

# The Legion Link

August 2013

Vol. 21 Issue 1



## *Making a Difference for Veterans Everyday*



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

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Meaning of the Preamble

**Art 'Ole' Schwabe  
Department Commander  
[Commander@legionmail.org](mailto:Commander@legionmail.org)  
407.247.5232**

Greetings to all. It has been a very busy 2 months. Area Training is almost complete. Over 230 members have gone through the Area Training classes. We have had over nine instructors at all training sessions. The experience has been great for the instructors and the members. I would like to thank the instructors for taking time out of their busy schedules to assist in this training and to the members who attended. We have been told by many members that this has been the best training session in many years. The last Area training will be held on August 10th in the Southwestern Area.

We have just completed another very successful year at Boys State with 530 boys attending. Great time was had by counselors and the boys. Congratulations to the Posts that sent boys to the BEST program of the Florida American Legion! You should be very proud of your selection of boys. JOB WELL DONE!

District Installations are being completed as I am writing this article. This is the only formal ceremony the Post has for a year. Please take pictures to preserve the memories for those to follow in years to come.

Members from National Headquarters and Department Headquarters have toured the new VA Hospital at Lake Nona. Once it is completed it will be a State of the Art hospital. Target date for opening is April 2014. You can read

about the tour in a few months featured in the Legion Dispatch.

Next month we have even more happenings! Membership Workshop in Indianapolis, National Convention in Houston and District visitations will start. Please check the Department Website for dates and times. It will be updated and more current information will be added to the calendar. I am looking forward to visiting with you in your Districts. I hope you have started planning your Posts new year and get your calendars on the Website. You need to plan with the Legion Family as not to step on each other's dates. If everyone gets on board you will be successful.

Thank you for being a "Difference Maker" for our Veterans, Community and our Children.

## 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.**

**Michael McDaniel**  
**Department Adjutant**  
[mmcdaniel@floridalegion.org](mailto:mmcdaniel@floridalegion.org)

Hello Legionnaires and Family,

It is a great pleasure to share some events that have happened in the month of July. First of all, I want to congratulate all of you who have been voted into office by your peers. There is no greater honor than your peers asking you to be their leader. Good luck and have a great year. The Commander as you know has been involved in bringing training to the Legionnaires throughout the State. This is being accomplished with the support of Past Department Commanders and Department officers. It has been extremely successful and we are on track to have trained well over 350 legionnaires. If you are interested in this training, please visit the Department website for dates and times of our next training sessions.

The Boy State Program was also a great success. We had over 535 young men arrive to participate in the program and only one dropped out. This was the seventieth year of this program and it continues to be a great success. Without you, this program and others would not exist. Keep up the great work!

During the week of July 15, the VA&R staff is assisting veterans with benefits and claims during the 104th Annual Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Orlando, Florida.

I encourage all of you to visit our Department Website and tell us what you think. We are here to serve you and this can only be accomplished if you let us know what is important to you. We have two major areas that are always a concern:

1. Membership. You hear it every day and I know in your hearts you do what you can to make a difference. An easy way to find members is through your friends and family. They see that you are proud of your service to your country and they want to be a part of it too. Currently we have 1.6 million veterans in the State of Florida. This year, the Commander wants to jump out of a perfectly good airplane as an incentive for making the membership goal of 108%. He has asked me to jump at the goal of 110%. So this year I ask all members to keep this in mind as I'm requesting that each of you make 109.5% so I can wave to the Commander as he jumps.

2. Volunteers. A way to get volunteers is community involvement. When members of your community see what you do, they will want to be involved. It doesn't matter how small your community involvement is, what's really important is that you start somewhere. Your Department has plenty of giveaways and pamphlets to provide for these events. Give us a call and we will be more than glad to support you. As always for God and Country Semper Fi **Your** Department Adjutant



**To our veterans and friends of veterans.....**

My name is Sean Gibbs and I am the Volunteer Coordinator for this year's event. As you may know, for the past few years Homeless Services Network has helped coordinate the Orlando Veteran Stand Down. This year is no exception. We are expecting 300-350 veterans in need of services this year and we need 300 volunteers and approximately \$5,500 in donations to make it a successful event.

