krull	1,686	1,627	96.50
16	James Burgess	11,991	11,555	96.36
17	David Corning	4,188	4,024	96.08
14	Gary Decker	3,171	3,045	96.03
1	William Bingle	6,197	5,937	95.80
8	Debra Roush	8,284	7,922	95.63
13	Steven Slachta	8,682	8,302	95.62
9	Richard Davitt	4,390	4,146	94.44
11	Richard Smith	4,208	3,958	94.06
15	James Zipler	5,286	4,955	93.74
7	Nancy Thomas	4,002	3,744	93.55
Eastern	William Walsh	18,067	17,992	99.58
Northern	Jim Ramos	17,344	17,076	98.45
Western	Charles Lecroy	7,519	7,253	96.46
SW	Gregory Putman	16,966	16,224	95.63
Central	Charlie Wing	21,279	20,254	95.18
Southern	George Rafajko	11,769	11,149	94.73
<b>Dept</b>			<b>89,948</b>	
<b>Post 400</b>		<b>14,133</b>	<b>11,583</b>	<b>81.96</b>
<b>Post 208</b>		<b>1,697</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>119.33</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>108,656</b>	<b>103,556</b>	<b>95.31</b>

**Bob Brewster**  
**Membership Chairman**  
[membership@floridalegion.org](mailto:membership@floridalegion.org)

This year is flying past. We have at least 2 Districts already at 100% in membership. All Districts and Areas have been hitting their goals, thanks to all the hard work done at the local Posts. Let's not forget to say thank you to all the Department staff for all the hard work they do for us. As I write this article, the Department of Florida is in 8th place out of 55 Departments. We have 101,294 cards turned in to National, which places us at 93.224%. We are asking each and every member to make sure they have paid their dues this year, and talk to all of their friends to encourage them to do the same. With all the pressure put on us, the citizen's of the USA, to lower our nation's debt, let's not let the powers to be do it on our veterans' backs!

Also, please take a few moments of your time and contact your Senators and Congressmen to sign off and pass the Flag Amendment. With 2.4 million veterans wanting this to happen, let's do something about it individually and make it happen. This will be something that we will be very proud of in the years to come. When you look back at the history of the American Legion it's mind-boggling how much good we have accomplished, from writing the original G.I. Bill, and leading up to our fight to protect our flag. These are the things we need to tell our friends and neighbors as reasons they should join the American Legion. We are the largest, oldest, and best veterans organization in the world. Let's all pull together and grow our numbers so all veterans' voices will be heard in D.C.

God bless each and every one of you for what you do. We are the voice of the veterans in our community. For God and Country

### April 3rd Fun Facts

1973 - First call made on a cell phone

1965 - First nuclear reactor in space

1953 - First issue of TV Guide

1945 - Bridge on the River Kwai destroyed

1918 - American's Creed by William Tyler Page accepted by the House of Representatives: "A government of the people, by the people, for the people.....established on these principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity."

1882 - Jesse James killed

1960 - First run of the Pony Express

## **Legacy Scholarship Run**

The American Legion Riders Ad-Hoc Committee has devised a plan that will incorporate a three-day ride with a three-day expo in Indianapolis, and then culminate with the Riders leading off the annual national convention parade.

The American Legion Legacy Run Home begins Aug. 21 with the National Commander's Ride, which will start in upstate New York, the home department of National Commander Fang Wong. The American Legion Riders Expo will run from Aug. 23-25 and will feature a planned series of American Legion Rider social events, such as range and classroom training, Rider program development courses, skills training and Motorcycle Safety Foundation exhibitions.

The American Legion National Convention Parade will take place on Aug. 26 and lead off with American Legion Riders. All American Legion Riders are invited, and there is no registration fee.

Online registration for the 2012 event is now available: [www.legion.org/riders/registration](http://www.legion.org/riders/registration). Riders will also have the opportunity to print and send in their registration if they choose. Expo registration is free to all Commanders' Ride participants. However, riders who choose not to participate in the Ride but wish to attend the American Legion Rider Expo may register separately for a nominal fee.

