

# The Legion Link

November 2012

Vol. 20 Issue 4



## 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  
Americanism  
Oratorical

#### Page 3

Legion Riders  
ROTC

Shooting Sports

#### Page 4

Membership

#### Page 5

Roster Changes

#### Page 6

Legislative

#### Page 7

Legislative

Fall Conf. Banquet

LEGION PRIDE, POST 235

#### Page 8

Children & Youth  
FALPA

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

The Fall Conference is in a few weeks, and I hope to see everyone there. We have a wide variety of classes available and a lot of information will be provided. On a special note, we will have Bill Sloan, ALR Advisor, from National Headquarters there to teach us. This class is open to everyone and I highly encourage all Post, District and Area Commanders to attend.

Only 60 days left to renew your membership for 2013. On 1 Jan 2013, your dues will be delinquent and I encourage all Posts to aggressively contact all unpaid members. This is the time when it gets crucial. Get the letters out and make those phone calls. I want to thank all of you for your hard work in making the Department of Florida the premier Department in the Nation! A lot of Departments are looking to us and the great things you all do!

The Department website is awesome! Each one of you should visit it at least twice a week. The information flowing is changing daily. Any suggestions for addition to our web site would be greatly appreciated. It is also a great place for your Post to pass along your information to other Posts.

I want to wish all of you a safe and Happy Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day! Keep up the great work you all do for our veterans, their families, our community and nation! God Bless America!

Art Schwabe

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

This is a very busy month with American Education Week, November 11th -17th, National Family Week, November 18th - 24th, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. American Education is where you recognize the teachers for their efforts in teaching the youth on a local level. Family week is remembering your family. We get caught up in projects or programs forgetting the ones nearest to our hearts. Take time to say 'Thank You' for all the good things we have in this great country we live in. Veterans Day - as the Commander says, "Every day is Veterans Day!"

This year many of us will be at the Fall Conference. Let's all join together and say "Thank You" at the Religious Service on Sunday morning.

We are well on the way to a successful year in membership. Try and get to know the new members of your Post. Let them know what we are all about. Remember, most new members have no clue as to what the Legion does for Veterans and their youth or how your Posts affects the Local Community as a service organization. Become a voice to inform new members about the work of the Legion. Don't say, "It's not my job." Membership is everyone's JOB! You can make a difference for the Post and the Community. For God and Country



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

Hi Fellow Legionnaires;

So far over half of the 16 Districts have received Sgt-at-Arms training with each attendee receiving the Department of Florida SGT-AT-ARMS & PROTOCOL Manual (Also available for download on the Department website) to help aide ALL SGT @ ARMS at the Post, Squadron, Chapter and District Levels. These manuals also serve as a Protocol Manual to Post and District Commanders. The Training has paid off as there have been many great questions, if you haven't attended this training in your District, I hope to see you for the training at the Fall Conference on November 10, 2012.

With Veterans Day fast approaching please assist your post and community with the proper Americanism Protocol. Don't forget about Pearl Harbor Day and other Holiday's. Get involved with planning your post events and programs. You have many to choose from, Boys State Interviews, Oratorical Contest, Children & Youth Events, Early Bird Dinner etc! There are many you can name as well!

Become involved with military troops who are either deploying or returning home. They will be the ones who will be replacing us when we are gone. It does mean a lot to them; I've heard many say, "I didn't think anyone cared what we were doing"! Remember what Department Commander Gunner Dudley say's, "EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY"; We should be living and breathing for our Veterans! For God and Country"



**Ron Musselwhite**  
**Department Oratorical Chairman**  
**oratorical@floridalegion.org**

By now all Posts should have gone to the schools to let them know about the Oratorical Contest and contest dates. The Posts have until Jan. 13, 2013 to have their Post contest completed.

Please also get in touch with Homeschooled students. They are a great source for the contest. Don't forget, the Department finals will be on March 9, 2013 at Department Headquarters at 9 A.M. The area contests need to be completed by Feb. 17, 2013 and the District contest need to be completed by Jan.27, 2013. If you have never attended an Oratorical contest, please plan on attending this year's Department finals. You will be well rewarded.

**Michael Clark**  
**Americanism**

**Americanism@floridalegion.org**

This month is the Department Fall Conference which means that we are well on the way to Convention time and deadlines for the various programs. All programs under Americanism should have already started in order to give the program fair treatment:

The Oratorical personnel at the post should have already contacted the students and started aligning up a date for the judges.

