

The Legion Link

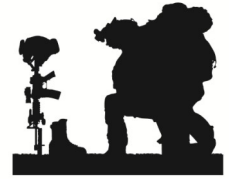
October 2012

Vol. 20 Issue 3



AIMING HIGH FOR VETERANS

FALLEN SOLDIER



NEVER FORGOTTEN

Web Site: www.floridalegion.org

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Al 'Gunner' Dudley
Department Commander
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I want to thank everyone for all you do for our veterans, their families, our community and nation! If you would like me to attend an event, call or e-mail me well in advance and if at all possible I will attend. We have appointed a Florida Chairman for Women's Veterans, welcome aboard Michelle Wakefield!

I want to extend a special thank you to the 16th District on our recent visit, and also had a great time at the 12th District Picnic! The whole family was there, Bravo Zulu to all of you!

Got a busy schedule with lots coming up. I look forward to seeing you all! Remember (R&R) "Retain and Recruit"! God Bless our veterans, their families, our troops and God Bless America!

Art Schwabe
Department Vice Commander
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386.235.9990

We just came back from the National Convention in Indianapolis. It was one of the best conventions I have attended. Thanks to your efforts in membership, the Florida delegation had seating in the front. I didn't need binoculars to see the stage this year. At the parade the Florida family was in the early part of a 4 hour parade in Indianapolis. It was nice to see most of the parade and be a part of Florida Family. If you have never been to a National Convention you should put it on your bucket list. There are a lot

of events going on and a lot of information can be learned at these conventions. With your help, we can sit up front next year. Keep the membership coming into Department.

Fall is just around the corner; District Meetings, picnics, and fund raisers are happening. Please make sure that the information makes it to Department so we can participate if possible. We would like to show support to you on the great things you do for Veterans and the Legion Family. We cannot come if we don't know about your events. The Department website has a calendar for each District to place events for their District. This is the best way to let others know about your events. Hope to see you soon at one of your events. Thanks for making a DIFFERENCE in the Legion Family.

Trivia

1. What is the Garland Murphy Award?
2. Who's motto is "Semper Paratus" meaning "always ready"?

A. Marines B. US Coast Guard C. Army

3. What year did the American Legion start American Legion Baseball?

Ole Lives On!!!!

LENA: Why do you go on the balcony when I sing? Don't you like to hear me sing?

OLE: Well, I just want the neighbors to see I'm not beating my wife



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

Hi Fellow Legionnaires;

In the last few weeks, I have been going to Districts and holding Sgt-at-Arms training classes and handing out 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 and also serve as a Protocol Manual to Post and District Commanders. If you haven't received the training or a manual at the training sessions in your District before the Fall Conference please attend the training class and you will receive one there. The remaining Districts will have the class after the Fall Conference.

I had the pleasure of attending two 9-11 Ceremonies, Chili Cook-off Fundraiser at a "VA" assistance living facility (17th District), PDC Paul Martel Roast, Legion Day Ceremony and a POW-MIA Recognition Day Ceremony this month. I would like to say that the training on Protocol really shows in the State of Florida. But, we do need to look at a few things:

1. Whenever the Holy Bible is open during a Legion meeting or function, NO alcoholic beverages should be served or consumed.
2. During Installations where the entire Legion Family is being installed one by one, the Commander, President or Coordinator (Director) at the Podium should have their SGT-at- ARMS tasked to escort whomever to the Podium (You should NOT task any other SGT-at- ARMS unless previously assigned and yours is not in attendance). The best bet to remember is when your Commander, President or ALR Coordinator is at the Podium then you as their SGT-at- ARMS is on duty and all the other SGT-at- ARMS are on standby duty and should assist if needed.

Any Sgt-at-Arms wishing to help at the Fall Conference please e-mail me with your name and phone number and times you will be available to help. There will be no application needed; you will be kept informed by e-mail on dates and times. We will have a meeting at 7:15 AM on Sat Nov 10th to discuss assignments. My e-mail address is: SAA@floridalegion.org

Veterans Day is also just around the corner, plan ahead and be the Best! I hope to see you soon at a training class or at the Fall Conference. Keep Our Troops in your prayers and welcome home as many as you can as they will be replacing us when we are gone. "BRAVO ZULU" goes out to Jim Corner (17th District), Loretta Young (9th District) and Jim Henry (6th District) for their ZEALOUS assistance to the National Sgt-at-Arms in his duties during the National Convention. Thanks for assisting and a Job Well Done!