Information for the 2013 Orlando Veteran Stand Down:

When: Saturday September 28th, 2013 (9am - 3pm)

Where: Downtown Orlando Recreation Center  
649 W. Livingston St., Orlando, FL 32801

Volunteer Training: Wednesday May 25th, 2013  
12pm - 1pm or 6pm - 7pm

Volunteer Training Location:

Downtown Orlando Recreation Center  
649 W. Livingston St., Orlando, FL 32801

**AMERICANISM**  
**Steve Barentine**  
**Americanism Chairman**

With August comes the opening of school for the New Year. I encourage Post Americanism Chairmen to visit the schools in your area after they have been in session for a while. Find out if you can help with the advancement of our principles and volunteer your services for activities on Veteran's Day and Pearl Harbor Day. Boys State and Oratorical Chairmen can visit the high schools and talk with principals and guidance counselors about your programs as a means of getting to know them. It can make it easier when it comes time to meet your deadlines. If I can be of any assistance to you please feel free to contact me by email or by phone (772-643-4882).

**Ron Musselwhite**  
**Department Oratorical Chairman**  
[oratorical@legionmail.org](mailto:oratorical@legionmail.org)

Now is the time to go to your schools with the Oratorical brochures. We had a great Oratorical workshop at Department Headquarters on Sat. July 20th. All Post Chairs need to get in touch with their schools. All Post contests need to be completed by Jan. 12, 2014, All District contest by Feb. 2, 2014 and All Area contest by Feb. 23, 2014. The Department finals will be on Sat. March 8, 2014. We need all the support we can have to come and listen to these High School students give a speech on the Constitution. All Post Chairs need to stay in touch with their District Chair.

**Jay Conti Sr.**  
**Department Vice Commander**  
**352.287.1400**

Did You Know:  
"Bravo Zulu"



Hi Fellow Legionnaires! I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department Vice Commander. I am available at any time to attend any of your functions, just contact me by letter, email or phone and if I have nothing planned that day I will gladly attend your event. I have attended many installations and events since the convention. What a great time seeing an entire Legion Family come together and get things done!

Now that the Convention is over with and we are getting settled in our new positions, let's take a look at your new and transfer members and let's get them involved with your Post with a Program or a position. Don't forget to fill out your Post Chairman's Form that is located in the Post Administrative Manual (most Posts received it on the FLASHDRIVE). If you don't do a program listed, just place the Commanders name down. When you get the Chairman's Manual in look it over with your membership. You will be surprised that a member may be interested in it and most of these don't cost the Post any dollars to do and gets your Post "VISIBLE" (Florescent Green Visible!) in your Community and will help with Recruiting new members.

I hope that many of you have attended your Area Training events as there is some great information put out as well as great questions asked on how to do things. We do plan on continuing these types of training in the future so please tell those who didn't attend to please attend it the next time it is given. Also, let us know if there is anything you would like us to touch on the next time.

As I promised Officer Handbook-Manuals on "HOW-TO-DO-YOUR-JOB" and I am almost complete with the Post Commander Booklet. My plan is to role these Manuals out all at once at a date forthcoming. Handbooks will be done for Commander, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, and Historian. Your Department SGT-AT-ARMS, Walt Eatman, will be conducting the 2nd printing of the SGT-AT-ARMS book. Your Department Chaplain Steve Newman will be producing a Chaplains Handbook. If you would like to have input into one of these manuals, or even help out, please do not hesitate to e-mail or call me: ViceCommander@floridalegion.org or JConti3547@aol.com, (Home) 352.527.1152 or (Cell) 352.287.1400.

What a great time I had for 2+ days at Boys State. If you have never been there before take a trip during the Boys State week and see what transpires. If you would like to help as a counselor contact the Department Boys State Director, Frank Sardinha.

We are starting a very historic time in our Nation's history. We are coming up on the 12th Anniversary of the tragic events on 9-11-01. Help in planning your Post-District events of this holiday and all Patriotic Holiday's like: POW/MIA Remembrance Day; Veterans Day; Pearl Harbor Day and many more. Please make that extra effort to help your Post and District in making a sifference 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 Legionnaires! "For God and Country"



**Steven Newman**  
**Department Chaplain**  
**Chaplain@legionmail.org**



**Chaplains Steve's Spiritual Corner**

God Bless and hello my fellow Legionnaires. Today one of my goals that I promised during my campaigning around our state for Department Chaplain has begun. I have implemented chaplain training at the district level. So far there has been a great and blessed turnout by many Chaplains and Legionnaires who would like to become chaplains. I hope to continue this march across all the districts of this great state of ours.