The post should already have in place a plan on GET OUT THE VOTE. This is a very important election cycle. All posts, please make sure that those who need help to vote get your help to do so. Please not only provide rides but make phone calls to help those who don't understand the process for mail in ballots.

Boys State fees are due in December so you should have already gotten approval from your board.

The General Scholarship, for children of veterans, is already be available to them. Since they have to provide DD-214's, discharge papers for those who were discharged prior to the early 50's, the process should begin as soon as possible. The scholarship papers have to be in to Carol by 1 March.

Teacher of the Year - this is an easy program that any post can participate in as the cost is little (postage) and minimal man hours. The only thing I can think of for not participating in Teacher of the Year or Scholarships is just being lazy or you don't believe in Americanism which is one of the main Pillars of The American Legion.

These are perfect ways of letting people know that the Legion is just not some place where dad and gramps go to drink. Let's push these programs more. I am open to any suggestions to make it better.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful and Happy Thanksgiving. Let us not forget those who are struggling and in need not only on the Holiday seasons but the entire year. Give, if you can, and you will get a feeling that you cannot put a price on when you see how much it helps an individual or family.

For God and Country - Happy Thanksgiving

**Program Reminders**

**Boys State** - Registration Fees due December 23, 2012. The registration fee is \$325.00 per boy.

**Oratorical** - Post Contests must be held no later than January 13, 2013.

**Blood Donor** - Holiday Drive begins Thanksgiving Day, ends New Year's Day.

**JROTC/Shooting Sports** - Have you contacted your High School JROTC to find out if they are interested in participating in the Shooting Sports program?? Targets are due to National January 15th

# 1st ANNUAL BIKEFEST JAN 12 & 13TH 2013

Run to the Town of Murals in the Heartland of Florida

American Legion Riders Post 25 on the

Ridge in Lake Placid at 1490 US27N

Proceeds dedicated to Homeless Veterans

FASHION SHOW – LIVE MUSIC – SUNDAY

BRUNCH – VENDORS – OVERNIGHT PARKING –

CAMPERS – TENTS –LOCAL MOTELS

CLOSE TO POST – CAMPGROUNDS –

CLOSE TO MEDAL OF HONOR PARK!!!!

Contact District 8 ALR Director Kip Ragnier for more

info at 413-887-8497 or Email yokip@me.com

Past Commander JP Plunkett jpsenior@live.com



**Loretta Young**

**Dept. ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports Chair**  
**rotc@floridalegion.org**

We are actively trying to compile a list of all the schools offering the JROTC Program in the State of Florida. Letters have been sent out to all Commanders/Chairmen to verify the schools in your District. The deadline to return to Department the lists in your area is November 2<sup>nd</sup>. So far only the 9th District has responded. This will help in coordinating any events and needs of the program. This is a basic responsibility of each of us who accept a position to chair this program. This is a program that has so much to offer our youth that to bypass this request is an injustice to our future. I know I have your support and look forward to a speedy response from each of you.

There will be the Annual "Commanders' Cup' Marksman-ship Meet in Titusville on Saturday, January 12, 2013. Four schools from Broward County will be participating in the meet and the numbers continue to grow. I encourage any of the Legionnaires in the area to stop by during the all day event and see this competition.

Please let me know of any events that are happening in your area so that if time allows, I am able to make the trip. Thank all of you for your hard work and remember to always pray for our troops. For God and Country

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

We have made changes to our American Legion Riders Training. Please see advised schedule as it will be updated on the Dept. Web Site. Mr. Bill Sloan, the National ARL Programs Developer, has accepted an invitation to teach a 2-hour course on the ALR as it pertains to National, Department, and each Post Chapter. All riders in attendance should expect to leave with an understanding of The American Legion Riders as a post program based on pertinent resolutions and program guidance from the Department. The students will learn "best practices" and hear of accomplishments from around the country. The second hour will focus on the "Five Rules" of subordinate organizations and groups within The American Legion, including officer elections or appointments, organizational documents, financial reporting, chapter finances, and insurance.

Hour One (55 minutes):

- History and development
- Resolutions pertaining to The American Legion Riders
- Accountability of ALR program to post and department.
- Best Practices

Hour Two (55 minutes):

- Legal and administrative requirements
- Chapter responsibilities regarding the "Five Rules" of subordinate organizations and groups
- Chapter finances
- Insurance

Please remember to dress accordingly for all Legion Conference Meetings: your Legion Family uniform with or without riders vest and short or long sleeved shirt (collared or uncollared) with or without riders vest. No cut-off sleeves are allowed in any meeting halls including the Riders Meeting. If any ALR Chapter would like to be recognized for what you are doing please inform your District Chairman so we can get it in the next Legion Link.