This question had come up to me the last week or so and my answer is correct as it was answered by National Internal Affairs of The American Legion. The Following applies to not only the Sons of The American Legion but to The American Legion Riders:

The American Legion Riders is a program of The American Legion just as the Sons of The American Legion. Both follow the rules of The American Legion in courtesy, the Military Salute and the US Flag Code as long as they are in the uniform; no matter if they are an Aux, SAL or Legion member.

They can salute due to the service of their qualifying membership from which they joined the American Legion Riders as it is a program of The American Legion. If they are not wearing the SAL Hat or ALR Beret then they would place their hand over their heart.

The SAL and ALR have the option to Salute or not, if they don't want to salute they must uncover and place their hand over their heart. "For God and Country"

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

Until they come home.....is the motto of the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). Major General Stephen D Toms heads the global investigation, recovery and identification command which, was established 1 October 2003. JPAC's Central Identification Lab is the largest in the world. The command maintains four (4) permanent detachments: Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Hawaii. The day to day operation involves reviewing case files, investigating leads, excavating sites, recovery of remains, DNA Identification, and preparation of briefing materials.

In honor of the sacrifice made by our comrades JPAC holds a ceremony for the service member. Respect is given to all the remains as they are transported to JPAC'S Central Identification Laboratory.

The service mortuary office takes over at this point and contacts the family. If the family accepts the identification of the remains and the burial is planned. The military pays for all expenses associated with the transportation and burial of the remains, transportation and hotel of two family members to the burial site during the time of the funeral.

**ATTENTION ALL POST
COMMANDERS**

Has your Post Boys State Chairman, Oratorical Chairman, or Blood Donor Chairman received their manuals from Department?? Have any of your Post Chairmen received the most updated information on their program from Department?? If not, please send pages 13-15 from the Post Administrative Manual to Department. If you cannot find this manual, email cpolk@floridalegion.org.

Michael Clark
Americanism

Americanism@floridalegion.org

We have one month prior to the Fall Conference. There is much to be done within the Americanism Programs. Please Posts - let's help get people to the voting polls. This is one of the biggest and most important of our Nation's rights and also falls under the Americanism Pillar.

Remember that Boys State Fees are due in December. Post, now is the time to get authorization before your E-Board for approval, don't wait until the last minute.

Oratorical, you should be well be on your way to selecting students and judges for the contest. This will need to be wrapped up by the first of the year. Also, Americanism Chairs, please get out to the schools and let them know that seniors in high school are eligible for our General Scholarship if their parents or grandparents served in military during a time of conflict. The post need to start looking for that Teacher of the Year as well.

The smallest of smallest of post can get involved since a lot of the Americanism Programs cost little to nothing. This is also a way to grow your membership since it will show that the Legion is more than a place to drink! Hope to see you at the Fall Convention. For God and Country



Scott Grabner
Dept. ALR Chairman
alr@floridalegion.org

Riders its only a little over a month before fall conference. A great course to take for every Legion Family ALR Member is the "Legion Institute" It's a course that gives every member of the Legion family the opportunity to

learn and discover the rich history, programs, policies, developments, positions and future goals of our organization. Graduates also receive a cap patch and a certificate. This course also serves as a handy reference set on the workings of the Legion. Pre-registration required. Contact Mary at 407.295.2631, ext 232.

The Legion Riders E-Board meeting will be held from 1:00pm-2:pm on Friday November 9th.

Please have any ALR Resolution to the ALR SOP into your District ALR Chairman 40 days prior to the November 9th Legion Riders E-Board meeting at the fall conference for review.

The Legion Riders Training Session will be held from 2:30-3:30pm on Friday November 9th.

The Legion Riders General Session Meeting will be held from 4:00pm-5:30pm November 9th.

Please remember to dress accordingly for all Legion Conference Meetings. Your Legion Family uniform with or without riders vest or short or long sleeved shirt (collared or uncollared) with or without riders vest (No cut off sleeves allowed in any meeting halls including the Riders Meeting.)

Let's keep doing what we do best.... having fun riding for veterans! Still Serving & Riding for Veteran's

Bob Vick
Department Chaplain

Greetings in the name of the Lord,

When I was a lad the time seemed to go so slowly – I just couldn't wait for Birthdays, Holidays or any other special event. Time just seemed to drag. I remember my mother telling me: "As you grow older time will seem to speed up". My, my, has it ever done so. It now seems to fly by. It seems only days ago it was New Year's Day and now the year is almost gone.

Plan now for your Post celebration of Columbus Day in October

When we are confronted by an emergency situation we are taught to call 911 for help. I would like to give you some emergency numbers other than 911.....