Dates for all 2012 American Legion Legacy Run Home activities are:

Aug. 20 - Assembly for The American Legion Legacy Run Home near Buffalo/Niagara Falls

Aug. 21-23 - The National Commander's Ride

Aug. 23-25 - The American Legion Riders Expo, Indianapolis

Aug. 26 - The 94th Annual National Convention Parade, Indianapolis

As an unfortunate consequence of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terror, many children of our active-duty military personnel are now members of single-parent families. We are raising funds to ensure that higher education will be a reality for these families, but we need your help.

It is estimated that over 11,000 children have lost a parent in the war overseas. That number continues to grow each day. The Legion is actively working to ensure that all those children who want a post-secondary education will be provided one

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Legion doing with the money collected?

A. Each donation goes into the Legacy Scholarship trust fund, which earns interest to be used for scholarships. Currently, the fund's principal is \$4.8 million. In 2008, \$36,000 in aid was distributed to students.

Q. What happens to the trust fund's principal?

A. The trust fund remains untouched and grows with each donation. Scholarships are funded by the interest, which has awarded \$191,970 in aid since 2004.

Q. Where has the money gone so far?

A. Scholarships grow in number and dollar amount each year. The first renewable scholarship was worth \$2,000 and awarded in 2004. Since then the demand has grown steadily with more and more children reaching college age and eligibility.

2004: One scholarship grant of \$2,000

2005: Three \$2,000 scholarship grants

2006: Six scholarships were granted

2007: 8 scholarships were awarded for \$4,500 each

2008: 11 scholarships – \$3,720 each

2009: 16 recipients each received \$2,250

2010: 10 scholarships at \$4,000 each, and three scholarships at \$2,000 each

2011: Twenty-one scholarships at \$2,275 and two at \$1,100 each

In all, 81 scholarships have been awarded to date.

Q. Who decides who gets scholarships and how much is awarded?

A. The national treasurer, with the National Finance Commission's approval, determines the interest amount available for scholarship funding. By resolution, the National Americanism Commission is empowered to establish further rules, regulations and guidelines for the selection and awarding of scholarships with emphasis on financial need, leadership, scholarship and citizenship. The National Americanism Commission has delegated these duties to the National Committee on Education, which implements the scholarship program.

Q. If an active-duty service member is home and is killed outside of war, is his or her child still eligible for the scholarship?

A. The same rules always apply. The deceased parent must have been on active duty with the U.S. military or National Guard, or as a federalized reservist. The place of death is irrelevant, provided that the death happened on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Q. Will we get a report on how scholarships are being used?

A. During May meetings, the National Committee on Education reports to the National Americanism Commission about the scholarship recipients and status of the program. The report is included in the National Americanism Commission's report to the National Executive Committee. A separate copy of the report is sent to each department headquarters and is available from the Americanism, Children and Youth Division of The American Legion.



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- Q. Say a soldier dies when his daughter is 2 years old. She won't go to college for 15 years. Is that money being put away for her?
- A. The money is in the trust, but she has to apply for her scholarship when she is a senior in high school. The number of eligible applicants and money available will determine the scholarship amount.
- Q. How much do we need to raise?
- A. Obviously, the more money the fund has, the more interest it will accrue for scholarships. If there was enough money in the principal, full college scholarships could be awarded each year. Unfortunately, that day is far off. It is thought that eventually a minimum of \$20 million will be needed to meet the expected need for scholarships.
- Q. Will someone be contacting these children, or will they have to find the scholarship on their own?
- A. Ideally, the names and addresses of children who lost a parent would be readily available. Unfortunately, that isn't possible. The scholarship information is contained in the Legion's "Need a Lift?" publication, which lists scholarships, grants and loans available for veterans and their children. The information is on the Legion's Web site, and booklets are distributed annually to public and private high schools across the nation. A representative from a local Legion post should be able to provide the family with the scholarship information and other benefit information at the time of the service member's death.
- Q. How many times can a student apply?
- A. Students can reapply for the scholarship up to six years maximum. A waiver can be obtained if the student is the National Guard or reserves and is activated. A waiver may also be obtained if the student embarks on a church mission. The student must be full-time and continue making adequate progress toward a degree.