## November Fun Facts

1, 1944 - HARVEY about an imaginary rabbit

opens in New York

4, 1939 - First Air conditioned car

6, 1928 - First animated electric sign;

Times Square, New York

26, 1789 - first National Thanksgiving Day proclaimed by George Washington.

Also first National holiday.

# 65% Goal

## November 15, 2012

Membership Report as of October 25, 2012

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Robert Kiley	10,193	7,677	75.32
2	Homer Frailey	1,365	986	72.23
11	Richard Smith	4,094	2,931	71.59
15	Eunice Butts	5,178	3,633	70.16
4	Charles Ferguson	4,160	2,911	69.98
9	William Johnson	4,342	3,031	69.81
17	Michael Wolohan	4,135	2,858	69.12
12	Albert Diaz	8,424	5,808	68.95
7	Nancy Thomas	3,863	2,663	68.94
1	Verna Joyce	6,256	4,311	68.91
5	Henry Combs	7,681	5,221	67.97
16	James Burgess	11,977	8,078	67.45
8	Debra Roush	8,218	5,390	65.59
13	William Hauser	8,783	5,697	64.86
14	Gary Decker	3,161	1,949	61.66
3	M.E Christians	1,712	1,052	61.45
Eastern	Mark Johnson	18,617	13,485	72.43
Western	Charles Lecroy	7,621	5,297	69.50
Central	James Zipler	21,018	14,374	68.39
Southern	George Rafajko	11,597	7,911	68.22
Northern	Robert Brewster	17,688	12,042	68.08
SW	Steven Slachta	17,001	11,087	65.21
<b>Dept</b>			<b>64,196</b>	
<b>Post 400</b>		<b>11,977</b>	<b>9,187</b>	<b>76.71</b>
<b>Post 208</b>		<b>2,141</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>112.56</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>107,775</b>	<b>75,793</b>	<b>70.33</b>

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

Congratulations to all the Districts and Areas for making the 55% goal! The 2nd, 4th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 15th, and 17th Districts are at 65% or better and we have 233 Post at 55% or better. Go Florida! We are off to a great start! However now is the time when things get a little tougher as the next goal of 65% is due by November 7th.

For those Posts still under the most recent goal, keep working. Work as a team with your officers, members, and membership team. Have membership applications and brochures with you at all times as you will meet veterans everywhere you go. As veterans we are proud of our military service and demonstrate it by wearing a cap or shirt and displaying branch of service and campaign stickers on our vehicles. See one? Ask them to join us!

Expand your public relations. Most local newspapers will publish your "Members Wanted" advertisement free of charge. Try your local radio stations as the local DJ's and program hosts have been more than helpful with our veteran events.

November is a good time to get new members, renewals and reinstatements. Participate in your community's Veterans Day program. Set up a membership table at your local supermarket. (Get prior approval from the store manager). American Education week is November 11-17 and is a good time to visit your local schools to talk about your military service and The American Legion. Thanksgiving Day is a day for family and friends to come together; so do something at your Post to say 'Thank You'.

The next renewal notice is schedule for January 2, 2013. Contact your members now. Don't let National do your job. Do your own renewal letter and tell your members what is going on at the Post. Make a commitment to your Post and let all members know about your Post programs and how we can assist our local veterans. Always have a positive attitude when you are looking for members. Show your Legion "PRIDE" to everyone you meet. Let them know what The American Legion is all about and remember that membership is the life blood of The American Legion. Work hard to continue to get good members in your Post and you can reach the 100% goal by December 31, 2012.

And, finally, please remember to thank your current volunteers who administer your programs, maintain your Post, and make The American Legion the greatest veterans organization in the world.

If you need assistance please contact me by e-mail [jramos149@bellsouth.net](mailto:jramos149@bellsouth.net) or [membership@florida.org](mailto:membership@florida.org) or call me at 352-226-4370. I look forward to seeing you at the 2012 Department Fall Conference.

**Happy Thanksgiving**



# Boys State

Boys State registration fees are now \$325.00 per delegate.