When men fail you call Psalm 27

When you have sinned call Psalm 51

When you worry call Mathew 6:19-34

When God seems far away call Psalm 139

When you feel down and out call Romans 8:31

For how to get along with your fellow man call Roman 12

Do you remember asking your Dad for something and he said "NO". He didn't do that because he didn't love you, conversely, he did it because he DID love you and wanted the best for you. It is the same with God your Father. His "NO" answer may be: No my child this is not the time, No, this will be harmful to you, or, No my child I must instruct you before you experience this. God sees the ending as well as the beginning and His saying NO, may be saving you from harm or heart ache. Keep asking your Father for what you need, but be willing to accept No or Wait. God knows best. Call me for prayer, or invitations to your Post function. God Bless you all

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

55% Goal

October 17, 2012

Membership Report as of September 26, 2012

Jim Ramos
Membership Chairman
membership@floridalegion.org

Congratulations to all of the Areas and Districts for achieving the first goal of 50% for the 2013 membership year. I want to recognize Post 114 – Crawfordville; Post 172 – Hosford; Post 195 – Madison; Post 344 – Merritt Island; and Post 187 – Deland for hitting 100%. Well done comrades! I am very pleased to pay special tribute to Post 9 – Jacksonville for being at 192% as of the most recent reporting period. In addition, I want to mention Districts 8 and 9 for having all Post at 50% or better. This is truly an outstanding effort. Congratulations to all.

We still have 43 Posts under the 50% goal and 10 Posts with zero percent reported. I have visited a few Districts spreading the word about the 2013 Membership Plan and I continue to encourage Post Commanders, Post Membership Chairpersons, Adjutants and First Vice Commanders to stay involved in the membership process.

Please check out the Membership Information & Awards Manual. By using any of the 33 pages of suggestions and plans you can energize your renewals and recruiting. Try contacting former members from your old Post roster for members who did not renew in the last few years and encourage them to come back to the Legion. With a little effort you too can get back on track!

Also, if your Post is not using mylegion.org I suggest that your Post Cmdr or Adjutant sign up for it. It has all your membership needs and is easy to use. You can check on who paid on-line, make a newsletter, a calendar and create labels for your mailing list.

Remember, to ensure that your Post receives the proper credit for membership, submit your renewals in a timely fashion. Please send in your membership cards today as the next round of Legion renewal notices come out in October. If your members have paid already and you send their renewals late those members will get a second renewal notice.

Thank you to Post 219, Fruitland Park for hosting a three day event called "Community Appreciation Days" and to Post 284, Belleview for their recent Post Open House. Both events were very good. I know I have more Posts within the Department who said they are planning a special recruiting event soon. Please let me know of your event and I will try my best to be there. If you need assist please contact me by e-mail at jramos149@bellsouth.net or membership@floridalegion.org or call me at 352-226-4370.

As we continue to conduct the business of The American Legion by providing service to our veterans, their families and our communities, we shall stand together with "LEGION PRIDE."



District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Robert Kiley	10,193	7,104	69.69
2	Homer Frailey	1,365	904	66.23
4	Charles Ferguson	4,160	2,728	65.58
11	Richard Smith	4,094	2,661	65.00
17	Michael Wolohan	4,135	2,680	64.81
15	Eunice Butts	5,178	3,332	64.35
9	William Johnson	4,342	2,772	63.84
7	Nancy Thomas	3,863	2,430	62.90
12	Albert Diaz	8,424	5,288	62.77
1	Verna Joyce	6,256	3,910	62.50
16	James Burgess	11,977	7,310	61.03
8	Debra Roush	8,218	4,969	60.47
5	Henry Combs	7,681	4,628	60.25
13	William Hauser	8,783	5,026	57.22
3	M.E Christians	1,712	954	55.72
14	Gary Decker	3,161	1,738	54.98
Eastern	Mark Johnson	18,617	12,392	66.56
Western	Charles Lecroy	7,621	4,814	63.17
Central	James Zipler	21,018	13,072	62.19
Northern	Robert Brewster	17,688	10,990	62.13
Southern	George Rafajko	11,597	7,171	61.84
SW	Steven Slachta	17,001	9,995	58.79
Dept			58,434	
Post 400		11,977	8,410	70.22
Post 208		2,141	2,219	103.64
Totals		107,775	69,063	64.08



Jorge L Montes
Department Boy Scout Chair

I am the new Boy Scout Chair for the Department of Florida appointment by Commander Gunner. I am honored, humbled and excited for this year's Scout program, hope each of you have a great year and I can be the spark to make this grow. We are really off to a great start! Here is the link http://youtu.be/1bb10jo_xBc, to the YouTube video for last year's American Legion Cracker Trail Competition for Scouts. I think you will enjoy it and see what it is all about. All are welcome to enjoy, see, and learn what it is all about. There will be even more events in other areas next year.