I was fortunate to have as a guest at my first training session Dr. Rudy Frei MD Psychiatrist, who gave a wonderful talk on the power of prayer. He is also a Legionnaire in good standing and is very well respected and loved in the community. His presentation had scientific, mental, and spiritual connections with the power of prayer.

Each month I will send a note for the Legion Link. In my next column I would like to touch on the Spiritual aspect of Humor. Please get involved and let me know if this subject is helpful to you.

Remember we are only a spec in his services - Look, Read, and Learn. Treasure what you learn and pass it on everyday, everyday! John 4:12 No an hath seen God at any time if we love one another God dwellth in us and His love is perfected in us. Love is the oxygen of the spirit. Be sure there is plenty around you. When you breathe oxygen you take God's love which is always there, it is abundant. "Plenty for all" take lots of deep breaths throughout the day and practice mini-prayers-the benefits are cumulative. Also remember to keep those who are sick and those who have left this world and gone on to God the Almighty in your thoughts and prayers.

May God bless you with joy, health, and peace, everyday, everyday, everyday! Keep up the faith. For "God and Country"

# 50% Goal

## September 4, 2013

Membership Report as of July 31, 2013

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Thomas Biddle	10777	3215	29.83
4	Charles Ferguson	4198	1206	28.73
5	Thomas Gora	7810	2196	28.12
17	Dorothy Moore	4152	1135	27.34
12	Ken Wakefield	8442	2187	25.91
9	John Vazquez	4349	1058	24.33
8	Mitch Reinhardt	8255	1893	22.93
11	Frank Maitland	4168	943	22.63
1	Jimmy Martin	5888	1329	22.57
16	Sidney Damsgard	12028	2670	22.20
13	John Dollinger	8811	1743	19.78
15	Eunice Butts	5329	1024	19.22
3	Randall White	1946	286	14.70
14	Gary Decker	3026	417	13.78
7	Charles Giffin	3911	312	7.98
2	Willie Jackson	1373	100	7.28
Eastern	Robert Kiley	19219	5402	28.11
Northern	Michael Wolohan	18106	4823	26.64
SW	Debra Roush	17066	3636	21.31
Southern	William Johnson	11543	2418	20.952
Western	Verna Joyce	7261	1429	19.68
Central	James Burgess	21268	4006	18.84
<b>Dept</b>			<b>21714</b>	
<b>Post 400</b>		<b>12067</b>	<b>5246</b>	<b>43.47</b>
<b>Post 208</b>		<b>3181</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>34.96</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>109880</b>	<b>28072</b>	<b>25.55</b>

**Douglas Deierlein**  
**SKCS (SW/AW) USN, Ret.**  
**Membership Chairman**  
**ddeierlein@yahoo.com**

Hello Florida Legionnaires,

First I want to say, I am Honored and Excited to be your 2013-2014 Department Membership Chairman.

I would like to introduce myself. I am Douglas Deierlein (try learning to spell that last name when you were young). I am retired from the U.S. Navy since 2006 where I spent 24 years serving this great county. I proudly retired as a SKCS (E-8 for those who are not sailor savvy that is a Senior Chief Storekeeper) Surface Warfare and Air Warfare. I live in Sebring, Florida and belong to Post 69 where I have held the offices of E-board, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and Post Commander (2 years). I have also served as the 8<sup>th</sup> District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and Membership Chairman (2 years) and Southwestern Area Children and Youth Chairman.

I look forward to us taking Florida to the top of Membership for the Nation. We can do this as we have in the past. My slogan for membership this year is "Shoot for the Stars". We have to be positive and go farther than we have gone before. Membership is the life blood of this great veterans' organization.

I urge each Post to set up a membership team. Remember there is no "I" in team, "a burden heavy to one is bared lightly by many". This will help your post make their goals and it is great way to your members involved. I have found out that all you have to do is ask a veteran to assist and they are more than willing as that is what veterans do. I also hope that each Post has signed up for MyLegion.org as this is a great Membership tool. You can update post members records (address change/spelling errors/make deceased and much more) which will cut down on the paperwork you have to fill out and send in to make these changes. You can also search for new members in your area. So if you have not already signed up, please make sure you do.

