

# The Legion Link

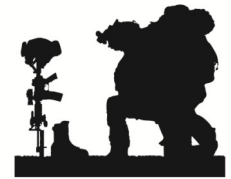
August 2012

Vol. 20 Issue 1



## AIMING HIGH FOR VETERANS

FALLEN SOLDIER



NEVER FORGOTTEN

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

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

### ***In this Issue...***

#### **Page 1**

Dept. Commander  
Dept. Vice Commander

#### **Page 2**

Dept. Sgt-at-Arms  
Dept. Chaplain  
UPDATE

#### **Page 3**

Legion Riders  
Americanism  
Boys State  
POW/MIA

#### **Page 4**

Membership

#### **Page 5**

VA&R  
Cracker Trail Competition

#### **Page 6**

Legislative  
Baseball World Series

#### **Page 7**

Internal Affairs  
Veteran Retraining Program  
Halloween Coloring Books  
POW/MIA

#### **Page 8**

Children & Youth  
Oratorical Dates

#### **Page 9**

FALPA  
Staff Information

**Al 'Gunner' Dudley**  
**Department Commander**  
**[Commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:Commander@floridalegion.org)**  
**407.247.5232**

I want to thank all of you for your trust and confidence in allowing me to work for you as the State Commander. As the 94th Florida State Commander, we are off to a start of an awesome year. We have a great staff ready and willing to work for you, as well as a training team that will be scheduling sessions throughout the State!

All members should have received the Legion Insurance Trust Applications. Please fill out the form or go online at [www.theLIT.com/Legioncare12](http://www.theLIT.com/Legioncare12) to apply! This insurance provides up to \$5000.00 of Accidental Insurance Coverage at no cost to you! Also, the Post benefits by receiving a cash incentive by your enrollment so; help yourself and your Post too!

We have over 2.5 million veterans in the State of Florida, yet we only have 109,000 members in the American Legion. If every member was to get only 1 new member, we would double in size but would still only make up 10% of total veterans in the State of Florida! Membership is our life blood and politicians only listen to numbers (votes) so, let's do some R&R (Recruitment & Retention)!

I want to congratulate all the new incoming Officers and wish you God Speed in the coming year! All I ask is that we all give 100% and we will have a banner year! I will be on the road so visit our Florida Legion website and see where I'll be next!

Art Schwabe

Department Vice Commander  
[Vicecommander@floridalegion.org](mailto:Vicecommander@floridalegion.org)  
386.235.9990

I would like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department Vice Commander. I am willing to go to any event you may have planned. I request that you e-mail me with the time and date of events. I will respond ASAP to your request. I have attended many installations and have found many improvements in how installations are being conducted. Thanks for all your hard work in improving Post installations.

Now that the year has started, we need to look at new members and look at retaining the ones we currently have. I suggest that the Posts have a "Meet and Greet" with its members to give them an opportunity to meet Post Officers and answer questions about the Legion or the Post. Try and include a list of Programs the Post currently conducts and what programs the Post (with the help of current members) wishes to include this year.

Don't forget to add a little Legion History as well. For example: The American Legion started in 1919, the GI Bill, what services we offer for veterans, and our many programs: Boys State, Boy Scouts, Special Olympics and Children and Youth, etc. Include when the Post started and how far the membership has come over the years, and what the Post has done for the community and its members. If you need help just let me know.

**Art Schwabe**  
**Department Vice Commander**  
**Vicecommander@floridalegion.org**  
**386.235.9990**

Now a little Military Trivia

1. This branch of the U.S. Armed Services has no official motto, but is often associated with the phrase "Nor sibi, sed patriae" (Not self, but country).

A. Marines Corp B. Army C. Navy D. Air Force 2. Who controls the National Guard in time of peace?

A. State Governors B. Congress C. Army D. The U.S. President

OLE LIVES ON!!!!

OLE and LENA got married and went on their honeymoon, Lena was a bit bashful. As they walked up to the hotel Lena said, "What can we do so they won't know we're newly-weds?" Ole answered: "You carry the luggage." Got to love him!!!

Answers: # 1 is 'C', Navy # 2 is 'A', State Governors

**Bob Vick**  
**Department Chaplain**

Greetings in the name of the Lord - First off, I want to thank all the Florida Legionnaires and their families for their very effective prayers in my behalf. I want you all to realize that your prayers are very powerful. God is still on His throne listening to and answering our pleas. My transplanted organ is working well and I am back at my job as Chaplain at 100% dedication.