## Roster Changes up until October 17, 2012

### Post # - Title-Name

91 Adjutant- Lavern Bradley  
249 Adjutant- Peter Dimaggio  
249 Commander- Terry Morgan  
58 Commander- John Taylor  
399 Commander- Frank Maitland  
399 Adjutant- Joseph Anderson  
Post 1- Email Address  
Post 265 Commander- Sheldon Taylor  
Post 183 Email Address  
3 Commander, Charles McCall  
158 Adjutant- JD Gurge  
158 Commander- Carl Wieczorek  
Post 71 Telephone #  
12th Dist. Boy Scout Chair: Gerald Newman  
222 Commander- Mark Dibuno  
178 Adjutant- Steven Valentine  
71 Adjutant- Nancy Thomas  
Post 71- Post Address  
154 Post Email Address  
Post 249: phone/email  
34 Mailing/Billing/Email  
398 Post Info  
234 Adjutant- Abraham Alexander  
234 Commander- Mack Benjamin  
398 Commander- Donald Ravenfeather #T19854  
398 Adjutant- William Schweizer IV #K74754  
76 Post Phone  
90 Post Home Address  
183 Commander- Jerry Fairman  
183 Adjutant- Scott Ramler  
13th Dist. Vice Commander- John Ward  
8th Dist. Vice Commander- John Dunn  
PDC, Bill Seemann  
40 Adjutant- John Reiff  
224 Adjutant- Gary Bennett  
PDC, Larry Sheets  
5th Dist. Boys State Chair: Clarence Richardson  
13th Dist. Boys State Chairman: Randy Eck

### New Information

5600 W County Road, Bell, 32691 (h)352.463.1352 bellbird5600@gmail.com  
145 Mango Ln, Freeport, 32439 (h)850-835-8464 psdilmaggio@centurylink.net  
20874 US Highway 331 S, Freeport, 32439 (p)850-835-7021 dotcomanjoe@yahoo.com  
11753 Egret Ct, Dunnellon, 34432 (h)352-342-3743 jtaylor9900@yahoo.com  
1115 SE Alamanda Ln. Stuart, FL 34996 772.215.1329 1stmait@bellsouth.net  
1722 SW Waterfall Blvd, Palm City, 34990 772.288.2757 jander333@bellsouth.net  
alegion1281@hotmail.com  
new email: sheljean@aol.com  
commander@alf183.org  
825 Trish Place, Bartow, 33830 (h) 863-533-5577  
11875 3rd St. E #.3, Treasure Isl, 33706 (h)727.804.1271 jdgurge@hotmail.com  
5713 13th Ave S. Gulfport, FL 33707 (h) 727.647.4242  
(863) 589-5689  
8740 97th Ave, Vero Beach, 32967  
2125 NE 14th Ave, Apt 2, Wilton Manors, FL 33305  
5355 NW 54th St., Coconut Creek, 33073  
PO Box 3312, Lake Wales, FL 33859 (h)863-618-6738 geldsprechens@gmail.com  
43 Lo. Park Ave, Lake Wales, 33853  
marathonpost154@yahoo.com  
(p) 850.835.7021 alpost249@yahoo.com  
P.O Box 1718, Haines City, 33845 website: www.al34.org  
(p) 772.597.3705 (f) 772.597.4529 Meetings: Wed 1300-1500  
1608 Cook Rd, Lamont, 32336 (P) 850-997-1780  
PO Box 157, Monticello, 32345, 850.997.5977  
1150 SW Allapattah Rd. Martin C.I., Indiantown, 34956  
1150 SW Allapattah Rd. Martin C.I., Indiantown, 34956  
386-956-7104  
4720 SE 16th Ave, Cape Coral, 33904  
new email: tallseal@yahoo.com, (p) 407-462-9102  
new email: sdcar@embarqmail.com  
new email: wardjohnjr@yahoo.com  
new email: jdunn155@verizon.net  
new email: bseemann@verizon.net  
new email: reiffj2541@yahoo.com  
new email: bennettsinc@bellsouth.net  
new email: rivetkckr@bellsouth.net  
new email: crish@fscj.edu  
(239) 218.5355

*The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you.*

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

The following delegates from Department of Florida were in Washington, D.C. October 2-5: Paul Martel, my Vice-Chairman, Michael McDaniel, Clarence Hill (PNC), Phil Hearlson (PDC), Gerald Clark, and Ron Musselwhite. We attended the meeting with the National Commander James Koutz as he gave our National wish list to the members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. We visited every Florida member of Congress and went over each item of the wish list with them. The following was our wish list:

**Protecting Veterans and DoD from the 2011 Deficit Reduction Law:** Last year's failure of the "supercommittee" means damaging automatic spending cuts, known as sequestration, are scheduled to take effect starting in January 2013 in defense spending and veteran-related accounts in the Departments of Defense and Labor. While congress has exempted the Department of Veterans Affairs, no such protection has been extended to non-VA programs that help veterans. The Pentagon's civilian and military leadership have gone on record as saying that the prospect of roughly \$500 billion in additional defense cuts -on top of the already approved \$487 billion reduction over the next decade -would be "devastating" to the U.S. military and "very high risk" to national security. Congress must pass an alternate debt reduction deal that avoids hurting the military and veterans.