Also **remember** we have the Membership "A" team at Department Headquarters, Irene, Jasmine and JoAnn are there to assist you with all your membership questions and needs. These ladies are the most knowledgeable and I am happy to have them as part of my Membership Team this year, as a good leader is only as successful as the people he surround himself with, saying that I am sure we will be Super Successful this year.

Please feel free to Contact me with any membership question or Issues, or if you're having a membership drive or Job Fair you would like me to assist with or attend. My email address is ddeierlein@yahoo.com, I look forward to working with you all this year so let's "Shoot for the Stars" and Get-done!







**Steve Shuga**  
**Children & Youth Program Commission Chairman**  
[cy@legionmail.org](mailto:cy@legionmail.org)

I wish to thank all of the Legionnaires from Florida and other parts of the United States who have supported my efforts as your Department of Florida American Legion Children & Youth Commission Chairman during the 2012-2013 term. The numerous ideas and suggestions passed along aimed to increase a better Children and Youth Program with your American Legion Post's, Unit's, Squadron's and Chapter's have been received and it shows. I am also very grateful to those who purchased/supported the C&Y Fundraisers during the past year. There are still a few coins and pins left so please purchase them first. I thank you and look forward to your continued support.

Posts around Florida should be collecting monies using the cans recently provided by the Department Commander's "Quarters for COTA" fund drive. COTA is the "Children's Organ Transplant Association", supported annually by the National American Legion Americanism / Children & Youth Commission who has provided annual grants for the past few years to fund this vitally needed program that assists patients who require a life-saving organ, bone marrow, cord blood or stem cell transplant. Your collected loose change will increase the funding to ensure that every child gets a square deal.

#### Monthly Program Reminder

Plan your C&Y activities at least two months ahead & order your resources early. If products are in short supply, go to National website under "Media" then "Programs" and download the materials you need, printing them at your leisure.

#### Important C&Y Program Dates

Posts are encouraged to seek out Florida's Senior High School candidates to apply for the American Legion General Scholarship. See your Post Administrative Manual for the application. Candidate applications are due at Dept. HQ no later than March 1, 2014.

Florida's Children & Youth Fund Grant applications due to Dept. HQ no later than May 1, 2014. Grant requirements are located under Department of Florida Programs Link – Children and Youth Fund on Department website.

#### Holidays

- 4 - U.S. Coast Guard Day
- 6 - Purple Heart Day
- 15 - VJ Day

**Paul Martel**  
**Department Legislative Chairman**  
**561-389-3765**  
[pmartelco@bellsouth.net](mailto:pmartelco@bellsouth.net)

The American Legion Family:

I want to thank our Department Commander for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department Legislative Chairman. Our Legion needed this so our elected officials will know who we are.

Some of you have heard me ask for help being a point of contact to your state Legislative Representatives and Senators. Many of you have stepped up to the plate. Although we are on the right path, we need more volunteers to speak to your officials, in your location, meet them one on one, at a luncheon or in their office. Get to know them, let them know about the American Legion, the real Legion, not their preconceived notion of the Legion being just a bar. I want your representative and senator to ask you your thoughts when they have a bill or a question about veterans. Where it is important to meet the officials, it's more important to KNOW the Legislative Director in the office. He/She will normally be the person you will be speaking with concerning pro and cons on issues. Keep in mind The American Legion is non-partisan, we are issue driven.

I don't expect you to make this a full time job. All I need is your name, phone #, the names of your representative and senator and which state district they are in. Just meet and greet; explain The American Legion and what we do. Praise them when they do good and let them know when it's not, WITH RESPECT. We will send out an e-mail to you when there is an issue. You will contact, in person or by phone, the office and speak to the Legislative Director. Explain our Legion thoughts on that issue. When you get an answer e-mail the information back to me and we will compile all that information. We will direct that issue to the appropriate chairman in Tallahassee. I don't care if there are 10 points of contact in one state district; the more the merrier! They will know WHO THE AMERICAN LEGION IS. I do want to cover our whole state, so I am asking not only the American Legion but the American Legion Auxiliary, the Son of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders, the family. After all, WE DO VOTE; our officials understand numbers.