**Dianne Thibodeau**  
**Department Children & Youth Chairman**  
**C&Y@floridalegion.org**



April already! Remember this is Children & Youth Month. I hope your planned program was successful! I found the following information on our National's web site under "About Youth Support". There was much more information as well a description on each of the web pages. You should be going to National's web site each month to check out what valuable information they have available.

The American Legion has a strong dedication to supporting our nation's youth. The organization was founded on that principle in 1919 when Children & Youth was declared one of the Legion's four pillars. In the years since, a number of youth-oriented programs have been developed internally. Additionally, the Legion collaborates with outside organizations that focus on supporting young people.

Youth Organization Resource Directory - Though not formally approved or adopted by The American Legion, these youth organizations are provided as a research tool for our members.

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America - [www.bbbsa.org](http://www.bbbsa.org)
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America - [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)
- Children's Defense Fund - [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)
- Child Welfare League of America - [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)
- DARE America - [www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com)
- National Association of Elementary School Principals - [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org)
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children -- [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)
- National PTA - [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)
- National School Safety Center - [www.schoolsafety.us](http://www.schoolsafety.us)
- Prevent Child Abuse America - [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)
- Search Institute - [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)

#### **Substance Abuse**

- Join Together - [www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving - [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)
- National Association for Children of Alcoholics - [www.nacoa.org](http://www.nacoa.org)
- National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information - [www.health.org](http://www.health.org)
- National Families in Action - [www.emory.edu/NFIA](http://www.emory.edu/NFIA)
- PRIDE Youth Programs - [www.prideyouthprograms.org](http://www.prideyouthprograms.org)

#### **Victims Services**

- National Center for Victims of Crime - [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)
- National Organization for Victim Assistance -- [www.trynova.org](http://www.trynova.org)

#### **Community Education**

- American Probation and Parole Association - [www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org)
- Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. - [www.ajli.org](http://www.ajli.org)
- Center for Community Change - [www.communitychange.org](http://www.communitychange.org)
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- National Association of Attorneys General - [www.naag.org](http://www.naag.org)
- National Association of Counties - [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)
- National Association of Neighborhoods - [www.nanworld.org](http://www.nanworld.org)
- National Association of Town Watch - <http://www.nationalnightout.org>
- National Conference of State Legislatures - [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)
- National League of Cities - [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org)
- National Training and Information Center - [www.ntic-us.org](http://www.ntic-us.org)
- United States Conference of Mayors - [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

Don't forget to report your miles, time and money spent by you and all your help on each of the programs.

**Robert Scott**  
**Department Boy Scout Chairman**  
**BoyScouts@floridalegion.org**



It is the busy season for the American Legion Boy Scout chairman. We have come off of a very successful Boy Scout Camporee. I have just finished judging six American Legion Eagle Scout of the year award. I st have over 150 ROTC and General Scholarship applications to judge.



We are busy winding down this year getting various reports ready to pass on to the powers that be. We are also getting ready for the upcoming year. The Posts are getting their list of officers ready for the coming year. The candidates are getting their list of chairpersons ready. So, I want to talk about one of the positions that will be filled and that is the Boy Scouts of America Chartered Organization Representative (COR).

If your Post has a Scouting program on charter from the Boy Scouts of America, the Scouting units and their leaders belong to your Post and are a part of its "family." As a Post Commander you must approve all adult scout leaders and committee members, or this task may be delegated to the COR, before submitting them to the local Boy Scout council.

The Chartered Organization Representative's primary responsibility is to help the scouting unit to be successful and to provide coordination between the Post and the Scouting Council. He is automatically a voting member of the council and the district. The individual must be an adult citizen and a registered member of the BSA during the period of time that the chartered organization designates this person as Chartered Organization Representative.

In closing we must remember the importance of the Chartered Organization Representative and to conduct the Scouting program according to the Post policies and guidelines as well as those of the Boy Scouts of America. The Post must include Scouting as part of its overall program for youth and families.