**FY '13 DoD Budget:** Although a six month continuing resolution to keep the government funded until March 27, 2013, is in effect, the question of the final shape of the FY '13 budget is still outstanding. The American Legion, by resolution, wants Congress to maintain the DoD budget at least at current levels. The proposed budget reduces current funding from \$530.6 billion to \$525.4 billion. Our major concerns include: proposed increases in enrollment fees and pharmacy co-pays in TRICARE programs, including enrollment fees for TRICARE For Life; proposals to increase the medical index for upcoming years; creation of a BRAC-style Retirement Modernization Commission which may propose a 401k-style retirement benefit causing recruiting and retention problems; and the possible sequestration of an additional \$500 billion in funding cuts to an already inadequate defense budget.

**FY '13 VA Budget:** The American Legion supports the president's budget totaling \$140.3 billion. However, we are concerned about the continued reduction in funding of Major and Minor Construction projects which means VA infrastructure continues to degrade while aging and outdated medical facilities are not replaced or updated to meet current veteran health care needs. Furthermore, the outrageous disability claims backlog is higher than last year and VA must increase efforts to reduce this unconscionable backlog so service disabled veterans can get the compensation benefits they need and have earned.

**DOL-VETS:** The American Legion supports the president's budget request for funding for the State Administration Grants Program, which matched The American Legion's request. In order to account for the passage of a mandatory Transition Assistance Program (TAP\_ for all separating service members, we recommend an increase of 33 percent (\$12 million). The American Legion supports the defunding of the Veterans' Workforce Investment Fund, in favor of redirecting these funds into more efficient and effective programs, provided accountability for the funding is maintained to ensure the funds continue to provide employment resources for veterans. The American Legion supports keeping the VETS program in its rightful place within the Department of Labor where it is established.

**The claims Backlog:** Despite efforts within VA to eliminate the claims backlog, the number of claims pending for more than 125 days in the system continues to rise. Over 65% of the claims are now in backlog status and delays continue to grow. The American Legion believes the problems are systemic and is working closely with Congress to create an environment within VA that is more appropriately centered on getting the claims decided swiftly and accurately for veterans. These changes could include building a work credit system that penalizes VA for errors in addition to rewarding employees for the volume of claims decided, interest payments to veterans whose claims are needlessly delayed, or other measures to achieve real change in VA culture.

**Licensure and Certification:** A veteran who served as a combat medic in Iraq or Afghanistan is certainly qualified to serve as an EMT when they return to the civilian world. The American Legion is working on both a national and state level to ensure licensing and credentialing authorities give veterans the credit they deserve for the training they receive in the armed forces. The House recently passed legislation (HR 4057) which included a provision sponsored by Rep. Steve Stivers (HR 4115) that would make consideration of military training and experience for state licenses and credentials a condition of receiving Labor Department employment and training funds. Senator Mark Pryor has a companion bill

.....continued from previous page

veterans' tax on concurrent receipt of benefits for veterans who are less than 50 percent disabled and the SBP/DIC offset that constitutes the widow's tax represent an undue burden on disabled veterans and their spouses. Retirement pay and disability compensation are entirely different benefits made for distinct and different reasons. There is the surviving spouses of veterans are also entitled to their full benefits earned under the law. We encourage co-sponsorship and passage of HR 303 and S 344 to ameliorate the disabled veteran's tax and HR 178 and S 260 to correct the Widow's Tax.

**Flag Amendment:** the American Legion is committed to protecting Old Glory from acts of physical desecration. Representative Emerson (MO) has introduced H.J. Res. 13, "the congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Senator Hatch (UT) introduced a companion bill (S.J. Res. 19) in the Senate. The American Legion supports passage of these bills and urges every senator and representative to co-sponsor them.