When you speak to your representative or senator, please wear appropriate clothing, slacks, nice shirt with the assigned badge of your family and your cover. Be proud that you represent THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY. For God and Country



**Stanley Gold**  
**National Legislative Chairman**

My thanks to Art Schwabe, Department Commander, For appointing me to another year as chairman. I am also National Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Commission. At the National Convention in Houston, our commission will go over loads of resolutions related to Legislation in which the best ones will be presented to all the delegates at the National convention for approval. Those approved will be given to our Legislative Division located in Washington, D.C. They in turn will write up point papers for our new National Commander to be used when he will give testimony on September 10<sup>th</sup> to the United States House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. This year will be my 25<sup>th</sup> year that I will be at this hearing. After the Commander's testimony, the Legion delegates will visit their members of Congress and request their support to all the items mentioned in the Point papers. Florida delegates there will visit all 27 House members from Florida and our two Senators.

Some of the points to be discussed are: The Flag Amendment, FY 2014 VA appropriations, FY 2014 DoD appropriations and other Veterans Affairs items.

**LEGISLATIVE DIVISION ACTIONS**

Military Sexual Trauma Roundtable

On Thursday, July 18, American Legion legislative staff attended a round table discussion of VSOs regarding the issue of military sexual trauma (MST), and the way forward. Specifically discussed were proposed changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) with regard to how MST cases are handled: Sen. Kristen Gilibrand's (NY) proposed legislation entitle The Military Justice Improvement Act, Rep. Jackie Speier's (CA) STOP Act, Sen. Carl Levin's (NY) amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), as well as various other similar amendments dealing with the issue of MST.

Sen. Gilibrand's legislation proposes to move disposition authority out of the chain of command, to a professional military prosecutor. Rep. Speier's legislation would create a Sexual Assault Oversight and Response Office (SAORO), and all prosecutorial responsibilities of sexual-related offenses committed by a member of the armed forces would be ceded to it. Sen. Levin's amendment, taking a more conservative approach, would allow commanders to retain disposition authority, but would require the review of a commander's decision by the next higher level of the chain of command in cases where the commander opts not to prosecute.

Update on Flag Amendment Bill

On May 22, House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 47 was introduced by Rep. Spencer Bachus (AL). This legislation is a proposed constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration. Its text states simply: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." The measure now has 17 cosponsors, with the addition Tuesday of Rep. Jim Jordan (OH).

On June 13, Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT) introduced Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 17, a companion measure. This measure has 21 cosponsors.

**Larry Luebben**  
**Department Boy Scout Chairman**  
**Lluebben@thevillages.net**

I would like to introduce myself and my qualifications in the Boy Scouts of America. I have had consecutive membership in the Boy Scouts for 69 years and have earned or been given many awards. I am an Eagle Scout with triple silver awards (earning 103 merit badges), Silver Award, Silver Beaver, Award of Merit, Lamb award, and many others. I have attended every national jamboree except three, five world jamborees, and on staff for seven Canadian jamborees. All of this and a \$1.75 will get you a cup of coffee.

As I write this article, Ken Nichols and his very capable staff are hard at work putting together another great camping get-together in District 11. This Cracker Trail Competition was a great success last year and Ken has promised it will be even better this year. I know it is a long way to travel for many of our scout units, but it is well worth it. Please get the information out to the units in your area and encourage them to take part. Remember—3/4 of SCOUTING is OUTING. Please contact either Ken or myself if you need more information. The package with more information will be coming soon.

If you have been reading in the news lately, you know that the Boy Scouts of America just made a major decision and change regarding membership in scouting. Whether you agree or not, is not important. The mainstay of scouting has not changed and will always be to build skills in young men and women that will prepare them for the real world. There are some organizations that have chosen to drop scouting from their programs and this is the time for us to step up and take over the sponsorship or charter of these fallen units. Please contact your local Scout Council and tell them an American Legion Post in their area will pick up those units so that scouting can continue to be a strong influence in these young people's lives. Remember, the Scouting Program was the first program in the Legion.

In closing, I would like to thank Commander Art Schwabe for giving me this opportunity and I am looking forward to working and meeting more great scouters in the great state of Florida.

**A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY**

A Scout's honor is to be trusted. If he were to violate his honor by telling a lie, or by cheating, or by not doing exactly a given task when trusted on his honor, he may be directed to hand over his Scout Badge.