Food for thought

- What's more important? "What I live for" or "What I am willing to die for."

- He did not look down and say "I need that boy in my kingdom". He looked down and said, "That boy needs Me in his heart".

- "God would be God without me, but I would not be without God."

- God talks to us through His word, I am free to do as I'm able, with Gods instruction. My limits are His Word.

- If we live as though He never died, we will die as though He never lived.

- Mercy with holds what we deserve:

- Grace bestows what we do not deserve and what we cannot earn or merit by our own efforts.

If you have a function at your post or church that you would like me to attend, please contact me at my personal e-mail address (ravick311@yahoo.com) or my home phone (727.848.6438). If you have a need for prayer, please call me with your request. God Bless

**Jay Conti, Sr.**  
**Department Sgt.-at-Arms**

Hi Fellow Legionnaires! I want to thank each and every one of you for having the confidence in me as your Department Sgt-at-Arms; I won't let you down! If you ever attended any of my classes at the Fall Conference or Department Convention you know how much I like to share the knowledge I have gained about The American Legion and teach my fellow Legionnaires. While on the Champaign trail for 8+ months; I stated I was working, in my spare time, on a Department of Florida SGT-AT-ARMS Manual to aide ALL SGT-AT-ARMS at the Post, Squadron, Riders and District Levels. This will also serve as a Protocol Manual for Post and District Commanders and for special events. I am hoping to have it to the Department Adjutant Mike McDaniel prior to The National Convention for approval and printing.

If you have something that you think should be in this manual please do not hesitate to e-mail or call me: e-mail-SAA@floridalegion.org, (Home) 352.527.1152 or (Cell) 352.287.1400. We recently welcomed home an Army PFC from Afghanistan who was in the 6th Grade when 9-11 happened. Everyone should be attending events like this and welcoming home the next generation of Veterans as they are the ones who will be taking our place when we are gone!

We are starting a very historic time in our Nation's history, coming up on the 11th Anniversary of the tragic events on 9-11-01. As SGT-AT-ARMS you should be right there with the planning of this Holiday and all Patriotic Holiday's like POW/ MIA Remembrance Day; Veterans Day; Pearl Harbor Day; Battle of the Bulge and many more. Please make that extra effort to help your Post and District in making a Difference in these Ceremonies as its part of our History. I am always available to assist, please give me a call and invite me to attend or if you would like me to speak I am here to serve you, my fellow Veterans! "For God and Country"

## UPDATE!

With the new year comes new information.

We have updated all of our guides and manuals.

**Throw out all old materials.** Communication

is the key to keeping our programs active.

Make sure your program chairmen have

all the material they need. Send in

the Packet Request forms;

**Administrative Manual**

**pages 13-15.**

*Summer should get a speeding ticket!*

### **To All Post Commanders**

This year the District Commander's have been requested to obtain a copy of the forms below for each post in their District. Neither the District nor Department wishes to become involved in the running of any post. The forms below are the basics for a post to run properly and several are required by National or Department Constitution and By Laws.

Department is asking each of you to cooperate with your District Commander and make ready each of these items:

Post Constitution & By Laws  
Sales Tax Certificate  
Florida Incorporation Certificate  
Local Health Certificate  
IRS 501C (19) Letter  
Finance Report  
Minutes of previous meeting  
Tax Exempt Certificate

**Scott Grabner**

**Dept. ALR Chairman**  
**alr@floridalegion.org**

Well, our first ALR training at the June Legion Conference has come and gone. We received a lot of positive feedback along with a few recommendations for the Fall Convention meetings. Again if we do not train our ALR leaders, we are setting ourselves up for failure. As we have new leaders that have now taken their places for this 2012-2013 year. I hope everyone provides them the opportunity to succeed in our organization. The Legion Riders SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) is now a working document as of July 2012. It has been met with some resistance by a select few of the riders. It is here to stay so please embrace it and conform to the SOP requirements.