**Stolen Valor Act:** In United States V. Alvarez, the U.S. Supreme court ruled on June 28, 2012, that the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 was an unconstitutional abridgement of the freedom of speech. Rep. Joe Heck and Se. Scott Brown have both introduced updated versions of the Stolen Valor Act that should pass constitutional muster. Instead of criminalizing the act of lying about military honors, the bill would make it a crime to profit from those lies. The House recently passed the new version of the Stolen Valor Act introduced by Rep. Heck, HR 1775. Senator Scott Brown has a companion bill, S 1728, With 33 cosponsors, and Se. Jim Webb has a similar bill S3372, with 52 cosponsors. We sincerely urge the Senate to work with the House to adopt this legislation and send it to the President for signature into law.

**US-Canada Pipeline:** The American legion believes the construction of the US-Canada pipeline from Canada to the Gulf Coast is a critical issue both for the economic security of America as well as the overall national security and energy independence. Despite the recent decision of the White House to delay authorization of this vital project, action by Congress could drive this project to approval earlier and put Americans back to work providing energy security for the future and reducing unemployment at a critical time.

*The American Legion Auxiliary*  
*Invites you to Attend the*  
**Commander and President's Dinner**

**November 10th**

6:30 pm - Cast Bar

7:00 pm - Dinner

Open seating unless specifically asked  
at time of ticket purchase

Make checks payable to: ALA, Dept. of FL

Send checks to:

American Legion Auxiliary

P O Box 547917

Orlando, FL 32854-7917

Reservation Deadline: November 2, 2012

Buffet Dinner will include: Caesar salad, potato salad,  
Cole slaw, sliced roasted pork with apple cider sauce,  
meatloaf with onion gravy, mashed potatoes,  
seasonal vegetables, warm apple cobbler with  
vanilla sauce and assorted pies.

*Attire: Petticoat Junction theme or casual*

**LEGION PRIDE**

For the third year in a row, American Legion Post 235 is presenting Fisher House with a check for \$10,000. The check presentation was scheduled for Monday night.

"They were one of the first groups to call and tell us they wanted to help," said Tom Rice, president of Fisher House.

Terry James, finance officer for the post, said they give between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to local organizations, and that Fisher House is the recipient of their single largest donation.

"It's one that we definitely believe in," she said. "It's one way that we can thank our service members that are serving today and let families know that we are there. We really stress family."

**THANK YOU**  
**ROGERS-HINSON**  
**POST 235**

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

The Legionnaire family has begun its preparations for a variety of fall family oriented programs that support a wide variety of children and youth activities. Holiday events are rapidly approaching, school breaks, report cards and other social interventions begin to take form that lead families to potentially make and/or take extreme measures that sometimes have a direct impact against loved ones and others. The American Legion C&Y Program has materials that are tailored to assist us and them through awareness and prevention that protects all children & youth from harm. Now's the time to acquire these materials and have them ready to pass along to anyone that may need them before actions are taken that lead to irreversible reactions.

Children & Youth Program materials that may assist families and friends during this holiday period include: Child Safety; Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; Suicide; School Safety; Missing and Abducted Children; Accidents (automobile, drowning, fire arms); Substance Abuse; Play it Safe; and Family Support Network.

Temporary Financial Assistance, and/or the Gilchrist Fund, is available to provide assistance providing you meet the basic program requirements. Contact Cliff Collins at Department Headquarters for additional information.

During the holiday season, sometimes we choose or want to help others in need but don't want our hard earned monies to be used frivolously. To prevent that from happening, please consider making your donation, no matter what amount, to The American Legion Department of Florida Children & Youth Fund or earmark your donation for the Children Welfare Foundation. These two programs use the monies collected to support C&Y programs in the state of Florida as well as around the United States.

**Monthly Program Reminders**

Monthly Reporting of Post C&Y Program activities

Plan your C&Y activities at least two months ahead & order your resources early.

Important C&Y Program Dates: Accepting 2013 Boys State Registrations (\$325/delegate) - October 1 - December 23, 2012; Department of Florida Fall Conference – November 9 - 11, 2012; National Family Week - November 18 – 24, 2012

The Florida Team effort continues to shine upon The American Legion's Fourth Pillar promoting our continuing core purpose of "A Square Deal for Every Child".



**Bonnie Carter, FALPA President  
4211 Helena St NE  
St Petersburg, FL 33703  
727-521-4049  
dincwaz2@tampabay.rr.com**

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 Media Association (NALMA) dues are \$10.00 per year and also include a quarterly newsletter. You don't have to join NALMA to join FALPA. P.S. I'd love to get your newsletter!

-----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, Treasurer, 5430 Friendly St, Port St John, FL 32927