We could use your financial support to make this happen for everybody. So far we have received a \$500.00 donation from my landlord at work just by asking and explaining what the Legion is trying to do. Note that some scouts may even come your way asking you to sign as sponsor so they can attend the event. No money is required. Just sign and make people aware of The American Legion. You will be doing a great community service for them and us. I have been too many scouting events in my 20 plus years of scouting and this by far was the best camping event on a weekend.

Thanks to District 11 Legion Boy Scout Chair Kenneth Nichols and other members in the Legion plus adult scout volunteers in the area. Many meetings have already taken place to plan and coordinate this event, and it looks like it will be even better than last year. I totally enjoyed myself last year and felt great that I was able to help and mentor scouts. If each of us give a little of your talents and skills, these kids would get a great push and example. Our service to our country put us in a unique spot as mentors and role models, which these young men look up to. So let us step up to the plate and help build the future.

Scouting is the very first Legion program adopted in 1919 and it must be number one again. We want more Post and scouting units to get active and connected in community activities, we need to support the future leaders of tomorrow and plant seeds of American Patriotism that we have. This will give them a future of love of this country not as strong today as when we were young. This is a fantastic concept if you just let it sink in. Help me get this information out to all Post and Scouts in your area.

If scouts can attend this Cracker Trial Competition, it is an experience that they will not forget. I can remember many great role model Legionnaires last year, but two examples vividly come to mind. One was the history of American flags. This was extremely informative and very Patriotic thanks to Paul Bosco. He has even more new ideas for this year and I am sure he is getting ready for this year (subject: will be Presidents in history). Lastly was our very own Department of Florida Chaplain Robert Vick. He was the last event and his beautiful words to live by gave an enjoyable spiritual feeling. God willing he will be with us again this year.

Remember to tell your Eagle Scouts of the Eagle Scout of the Year scholarship award. To make sure they meet the requirements see the Legion web site under scouting. If possible I would like to recognize all Eagle scouts in Florida. The Legion will send you certificates for you to give out. We want to make them feel proud of their accomplishment. Plus it will promote great public relations so people get to see what we are all about and get to know what the American Legion stands for.

We need to continue community events and teach by example like the Freedom Walk on the weekend of Sept. 8, 2012 in Homestead hosted by VFW 4127. It is held to remember the 9-11 people and service members that lost their life in the line of duty. This event was well attended in Homestead. There were families and friends and active service veterans as well as many retired veterans, Auxiliary, JROTC Cadets various schools and Boy Scouts. These kind of events are how we show who we are, to let our presence be seen and heard so we can make a difference. For God and Country

Ron Musselwhite
Department Oratorical Chairman

School is in session. Now is the time for all Post Chairpersons to call on the schools. Please take some brochures to your local schools for the students. The District Chairs need to call on the local Posts to see if you can help out the local Post. Remember that all Post contests need to be completed by January 13, 2013, all District contests need to be completed by January 27, 2013, all Area contests need to be completed by February 17, 2013. The Department finals will be held on March 9, 2013 at 9 AM at Department Headquarters. Let's make this year a great Oratorical year.

ORATORICAL
Contest Dates

Must be completed by:

Posts - January 13, 2013

Districts - January 27, 2013

Areas - February 17, 2013

Dept. - March 9, 2013

Legislative
Stanley Gold, Department Chairman
786.423.2458

District	Incumbent	Party	First elected	2012 status / Result	Candidates
Florida 1	Jeff Miller	Republican	2001	Running for re-election	Jeff Miller (Republican) Jim Bryan (Democratic) Calen Fretts (Libertarian)
Florida 2	Steve Southerland	Republican	2010	Running for re-election	Steve Southerland (Republican) Alfred Lawson, Jr. (Democratic)
Florida 3	Cliff Stearns Redistricted from the 6th district	Republican	1988	Lost renomination	Ted Yoho (Republican) J.R. Gaillot, Jr. (Democratic) Phil Dodds (Independent)
Florida 4	Ander Crenshaw	Republican	2000	Running for re-election	Ander Crenshaw (Republican) Jim Klauder (Independent)
Florida 5	Corrine Brown Redistricted from the 3rd district	Democratic	1992	Running for re-election	Corrine Brown (Democratic) LeAnne Kolb (Republican) Eileen Fleming (Independent)
Florida 6	New seat				Ron DeSantis (Republican) Heather Beaven (Democratic)
Florida 7	John Mica	Republican	1992	Running for re-election	John Mica (Republican) Jason Kendall (Democratic)
	Sandy Adams Redistricted from the 24th district	Republican	2010	Lost renomination Republican loss	
Florida 8	Bill Posey Redistricted from the 15th district	Republican	2008	Running for re-election	Bill Posey (Republican) Shannon Roberts (Democratic) Richard Gillmor (Independent)
Florida 9	New seat				Alan Grayson (Democratic) Todd Long (Republican) Mike Nieves (Independent) Roberto Sanchez (Independent)
Florida 10	Dan Webster Redistricted from the 8th district	Republican	2010	Running for re-election	Dan Webster (Republican) Val Demings (Democratic)
Florida 11	Rich Nugent Redistricted from the 5th district	Republican	2010	Running for re-election	Rich Nugent (Republican) Dave Werder (Democratic)

Florida 12	Gus Bilirakis Redistricted from the 9th district	Republican	2006	Running for re-election	Gus Bilirakis (Republican) Jonathan Michael Snow (Democratic) Paul Elliot (Independent) John Russell (Independent)
Florida 13	Bill Young Redistricted from the 10th district	Republican	1970	Running for re-election	Bill Young (Republican) Jessica Ehrlich (Democratic)
Florida 14	Kathy Castor Redistricted from the 11th district	Democratic	2006	Running for re-election	Kathy Castor (Democratic) E. J. Otero (Republican) Bill Kee (Independent)
Florida 15	Dennis Ross Redistricted from the 12th	Republican	2010	Running for re-election	Dennis Ross (Republican)
Florida 16	Vern Buchanan Redistricted from the 13th district	Republican	2006	Running for re-election	Vern Buchanan (Republican) Keith Fitzgerald (Democratic)
Florida 17	Tom Rooney Redistricted from the 16th district	Republican	2008	Running for re-election	Tom Rooney (Republican) Will Bronson (Democratic)
Florida 18	Allen West Redistricted from the 22th district	Republican	2010	Running for re-election	Allen West (Republican) Patrick Murphy (Democratic)
Florida 19	Connie Mack IV Redistricted from the 14th district	Republican	2004	Retiring to run for U.S. Senate	Trey Radel (Republican) James Roach (Democratic) Brandon Smith (Independent)
Florida 20	Alcee Hastings Redistricted from the 23rd district	Democratic	1992	Running for re-election	Alcee Hastings (Democratic) Randall Terry (Independent)
Florida 21	Ted Deutch Redistricted from the 19th district	Democratic	2010	Running for re-election	Ted Deutch (Democratic) Cesar Henao (Independent) Mike Trout (Independent)
Florida 22	New seat				Adam Hasner (Republican) Lois Frankel (Democratic)
Florida 23	Debbie Wasserman Schultz Redistricted from the 20th district	Democratic	2004	Running for re-election	Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Democratic) Karen Harrington (Republican) Ilya Katz (Independent)
Florida 24	Frederica Wilson Redistricted from the 17th district	Democratic	2010	Running for re-election	Frederica Wilson (Democratic)

Florida 25	Mario Diaz-Balart Redistricted from the 21st district	Republican	2002	Running for re-election	Mario Diaz-Balart (Republican) Stanley Blumenthal (Independent) Eddie Gonzalez (Independent)
Florida 26	David Rivera Redistricted from the 25th district	Republican	2010	Running for re-election	David Rivera (Republican) Joe Garcia (Democratic) Angel Fernandez (Independent) Jose Peixoto (Independent)
Florida 27	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Redistricted from the 18th district	Republican	1989	Running for re-election	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Republican) Manny Yevancy (Democratic) Thomas Cruz-Wiggins (Independent)



**Loretta Young
ROTC/Shooting Sports:**

School has been back in session for less than a month but is well underway. All chairmen should be contacting your respective schools and introducing yourself to the instructors for the opportunity to support the JROTC Program. The semester schedule moves very quickly and already events are being planned and carried out to train and move toward local, area and state meets that will be happening throughout the year.

In Broward County I attended the Ribbon Cutting and Opening Ceremony of the newly opened Hollywood Hills Military Academy. This is the first Academy to open in the Southern Area. The initial enrollment is 150 cadets in the 9th Grade. Cadets were chosen by application, testing and interview process. This is an Army program and cadets will be in uniform every day and have a team of instructors headed by their own principal. They have advanced classroom instruction, including the Arts, Computers, Sciences and Languages, etc. along with Drill and Ceremony.