**Jim Burk**  
**Department American Legion Riders Chairman**  
[legionriders@legionmail.org](mailto:legionriders@legionmail.org)

My name is Jim Burk and I am extremely honored and humble to be appointed as the ALR Chairman for 2013-2014. My home post is 318 in Port St Lucie. The buzz there is the building of a new post home. This has been a dream of members for over 10 years. We recently broke ground and barring storms hope to be open sometime in October. You are all invited, of course, to the party.

My main goals with the Riders are fairly simple:

Maintain and increase our level of participation in the local communities by volunteering with various charities, attending parades and civic events. There's nothing like the smile on a kids face when motorcycles go by.

In St Lucie County we are going out into the woods and taking food, water and clothes to people living there. In our 3 county areas there are over 1000 people homeless. Many are veterans but we don't turn anyone away. All chapters need to get on board with this. We can make a difference out there.

Expand the communications between our 94 Chapters and over 3500 Riders. It's nice to support others but I believe supporting our own family is more important.

I plan on traveling to all Districts. What an excuse to ride. Do Good, Have Fun, Ride Hard For God and Country

**William "Rick" Johnson**  
**Public Relations Chairman**  
[publicrelations@legionmail.org](mailto:publicrelations@legionmail.org)  
**954-242-4496**

Well here go.....another year has started. First, congrats to all the new officers who have been elected and please support them in their new venture. We need to get our image out there and it is the responsibility of every Post to do that. If you have a special function going on, please let the public know and your local newspaper know that a function is going on. The only way for us to get our name out there is for the Post to let the local media know what is going on within your town.

Get involved in your schools, community and local towns to get the word out. Please let Department know of any special functions going on so we can plan ahead and support you in any functions happening. It does not cost us anything to spread the word on what the Legion is doing. You have a lot of tools available to you to use, so let's get the dust off and start using them. Remember that we operate on the Four Pillars and what a great foundation to have to help us. Get your Post officers involved in the programs and help support them.

We are based on volunteers but don't waste their time and please praise them on what they do. Never turn down a person, just keep them involved. If there is anything we can do please contact me or Vanesa at Department. We will be glad to help you in any way possible. So let's have a great year and make our Commander proud! Show our image out there and find new ways to get the word out. Remember a positive image is always a good one. Please have all of your contact information correct so we can get in touch with you. So have a great year and use the tools that Department and National have for you and let's keep moving forward.

**John Dollinger**  
**POW/MIA Chairman**  
[powmia@legionmail.org](mailto:powmia@legionmail.org)

The American Legion keeps focus on the POW/MIA issue. Work is always being done by the following groups:  
DPMO – Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) was established in 1993 to form a single office to oversee and manage POW/MIA issues. To learn more go to [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC)

JPAC is the 500 member operational unit of DPMO. JPAC is the "boots on the ground" organization. Their day-to-day operations involve investigating leads and recovering and identifying Americans who were killed in action but were never brought home. They also continue to search for POW's. In the first 6 months of this year the remains of 38 of our comrades were found and returned home. To learn more go to [www.jpac.pacom.mil](http://www.jpac.pacom.mil)

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 20<sup>th</sup>. Each Post needs to plan activities to foster the remembrance of those who have never been accounted for.



Florida ALR State Rally - May, 2013  
Article from Thunder Roads Motorcycle  
Magazine pg 10





**Bob Koger, Blood Donor Chairman**

**407-894-8048**

**BobKoger@aol.com**

This article is not about whom I am, or what I do, but rather the purpose of this writing is to promote the awareness and urgency of the American Legion Blood Donor Program. The Blood Donor Program is one of the least expensive, yet one of the most rewarding, urgently need community service programs your post could possibly support.

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood, and each day blood donations to meet this life saving necessity comes up short. Eligible donors with type's O negative, B negative and A negative blood are especially encouraged to give. Type O negative is the universal blood type and can be transfused to anyone who needs blood. Types A negative and B negative can be transfused to Rh positive or negative patients.

There is also an urgent need for platelet donations. Platelets – a key clotting component of blood often needed by cancer patients - must be transfused within five days of donation, so it's important to have a steady supply of platelets on hand.