Remember - we are Legionaries first. We are a program of the American Legion just as four pillars programs that the American Legion is based on "Defense, Veterans, Youth, & Patriotism". Post Commanders; remember you are responsible for the welfare of the American Legion Rider program within your Post. As a Post Commander you are responsible for ensuring that copyright laws are not violated on patches that your Chapter wears. The Post Commanders and Chapter Directors are responsible for ensure that the integrity of The American Legion and the Legion Riders are up held. First and foremost we all must remember that we are Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members first and must support our Post, Units and Squadrons. Let's keep riding and having fun at what we do.

**Michael Clark**

**Americanism**

**Americanism@floridalegion.org**

We are off into a new year and some Districts have responded to my email for Americanism Chairs and a lot have not. Please send those appointees in so that we can have a great year in Americanism. Now is the time to start working to get into the school systems because if you wait there will not be enough time before you are up on the various programs deadlines. In order to help you get into the school system in your area I have a suggestion for a possible way in the next paragraph.

I have found that any programs from outside the school board has to be approved by the head Financial Aid or Guidance Counselor for that particular school district. In order to find that person's name, address, and/or phone number please go to this hyperlink. Type in either guidance counselor or financial aid and it will list all within that district. Some districts do not have either sitting with the school board of the county but it may list them as a supervisor which will be the person you want to contact. The web site is:

[http://www.fldoe.org/schools/schoolmap/flash/schoolmap\\_text.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/schools/schoolmap/flash/schoolmap_text.asp)

It will bring up a page of all 67 school districts. For God and Country

### **POW/MIA Empty Chair**

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.

# **Boys State**

Boys State registration fees are now \$325.00 per delegate. The rising costs of food, housing, travel, and materials to run the program have all created the need for this increase.

# 50% Goal

## September 5, 2012

Membership Report as of July 26, 2012

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Robert Kiley	10,193	3,643	35.74
4	Charles Ferguson	4,160	1,445	34.74
8	Debra Roush	8,218	2,793	33.99
9	William Johnson	4,342	1,440	33.16
17	Michael Wolohan	4,135	1,321	31.95
12	Albert Diaz	8,424	2,678	31.79
13	William Hauser	8,783	2,700	30.74
1	Verna Joyce	6,256	1,910	30.53
11	Richard Smith	4,094	1,214	29.65
7	Nancy Thomas	3,863	1,081	27.98
5	Henry Combs	7,697	2,105	27.35
15	Eunice Butts	5,178	1,396	26.96
16	James Burgess	11,977	3,075	25.67
3	Chris Christians	1,712	416	24.30
2	Homer Frailey	1,365	281	20.59
14	Gary Decker	3,161	632	19.99
Eastern	Mark Johnson	18,617	6,321	33.95
SW	Steven Slachta	17,001	5,493	32.31
Northern	Robert Brewster	17,704	5,287	29.86
Western	Charles Lecroy	7,621	2,191	28.75
Southern	George Rafajko	11,597	3,286	28.34
Central	James Zipler	21,018	5,552	26.41
<b>Dept</b>			<b>28,130</b>	
<b>Post 400</b>		<b>11,977</b>	<b>5,452</b>	<b>45.52</b>
<b>Post 208</b>		<b>2,141</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>71.46</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>108,000</b>	<b>35,113</b>	<b>32.51</b>

**Jim Ramos**  
**Membership Chairman**  
[membership@floridalegion.org](mailto:membership@floridalegion.org)

It is my honor to serve as your Department Membership Chairman for 2012-2013. I thank you for your support of The American Legion and its membership goals and objectives. We have some hard work to do, so where do we start to assure that we meet our 100%+ goal. The following information is provided to help your Post make 100%+.

First, I hope each Post has a plan in place to coordinate and direct membership development. The Post Commander is ultimately responsible for the success or failure of the Post to meet its membership goals for the year 2012-2013. Often the Commander is assisted by the Post Membership Chairman and or the Adjutant, who helps by selecting membership team members, planning membership rallies and events, and assisting the Commander and Adjutant with the processing of new and renewed members. Commanders often follow a formula for success by assigning an energetic and motivated Legionnaire to be the Post Membership Officer or Chairman. This individual manages the following Post Membership Teams; Contact Team, New Member Team and Retention Team to work hand in hand to achieve the goal of making a 100% by December 31, 2012. Implementation of following actions will provide a high potential for successful membership development.