For more information on the Chartering Organization Representative please contact me and I will get the information out to you. Yours in Scouting, For God and Country

**Detachment of Florida**  
**Commander Bill Kelly's Homecoming**  
**Proudly Serving Those Who Served**

Weekend at LakeShore Post 137

April 13,14,15 2012

Hotels

Sleep Inn

6535 Ramona Blvd.

Jacksonville, FL 32205

904-378-9779 Mia

Legion Rate \$72.95

2 Mi. /from Post

Country Inn

5945 Youngerman Cr. E.

Jacksonville, FL 32244

904-772-7771 Crystal

Legion Rate \$69.95

5 Mi./Close to O.P. Mall

Friday Night 5:30 Steak Dinner at Post.

Saturday Post Gen. Assembly 10AM Light Lunch to Follow

Saturday Homecoming 4PM to 12M

Sunday Breakfast at LakeShore Post 137 8:30 to 11AM

All weekend attire will be FL. Legion Family Casual

Homecoming Dinner (only 90 Seats) - \$15.00 per person total

Friday and Sunday Meals are optional. We would just like an approximate head count. All Proceeds after expenses will benefit the National Emergency Fund. RSVP By April 2, 2012 /All Checks Payable to Squadron 137



Ron Musselwhite

Department Oratorical Chairman

On Saturday March 10, 2012 we held our Department Oratorical finals at Headquarters. We had another really great contest. I want to say "Thank You" to all the contestants. They put on a contest to be remembered. Also, I want to thank all the volunteers that helped out.

The winner of the \$2,500.00 scholarship, who will now go to The National Finals in April at Indianapolis, is Christian Fernandez. Christian is a homeschooled senior from the Southern Area. The runner up and will receive the \$1,500.00 Scholarship is Eric Winningham. Eric is a senior at Winter Park H.S. in the Eastern Area. The third place winner and will receive the \$1,000.00 scholarship, is David Burnham. David is a homeschooled senior from the Southwestern Area. The three \$500.00 scholarship winners are Asia Smith, a senior at Plant H.S. in the Central Area. Kristen Sweeney, a junior at Maclay H.S. in the Western Area, and Mark Force, a homeschooled sophomore in the Northern Area.

It is not too early to start planning for next year's contest. For God and Country



**Legislative**  
**Stanley Gold, Department Chairman**  
**786.423.2458**

On February 27th the American Legion Department of Florida hosted their sixth Legislative Luncheon at the Rayburn Office Building thanks to Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen for her assistance in securing the room at no cost to the Department. We had 16 members of Congress show up, plus staff members. Only six Congressmen did not show due to meetings being held at the same time. Later on in the day we visited those who did not attend.

Paul Martel and I were able to speak to our two Senators. I presented Senator Nelson with a paid up for life membership to Post 311. We made it clear to all of them that all our veterans' issues are non-partisan. All of them were given copies of our 'wish list'.

On March 13th I was at the National Association of Postal Supervisors Legislative meeting in Washington, D.C. While I had free time I visited our Legion office in Washington, D.C. to ask for help concerning keeping the six day delivery of mail which will help in preventing the closing of many postal plants and laying off of many veterans who work for the Postal Service. I was given ideas on resolutions that must be sent to National and we will work on this with several other Postal employees around the Country who are members of the Legion.

**The Flag Bill** - Five U.S. Supreme Court Justices, in the 1989 Texas vs. Johnson, took away from the American people the right to protect their flag by invalidating the flag-protection laws in 48 states and the District of Columbia. The Supreme Court and the inaction of Congress have forced the people to accept these examples such as Florida.

The flag in question has been taken down and the court of public opinion has spoken which in all probability has convinced the Lake County Party official to not fly this flag again.

We agree the flag deserves protection. The American legion will continue to convince the Congress of the United States to follow the will of the 80 percent of the American public that want their flag protected from acts of physical desecration and pass a Constitutional amendment to protect the flag.

Please voice your concerns to your members of Congress encouraging them to support and pass the Constitutional amendment to protect the flag.