Your donated blood is divided into three blood products: red blood cells used to treat trauma and cancer victims, plasma used to treat burn victims, and platelets used primarily to treat cancer victims. Therefore, it is conceivable that every pint of blood you donate could save, or at least make lives more bearable, for up to 3 sick or injured individuals.

In most instances, your blood donation will save the life, or at least help someone you most likely will never know. On the other hand, heaven forbid, you or a member of your family may be in need of a lifesaving blood transfusion before this day is over.

In a worst case scenario, you or one of your loved ones may be rushed to the hospital only to hear a physician say they must forego performing a lifesaving surgical procedure because of a shortage of blood. So hear me folks! We need to do everything we can to make sure it does not get to that point.

Also, think about our young wounded warriors returning from war with serious wounds and unimaginable burns. These young warriors need many pints of blood and blood products every day to give them a chance to recuperate and to survive. And fellow legion members, all of this blood that is so desperately needed today can come ONLY from someone like you. Blood cannot be artificially manufactured.

Throughout the past, the Department of Florida has encouraged and assisted Posts throughout the state to actively promote the Blood Donor Program, and it will be that way again this year. As the Department Blood Donor Chairman, I will promote and provide any help possible to make the program a great success this coming year. And, folks, there is plenty of room for improvement.

For instance, according to Department records, out of 290 Post in the state of Florida, only 75 had a blood donor chairman this past year. Of the 75 Posts with Blood donor chairman, there were 175 blood drives netting 2389 pints of blood. Our heartfelt thanks to the posts that had blood drives, and to those individuals who understand the significance of making a lifesaving blood donation. However, considering that the Department of Florida American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons) consists of more than 160,000 members at 290 posts throughout the state, surely, folks, I know you can, and hope you will improve on last year's record considerably.

Make a sincere effort to recruit a blood donor chairman for your post, and encourage your membership to participate in regularly scheduled blood drives. Any blood bank in your area will be more than happy to assist you in setting up a blood donor account and scheduling blood drives for your post.

Only about 5% of the people eligible to donate blood actually donate on a regular basis. In regards that, I ask this question: are you going to just sit back and be one of the 95% who will turn your head and walk away unwilling to make a blood donation to save a life, or are you going to be a hero and join the 5% who unselfishly donate blood on a regular basis. Remember the life you save could yours or one of your loved ones, or to save the life of a child suffering with leukemia, or to help our wounded warriors to heal and return to a normal life.

I sincerely urge all of you, become a hero: donate blood and save lives. You will be extremely happy and proud that you gave. For more detailed information about the Blood Donor Program, go to the Department home page, click on PROGRAMS, then click on BLOOD DONOR. For God and Country

**Les Rarriek**

**Department Baseball Chairman**

**R37377@aol.com**

Port St. Lucie Post 318 Jr. won the State Jr. Title beating defending champ

Ft. Pierce Post 358 5-4 in 13innings.

Sr. State starts Friday July 26.in Sanford. First pitch----9:30am

**World Series Baseball**

ESPN3.com will carry the entire American Legion Baseball World Series from August 16-20. Also, post homes might want to show on their big screen TVs. For those who don't have cable access to ESPN3, it will be carried as a live stream on the Internet. Access through [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)



**William "Rick" Johnson**  
**Southern Area Commander**  
[Southernarea@legionmail.org](mailto:Southernarea@legionmail.org)  
954-242-4496

Well, we have started a new year and I know this will be a great one for the Southern Area. First of all, let me thank the 9th, the 11th and the 14th Districts and my home Post 321 for the support in electing me as your Southern Area Commander. This position is going to be a very enjoyable one and I look forward to working with our District Commanders to move the Southern Area up. I know we talk about this every year.....MEMBERSHIP is just one of our biggest pushes for the year. Every Post might not achieve 100%, but if you give 100%, that is all we can ask of you. I will be at National HQ on August 1-5 for the membership workshop and when I get back will be sitting down with the District Commanders and membership chairmen within the Southern Area.

We will just be talking afterwards to the Post 1st Vice Commanders who are in charge of their membership programs. We have to find ways to attain new and young members within the Area and find ways to retain them once we get them.

District Commanders, please get good POC's from every post so that the communication gap is closed. I have been to numerous Posts already this year for their installations and have been well received. Thank you to all those Post Commanders that made me feel very happy to hold this position for you.