Advertise scheduled Post events in a convenient and timely manner. Establish a sense of community awareness about the Post, physical location and its positive contributions. Instill a willingness in the community to help boost Post membership through poster and countertop displays, public-service announcements, and local advertising buyers, etc.). Identify a large number of prospective members.

Please plan a Membership Drive Open House at your Post for September. Use the informative flyers in the membership CD that is available from your District and/or Area Commanders. If you need assistance in obtaining a membership CD, please contact me directly. Focus your efforts on "Legion PRIDE" as you and your membership team work: Public Relations, Implement, Develop, Educate!

You can learn more about Legion PRIDE in the New Membership Information and Awards Manual 2012-2013 on the CD. Using the suggestions noted will help your Post achieve 100%. Should you have any questions please contact me at [jramos149@bellsouth.net](mailto:jramos149@bellsouth.net) or [membership@floridalegion.org](mailto:membership@floridalegion.org) (please write membership on the subject line.) I work for you and it is my honor to assist Veterans helping Veterans. It is what we do! Thank you for being a Florida Legionnaire.





**Kenneth C. Nichols, Cracker Trail Chairman**  
**1106 Ocean Drive Boynton Beach, Florida 33426**  
**kenlin04@gmail.com c-561-906-6469 h-561-732-3869**

Cracker Trail, February 2013

Dear Scouts, Scouters, and members of the American

Legion family  
 Well, another year is quickly passing since our 1st Annual Cracker Trail (new name) was conducted at Tanah-Keeta Scout Reservation in Tequesta, Florida, and our plans are coming together for our 2nd annual event on the weekend of February 8-10, 2013.

A lot of things have occurred since our last message. Among them, we have a new Dept. of Florida Boy Scout Chairman. His name is Jorge Montes from Miami who comes with strong credentials among them: 1) Cmdr. Post 346 2) District 14, Boy Scout Chairman 3) BSA/SFC Tequesta District (Miami-Dade) Eagle Advancement Chairman. I am proud to announce that Jorge has agreed to serve as our Assistant Cracker Trail Chairman this year, especially after his Troops participation in 2012; a natural since our goal included future camporees around Florida.

The final touches are coming together for the 2013 Cracker Trail program handbook, including the registration form. The handbook will soon go to the printer, then, we expect to start dispensing so the many Troops, Crews, Ships, who have been anxiously waiting to start reserving a spot in this exciting and growing event.

Cracker Trail Program Chairman, Pietera Siegler, has been working very hard (as usual) to recruit the highest quality staff (many are returning from last year. Pietera, Logistics Chairman Evan Reif, (a District Commissioner), Bob Norwillo, Gulf Stream Council, Program Director, and Jorge (who is getting great interest in Miami-Dade), have told me that there is real excitement from Troops, and this input is causing expectation that we may be doubling the attendance of 181 Scouts, 24 Patrols from last year.

We only had to make changes on requests, among them: 1) a chuck wagon race at end of events and 2) Saturday evening's dinner will be in the dining hall. Thanks to The Gator Grill folks, who will also be tweaking the menu for the weekend meals, mostly for adults.

I want to congratulate our new Department Officers on their elections, and want to thank last year's officers (many the same), and Programs Director, Carol Polk (our other rock) who have supported this great Dept. Of Florida event. From all comments both Jorge and I received at recent convention many plan to attend in February.

Last, we would like to thank, 11th District Cmdr. Richard Smith and team, and the folks at Gulf Stream Council, Boy Scouts, primarily Bob Norwillo, and Kelsey Cupples for their very professional support and of course allowing use of Tanah-Keeta. I remain yours in American Legion Scouting



**The Sweet Spot**  
**Kelton Sweet**  
**Department VA&R Chairman**

There are 21.8 million veterans in the United States, 20.2 million of which are males, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's veterans' snapshot, issued on July 17th. Some 1.3 million of veterans have served in more than one war, including more than 100,000 who have been in three wars, according to the data. California leads the nation with 2 million vets, followed by Florida and Texas with some 1.6 million vets each.

"Actions speak louder than words." Read! Think!! We control the vote. As veterans, if things don't go our way, we only have ourselves to blame. Get up early, go to the designated polling station, (stand in line) and VOTE!!!