L to R: Daniel Webster,  
Rooney, me, Dennis Ross

\$1000.00 from Post 311 for  
Families of Servicemen

**Extension Institute**  
**Jack Querfeld, National Director, Internal Affairs**

We have rolled-out the new improved The American Legion Extension Institute. It will be available on legion.org. This edition replaces the former four booklet course which is no longer available in Emblem Sales. This new improved course gives our members the capability to obtain and access it in a much easier manner. Once purchased the member may access it for the life of the course. Each post should encourage its members to learn as much as possible about the history of The American Legion. This will ensure they know where we've been, where we currently are and where we are going as an organization, as well as lay the groundwork for developing new current and future leaders.

This 90 minute course composed of six modules: History and Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, Children & Youth with a Course wrap-up and a comprehensive final exam, is developed around the Four Pillars of what The American Legion was founded. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and communities across this great Nation.

Upon successful completion of the course the student will immediately receive a pdf "certificate of completion" and National will be notified of the successful completion and the user will be sent a completely redesigned cap pin and signed certificate of completion by National Commander Fang Wong and National Adjutant Dan Wheeler.

If you are interested in knowing more about The American Legion and how you can become involved, go to [www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei) or visit your [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) and for a modest fee of \$4.95 for current American Legion family members, and \$9.95 for non members, and an active email address, you can become empowered with the knowledge to become a leader in The American Legion. The American Legion is the nation's largest and most influential network of U.S. wartime veterans, families and communities and The American Legion Extension Institute helps bring all this together in one simple to use program.



Bonnie Carter, FALPA President  
4211 Helena St NE  
St Petersburg, FL 33703  
727-521-4049  
dincwaz2@tampabay.rr.com  
Ps. I'd love to get your newsletter!



#### 2011-2012 Annual FALPA 'Best Papers' Contest

##### CATEGORIES:

##### 1. District, Area, Miscellaneous Publications

For District-wide, Area-wide or Regional-wide publications:

- A. Legion publications
- B. All other district, area or regional publications (SAL, Auxiliary, 40 & 8, La Femmes, 20&4, etc.)

##### 2. Larger Posts

For all publications produced at the post level:

- A. Posts over 750 members
- B. Posts with 250 - 749 members

##### 3. Smaller Posts, Units, Squadrons

For all publications produced at the post level:

- A. Posts up to 250 members
- B. All other unit/squadron publications (SAL, Auxiliary, etc.)

##### 4. Editorials

Must have appeared originally in an American Legion or member

publication within the contest year.

- A. George Hartley award -- Original effort of Editor
- B. Guest editorial (by lined or author identified)

#### Rules

Please read and follow the rules carefully. Competition Year - Papers and editorials submitted must have been issued / published between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011.

Basis Of Judging - Papers will be judged on: Content (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, local, county, district, state and national news, as appropriate); clear, concise and balanced writing; make-up; design and appearance; use of photos and illustrations.

Editorials will be judged on: Headline and lead arousal of interest; clear, concise and imaginative writing; Research and grasp of subject; Timely and appropriate objectives suitable to publication.

#### Entry Instructions

- Must be a current member of the Florida American Legion Press Association
- For categories 1, 2, 3 and 4, submit three (3) papers, one each of three separate issues.
- For category 4, submit only one (1) editorial. Send entire paper and put on coversheet the name and page number of the editorial.
- For all entries, an identifying cover sheet must be submitted, to include the following information, typed or printed neatly:
  - a. Name and Number of Post, District, Unit, Squadron, etc.
  - b. Full address of Post, Unit, Squadron, etc.
  - c. Name of Publication
  - d. Frequency of Publication
  - e. Average circulation number
  - f. Name mailing address, phone number of Editor
  - g. Name, mailing address, and phone number of entrant, if other than editor
  - h. For Editorials, also include: Name of author and title of editorial

Entries must be postmarked no later than May 15th, 2011 and mailed to: Jim Ramos, 6609 SE 85th St, Newberry, FL 32669

**Please mark the lower left corner of your mailing envelope: "CONTEST" and indicate the entry category for judging**