I would very much like to see some of the events this year in your areas so please let me know if there is something special that will be happening for the cadet program and I will attend if time allows. (Please see the attached photo of the Grand Opening of the Hollywood Hills Military Academy with the Company Battalion Cmdr) Let each and everyone strive to make the Department of Florida the best in participation for the ROTC/JROTC and Shooting Sports Program in the country. Thank you and always remember to pray for our troops. For God and Country



**Larry Sheets
Department Internal Affairs Chairman
internalaffairs@floridalegion.org**

I have been asked several times about Post Officers who handle monies of the Post being bonded. I checked in the National By-Laws and Article VI Monies and Collections, Section 1 states the following:

"All National, Department and Post Officials handling The American Legion Monies shall be properly bonded with a good and solvent bonding and surety company, as surety, to cover double the average amount of money handled in a single year. In case of delinquencies in the payments of amounts due Department or National Headquarters, action shall be taken at once by the proper officials to bring about a speedy and complete settlement. The bonds provided by national officials shall be approved by the National Judge Advocate and the National Executive Committee, and those provided by the Department officials shall be approved by the Department Judge Advocate and the Department Executive Committee, and those provided by the Post officials shall be approved by the Post Legal Officer and the Post Executive Committee, or such other official or officials as the Department may designate".

While the Department of Florida Constitution and By-Laws does not specifically state this, it is a good idea for a Post to bond any Post Officer, and Post Employees who has access to, or handles monies of the Post. It does not cost that much, and it protects the Post from being, for lack of a better term "Ripped Off."



October Fun Facts

- 2 - Guardian Angels Day
- 6, 1876 - American Library Association founded, Philadelphia, PA
- 8, 1956 - first perfect no hitter World Series Baseball games; Don Larsen pitched for the New York Yankees
- 10, 1845 - U.W. naval Academy opens
- 19, 1752 - Ben Franklin flies a kite
- 24, 1945 - United Nations founded
- 28, 1636 - Harvard University founded

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

Legionnaires have settled down and are gearing up with their program chairmanships. Our Post, District, and Area C&Y Chairmen are working their plans. Our Legionnaire family members have already begun to positively affect the C&Y program through unprecedented monetary donations. This is uplifting to hear and we look forward to the continued support by our Legionnaire Family as we work hard to support our Children & Youth Programs, One Pillar at a time!

Children & Youth Program includes:

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

Highlighted program areas above should be acquired as on-hand materials for handouts. The fall seasonal distracters will soon plague our families, their children, and youth. Our tailored materials should be placed in their hands so the parents or guardians are kept informed to assist them in making informed decisions.

There are a variety of means to distribute these products. I suggest contacting the PTA/PTO of your schools to offer these materials and maybe a few minutes on their schedule to identify our mission and goal to our young leaders of tomorrow. There will be special family fest events in your local areas that will provide you the opportunity to setup an information booth to pass along the materials and giveaways. The ideas are endless. Remember to be flexible!

Your Department C&Y Program Chairman is available to enhance your support of events and activities. A courtesy notice in advance will either ensure that the support is provided and/or the materials are available in the quantities necessary to handle the anticipated activity.

I request all Posts, Districts and Area C&Y Program Chairmen to compile their monthly reports and email them to the Department C&Y Program Chairman. I am requesting each post to provide their monthly updates so we can achieve 100% reporting. Not hard to do, but very easy to forget.

Monthly Program Reminders

Monthly Reporting of Post C&Y Program activities

Plan you C&Y activities at least two months ahead

Order your resources, supplies, and materials early

Important Dates to Enhance Your Effectiveness with your C&Y Programs

*2013 Boys Stated Registrations (\$325/delegate), October 1 - December 23, 2012

*Department of Florida Fall Conference – November 9 - 11, 2012

*National Family Week - November 18 – 24, 2012

*Promote C&Y Fund Grant Applications – due NLT May 1, 2013

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".

Thank you all for stepping up and taking control of your respective C&Y programs. I am hoping that we will be diligent and able to exceed expectations across the state as we challenge all Posts, Districts and Areas to support the Fourth Pillar of The American Legion.

I am attending the annual National Children & Youth Conference and aim to bring back a lot of grand ideas that we can attempt to implement here in Florida to increase awareness and support for our C&Y programs.

I will have a report for you when I return. Stay tuned, to the Legion Link, and remember to contact me in advance if you need me to support selected C&Y activities. Remember our Motto "A Square Deal for Every Child"!