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

Thanks to 'Gunner' for appointing me to another year as Legislative Chairman. I'm also Vice-Chairman of the National Legislative Commission. I will be busy going over Congressional and Legion resolutions for the National Commander's Speech October 2-4. Our then new National Commander will speak at the joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

I was proud that I was able to introduce our Senator, Bill Nelson, at our Department Convention. He talked about the 'Veteran Skills to Job Act' that he cosponsored. On July 12th the President signed this Bill into law.

American Legion's National Commander Fang A. Wong expressed his appreciation to Congress. "This is a significant victory in The American Legion's longstanding and assertive campaign to streamline the civilian licensing and credentialing of our highly trained and skilled veterans," he said. "We are grateful to the legislation's authors and sponsors for their praiseworthy bipartisan efforts on this issue. We are especially pleased that all voting members of Congress chose to do the right thing for our nation's job-seeking veterans."

The Veteran Skills to Jobs Act was introduced last spring by Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., and Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., in the House and Senate, respectively. It moved through both chambers without opposition.

Before the final vote Wednesday, Nelson argued "our service members have already done the hardest job out there. They are highly trained, they are extremely skilled and we ought to give them as many opportunities as possible to succeed when they get home. That means when veterans come back from war, they shouldn't have to do battle with bureaucrats."

Nelson went on to acknowledge the Legion's role in pushing the legislation forward and asked that "The American Legion's commentary on this be entered (into) the Congressional Record." The document Nelson referred to was a March 30<sup>th</sup> letter of support from the National Commander.

**The text of the bill is succinct:**

*"The head of each Federal department or agency shall ensure that an applicant for any Federal license who has received relevant training while serving as a member of the Armed Forces, as determined by each head, is deemed to satisfy any training or certification requirements for the license..."*

We need your help on the Flag Amendment; H.J. 13 (House) and S-J.9 (Senate). If your member of Congress is not a co-sponsor please call or email them. The 8 of 80 co-sponsors are: Jeff Miller, John Mica, Bill Young, Dennis Ross, Bill Posey, Tom Rooney, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Allen West. Senator Marco Rubio is a co-sponsor of S.J. 9.



**Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)**

Congress passed, and the President has signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans. The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) are working together to roll out this new program on July 1, 2012. The VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to Veterans who:

- Are at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Are unemployed on the date of application
- Received an other than dishonorable discharge
- Are not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Are not in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

The program is limited to 45,000 participants from July 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012, and 54,000 participants from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month). DOL will offer employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program.

Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation.



All 15 games of The American Legion Baseball World Series will be streamed live on **ESPN3.com**. For the schedule of games to to: [www.legion.org/baseball/schedule](http://www.legion.org/baseball/schedule)

**The American Legion  
POW/MIA Advocacy  
Kathryn Boyer, Dept. Chairman  
POWMIA@floridalegion.org**

The American Legion is committed to achieving a full accounting of all POW/MIAs from the Gulf War, Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War and World War II. This means returning living POWs, the repatriation of their remains, or finding convincing evidence why neither of these is possible.

The American Legion supports the continued declassification of all POW/MIA information, the strengthening of joint commissions with Russia, North Korea and China, and adequate resourcing of investigative efforts and field operations to resolve POW/MIA issues. The American Legion has also worked continuously with both Congress and DoD to improve the policies and programs for the accountability of missing persons. This includes urging the president and Congress to fully fund the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Office (DPMO) for its current and future mission of ensuring the accountability of U.S. service members. The American Legion will continue to speak out and exert maximum pressure on both the administration and on Congress to fully account for America's POW/MIAs.

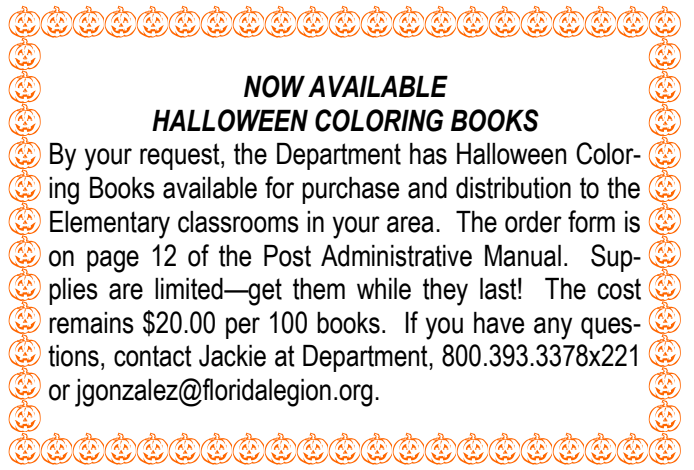
National POW/MIA Recognition Day - 21 Sept. 2012

For years, The American Legion supported a National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is now recognized annually on the third Friday of September. This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action and their families.

Until July 18, 1979, no commemoration was held to honor POW/MIAs. In the first year, Congress passed resolutions and the national ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in Washington. The 1st Tactical Squadron from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia flew the Missing Man formation. A poster was published by VA which contained only the letters POW/MIA. In 1982 a black and white drawing of a POW in captivity was used to show urgency of the situation.

Every year, National POW/MIA Recognition Day legislation was introduced until 1985, when Congress determined that commemorative days would no longer be considered. The president now signs a proclamation each year.

The National League of Families proposed the third Friday of September as a commemoration date. Most of the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies have taken place at the Pentagon. Now, they're held throughout the nation and around the world on military installations, ships, schools, churches, etc. The focus is to ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve it and to make sure that we do all that is possible to account for those who have not returned.



**NOW AVAILABLE  
HALLOWEEN COLORING BOOKS**

By your request, the Department has Halloween Coloring Books available for purchase and distribution to the Elementary classrooms in your area. The order form is on page 12 of the Post Administrative Manual. Supplies are limited—get them while they last! The cost remains \$20.00 per 100 books. If you have any questions, contact Jackie at Department, 800.393.3378x221 or [jgonzalez@floridalegion.org](mailto:jgonzalez@floridalegion.org).

**Larry Sheets  
Department Internal Affairs Chairman  
[internalaffairs@floridalegion.org](mailto:internalaffairs@floridalegion.org)**

Periodically there are changes and amendments to both the Department and National Constitution and By-Laws. When this occurs, each Post must amend their Constitution and By-Laws to be in compliance with these changes.

It is recommended that each Post update their Constitution and By-Laws at least every three years.

Recently the charter of a Post in Florida was suspended, and the Department Internal Affairs Commission appointed interim officers for this Post to find out what went wrong. What we are uncovering during the investigation may seriously endanger this Post, as well as the Post home and property.

The Post in question had not updated its Constitution and By-Laws since 1998, even after being told they must do so. The officers of this Post had no idea of how to operate an American Legion Post, and they were negligent in paying strict attention to the obligations each Post has including the paying of bills, taxes, etc., and they had allowed their insurance to lapse.

Why did this happen? There are undoubtedly many things which led to the situation the Post finds itself in. Inept officers who had no idea of how to run a Post, Officers who never sought out help, and never attended training made available by the Department and the District they are in.

I urge each Post in the Department of Florida to take a serious look at your Post Constitution and By-Laws. Make sure they are up to date. Amend them if necessary seek out help from your District, and the Department Judge Advocate.

Too many times I have heard Post Officers say, "we are a Veterans Organization, nobody will mess with us." That may have been the case 30 years ago, but in today's society, those days are over!

Each Post needs to pay strict attention to the laws of the State and County in which their Post is located. They must see to it that their Post Constitution and By-Laws are up to date. They must educate their Post Officers.

The District Commanders, Area Commanders, and Department Headquarters are available to assist and offer advice and training. All you need do is Ask! Don't allow your Post to be placed in the situation the Post mentioned above is in. For God and Country

**Children & Youth**  
**Steve Shuga, Department Chairman**  
**C&Y@floridalegion.org**

This program has had several unique Legionnaires over the years that have provided different approaches on promoting and marketing The American Legion's Fourth Pillar. As your 2012-2013 Department Children & Youth Program Chairman, I encourage the dedicated Legionnaires of the State of Florida to continue fulfilling their chosen programs as we go through another year of Legionnaire activities together.

The resources and references provided each Post annually at the Department Convention, Fall Conference and throughout the year, outline the baseline C&Y activities at all levels of The American Legion. Our focus this year will be on promoting the total package. Do what you have done well and consider taking on one more if you are comfortable with it and only if you can do it just as well as the others already committed to.