Do one thing everyday that scares you
Eleanor Roosevelt

Roster Changes up until September 15, 2012

<u>Post # Title-Name</u>	<u>New Info</u>
316 Adj- Robert Simcox	400 1st St., Neptune Bch, 32266 (H) 419.551.6359, simmybro@yahoo.com
267 Adj- Gerald Gomes	1121 Ave I, Ormond Bch, 32174 (c) 541.805.9220, xdj3xs@live.com
182 Cmdr- Richard Curry	3070 Hibiscus St., Miami, 33133 (p) 305.447.8680, recurrysr@yahoo.com
182 Adj- Cyril Bullard	14410 SW 105th Ave, Miami, 33176 (p) 305.251.9149, cbullard42@gmail.com
288 Cmdr- Karl Washington	1017 NE Railroad Ave, Boynton Beach, 33435, (P) 561.732.8703
288 Adj- Gwendolyn Mills	146 NE 15th CT, Boynton Beach 33435 (P) 561.732.2095
178 Cmdr- Seth Fishman	5725 A Phoenix Palm Ct, Delray Bch, 33484 (p) 561.496.5656
Post 178- Phone #	954-821-3727
42 Cmdr- Robert Phyllips	1169 Early Ln, Graceville, 32440
42 Adj- Arthur Obar Jr.	1094 White Ave, Graceville 32440
396 Cmdr- John Forsburg	132 V. Matt Williams Blvd, Polk City, 33868 (p) 863.984.4696 bj132@netzero.com
396 Adj- Virginia Bennett	9135 Samaraton Ave, Polk City, 33868 (P) 863.984.3798 vbennett8@tampabay.rr.com
Post 396 Phone #/email	863-984-4696 BJ132@NETZERO.COM
258 Cmdr- Robert Clements	439 Swain Blvd, Greenacres, 33463 (P) 561.439.5152 RPCCLEMENTS@AOL.COM
258 Adj- James Johnson	440 Santa Anna Dr. Palm Springs, 33461
192 Cmdr- Raymond Campbell	(p) 239-337-3339
Post 192 Meeting Time	1st Saturday, 9:30am
117 Adj- Jesse Figueroa	474 Club Trl. Apt 12, Melbourne, 32901 (p) 321.345.5964 eltigre33@hotmail.com
43 Cmdr- Wayne Schorr	815 N Homestead Blvd, #359, Homestead, 33030 786.208.3068 wayneschorr@hotmail.com
43 Adj- Lance Werner	25375 SW 202nd Ave, homestead, fl 33031 (P) 305-431-5158 lance-a-lot@att.net
POst 43 Meeting Time	1st Wednesday 1830
131 Adj- Stuart MacIver	4096 SW US Hwy 221, Greenville, FL 32331 (p) 850.371.0042 sjmaciver@gmail.com
273 Cmdr- Bobby Blanco	17117 Gulf Blvd Apt 631, N. Redington Bch, 33708, (p) 813.220.6549 post273@amleg273.com
274 Adj- Martin Keane	31 Helen Lane, Ft. Myers Beach, 33931 martysings4you@aol.com
246 Adj- Janet E. Taylor	1818 Adrean Pl, Sun City, 33573 (p)813.634.0908 jtaylor2771e@yahoo.com
221 Cmdr- James Dennis	221 Hudson Cir. Niceville, 32578 (p) 850-678-1750
395 Cmdr- George Stakley, Jr.	856 MLK Jr. Ave, Crestview, 32536 (P) 850-682-3459 stakleysarge@yahoo.com
189 Adj- David Shank	8375 103rd Ct. Vero Beach, FL 32967 (p) 772.918.4851 post189sf@comcast.net
25 Cmdr- Robert Moore	135 Lemon Rd. NE, Lake Placid, 33852 (p) 863-465-5711 placidpost25@hotmail.com
225 Adj- Fred Daniels	10155 E. Dollarosa Ct., Floral City, 34436 fredandwife@yahoo.com
165 Cmdr Will Miller	16811 NW 24th Ave, Miami Gardens, 33056 (p) (305) 621-2376 willmill@yahoo.com
165 Adj Horace Johnson	PO Box 1092, Miami, 33257
335 Cmdr Louis Barlow	12353 Gurnee Ave, NPR, 34654 (P) 727.856.8124 lbarlow@tampabay.rr.com
Post 225 Mailing/Billing Address	6535 S. Withlapopka Dr. Floral City, 34436
183 Adj- Scott Ramler	228 Waverly Dr., Fern Park, 32730 (P) (407) 339-6431 sdrca1774@cs.com
Post 399 email address	americalegionf1399@yahoo.com
POST 381 Mailing/Billing address	17100 Tamiami Trail Lot # 275, Punta Gorda, 33950
9TH Dist. Law and Order Chairman	John P. Vazquez, 85 Gulfstream Road, Apt. 312, Dania Beach, 33004, (p) 954.483.9285 johnnyvaz@aol.com
Post 119 Mailing/Billing Address	130 1st Ave SW, Largo, 33770
158 email address	f1alegionpost158@hotmail.com
Post 90 Mailing/Billing Address	4720 SE 16th Ave, Cape Coral, 33904
Post 12 Mailing/Billing Address	PO Box 19923, West Palm Bch, FL 33406