Children & Youth programs include: Local Children and Youth Programs, Activities, Events; Generous Donations for the Florida Children & Youth Fund; Generous Donations for the American Legion Child & Welfare Foundation, Inc.; Child Safety; Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Suicide, School Safety, Missing and Abducted Children, Accidents (automobile, drowning, firearms), and Substance Abuse; Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night, Temporary Financial Assistance; Family Support Network, etc.

I am requesting that Posts refer to their Post Administrative Manual and seek out the Ordering Form for the program materials needed to supplement their local C&Y programs.

As a reminder, the 2013 Boy's State Delegate Registrations Fees have increased to \$325.00 per boy. Registration forms & fees will be accepted beginning October 1, 2012 thru December 23, 2012 at Department Headquarters.

A few admin notes to remember –

Our goal this term is 100% reporting by all year and meeting the various milestones required by promoting your C&Y Program. Getting into the habit of reporting monthly will earn potential recognition at the Post, District, Area and Department levels if everyone will do their part and report all C&Y activity at the end of each month throughout 2012-2013. Take a few minutes per month and draft a narrative summary of your C&Y program successes. This will provide the meat and potatoes of completing a semi-annual and end of the year narrative summary that will showcase successful and vibrant Children & Youth programs that in turn will be recognized throughout.

Order your resources, supplies, and materials - early to ensure that you have the items on-hand to work your C&Y Plan for the year. Plan your C&Y activities at least two months ahead to ensure that you are prepared to keep your program flowing.

Seek out the monthly Legion Link Articles and stay tuned to frequent updates as we progress throughout your planning cycle.

Plans are underway for a banner year as your Department Children & Youth Program Chairman. Working together as the Florida Team will showcase our support of The American Legion's Fourth Pillar, promoting our continuing core purpose of "A Square Deal for Every Child".



**ORATORICAL  
Contest Dates**

Must be completed by:

Posts - January 13, 2013

Districts - January 27, 2013

Areas - February 17, 2013

Dept. - March 9, 2013



**August Fun Facts**

2 - National Ice Cream Sandwich Day

3 - National Kids Day

7-Friendship Day

12 - International Youth Day

13 - International Left Handers Day

19 - National Aviation Day

22 - National Tooth Fairy Day

31 - International Blog Day



## Department Headquarters Staff

Michael McDaniel	Department Adjutant	239	mmcdaniel@floridalegion.org
Jerry Mullenix	Department Assistant Adjutant	239	jmullenix@floridalegion.org
Rachel Castleberry	Executive Assistant	239	rcastleberry@floridalegion.org
Irene Graham	Membership Director	231	igraham@floridalegion.org
Bobbi Halle	Bookkeeper	233	bhalle@floridalegion.org
Jasmine Shipley	Post 400	228	jshipley@floridalegion.org
Jackie Gonzalez	Receptionist/Administrative Assistant	221	jgonzalez@floridalegion.org
Mary Ricci	Special Events Coordinator	232	mricci@floridalegion.org
Carol Polk	Programs Director	222	cpolk@floridalegion.org
Cliff Collins	Building Maintenance/TFA's	226	ccollins@floridalegion.org
Ryan Gonzales	IT Director	235	rgonzales@floridalegion.org
Vanesa Anderson-Rosa	Public Relations	229	Vanderson-rosa@floridalegion.org



**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!*



Computers are such fun toys. They give us so many different ways to express ourselves. Fonts & colors & underlining & bold & Italics .Not to mention all the different sizes to choose from!

As fun as it is to use these options, it's not a good idea when you are producing your newsletter. Keep your readers in mind and make the newsletter easy on their eyes. Using too many different fonts and colors is confusing and takes away from the content.

Want to be a member? Dues are \$5.00 per year and include a quarterly newsletter filled with tips and suggestions to help you make the most of your talents. We also have a CD available with graphics, fonts, patriotic poems, speeches & articles especially made for the American Legion Family. The National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) dues are \$10.00 per year and also include a quarterly newsletter. You don't have to join NALPA to join FALPA.

-----  
 FALPA/NALPA

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Legion/Aux/SAL Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of Post/Unit/Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_

FALPA \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ NALPA \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ New member \_\_\_\_\_ Reinstatement \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ (make check out to FALPA. NALPA dues will be forwarded)

Mail to: Pat Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer/Editor, 5430 Friendly St, Port St John, FL 32927