Some people say I must be a horrible person... that's not true... I have the heart of a small boy... on my desk... Stephen King



Organizational Governing Documents
By: Dick Mondro, Department Judge Advocate
September 8, 2012

I keep hearing stories from members of our posts that when it comes to their conduct in a post social quarters, their constitutional rights are often violated because their executive committee does not understand the limits of their powers.

The bylaws and constitution of an association constitute a contract between the organization and its members. Any provisions subjecting unreasonable and arbitrary limitations on membership are considered invalid.

The governing documents of an organization, empower it to do something. If it isn't in the governing documents then it is not allowed. The idea about writing down what the organization can do is defining its purpose, limiting its power, and putting forth in positive rules its scope of activity. Prohibitions are usually not written into the bylaws unless they are of great importance. And often prohibitions are written into the governing documents in positive statements. By defining in specific terms what the officers or the members shall do, it is also saying, "other things not mentioned in these bylaws, the officers or the members can't do." Again Robert's Rules comes to our aid. In the chapter on writing bylaws, and under the section about officers and their duties, the book says, "Great care must be taken in the writing of the article not to omit any duty, since an implication that the duty is not required could be read into the omission. For this reason, if such an article is to be included, it is well to conclude the section on each office a clause such as "... and such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Society." (1)

The concept that everyone needs to understand in a constitutional organization, is: "the consent of the governed."

The political philosophical concept of the "consent of the governed" was brought forth by and greatly influenced by Thomas Jefferson who wrote the "Declaration of Independence." It has become a basic principle in American democratic thought.

He wrote that man basically lives in a state of nature where all men by nature are "free, equal, and independent, no one can be put out of this estate, and subjected to the political power of another, without his own consent." In this state of nature each is governed by the state of nature which respects the rights of others.

If everyone understood this basic concept about the consent of the governed and respected it, there would be none of the tyranny and disrespect for righteous government that we find in so many organizations today.

Robert's Rules states that a board of an organization can only do what is assigned to it in the bylaws. The board can't take an action that conflicts with an action of the assembly, and the members can reverse any action of the board unless the power is specifically given to the board in the bylaws. If the bylaws states that the board has only day to day operation of the lounge and other properties of the Corporation, it means just that. When it comes to suspension of members rights based on arbitrary decision, that premise is invalid, as the bylaws do not specifically state the powers of the board with regard to suspensions of members. The bylaws may authorize, House Rules, or Lounge Rules, but only if specifically stated in the bylaws. In addition, any punishment for violation must take into consideration the constitutional rights of due process of the accused.

By understanding this basic principle of consent of the governed, putting the governing documents in the positive, members can protect their organizations from those who have no respect for the rules and principles of righteous government or a tyrannical board.

When writing our documents, we put them in the positive. It is a general principle that motions be put in the positive. So should our governing documents. Because of this basic rule, we don't have to have lists of "thou shalt not dos".

The response when someone says, "It doesn't say that we can't do it.", should be "where does it say that we can do it.?"

I am not advocating enumerating powers of the executive committee, with regard to post social quarters, in the governing bylaws, but they should be addressed and made known in rules that a post writes, governing this area. Each post is incorporated under the laws of the state, and as such, members' rights may not be infringed.

The American Legion charters posts, not social quarters, however that does not give a post the right to subject unreasonable and arbitrary limitations of a members rights.

Another thought to keep in mind is that the Florida State Constitution provides in its Article I, Declaration of Rights, the rights of Freedom of Speech and Press, The Right to Assemble, The Right of Due Process and Freedom from Excessive Punishment, Fines and Cruel and Unusual Punishment. (2)

Ref: (1)Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition.

(2)The Constitution of The State of Florida

Boys State

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