One last thing for this month - I charge every Legion member to have on them, at all times, an application form so when you see a veteran or someone displaying a Veterans plate or flying our Nations Colors, go up to them, shake their hand and tell them thank you for their service. You will be surprised at the response you get. Let's start using all of the tools Department and National has for us to use and learn how to use them. Congrats to all new Department Officers who got elected; I look forward to working with you. Thank you George, the past Southern Area Commander for all of your support the past few years. Our Area calendar is also on Departments website.

Remember, it's not the price we pay for membership; it's the price we paid to become a member.

**Steve Shuga**



### **Florida American Legion Press Association – FALPA**

During the 95th Department of Florida American Legion Convention held at the Renaissance Hotel Seaworld Orlando – June 6 – 9, 2013 we held our annual FALPA meeting to praise and recognize the selected members and Posts for their annual efforts.

We also selected our next slate of officers to serve our State and it's American Legion Family for 2013-2014. A list of officers will be published shortly.

Membership is important regardless of what organization we belong to but it is a necessity for us as FALPA members, and for those that have also accepted NALPA membership, to do our best by: increasing the membership in both organizations, expressing the thoughts of our veterans in articles published from or in a variety of social media products.

Every District/Post Newsletter should have at least one registered FALPA/NALPA reporter to create/author a variety of American Legion articles. Share the wealth and encourage more to join the association. Annual membership fees are low (\$5 for FALPA & \$15 for NALPA). You receive a set of card credentials, newsletters from both FALPA and NALPA, and have competitive chances to win awards based on various categories throughout the year. Other incentives are being considered and will be passed along as soon as they are available.

Communication is key to our success and yours as we jointly inform our membership of what, when, where, why, and how based on the information stories, articles, and editorials expressed in our District and Post newsletters. Please join your Florida American Legion Press Association (FALPA) and the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA)! You'll be glad you did, we guarantee it.



*A person who never made a mistake  
never tried anything new.  
~ Albert Einstein ~*

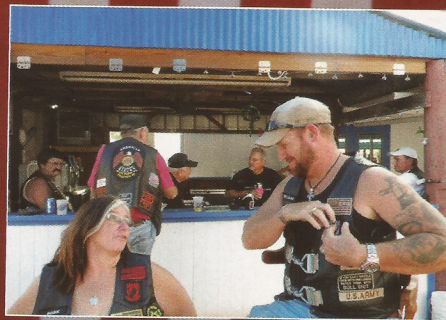
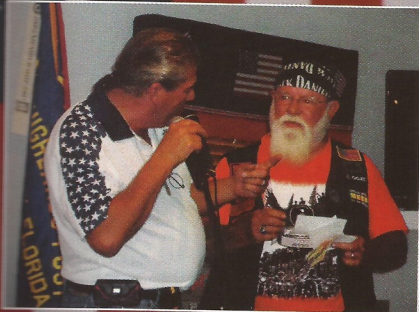
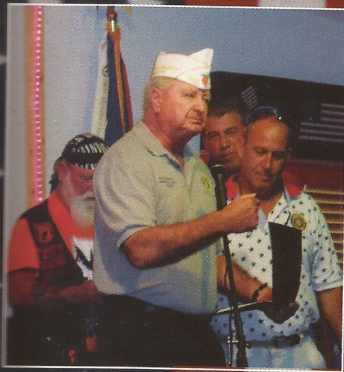


# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ON THE MOVE!!

By Metric & Phoenix



The American Legion Riders (ALR) is the fastest growing program in the American Legion. The American Legion Riders have become a seventy (55 mph just in case law enforcement is reading this) mile per hour billboard for assisting Veterans and their families. The Florida American Legion Riders alone this year have grown to 68 Chapters and nearly 3500 members. They have traveled over a million and a half miles across the state and beyond. They have supported nearly a thousand programs and have risen over a half a million dollars for various charities. The American Legion Riders signature fund raiser is the Legacy Fund, which is designed to give scholarships to children of our military families who have lost the lives in service to our country. This year the Florida Riders held its' first In State Legacy Ride which began in Panama City covering 1815 miles in eight days with a two day stop in the Keys (for a much need Rest and Relaxation), back up the east coast and home to Panama City, along the way the Riders collected \$12,000.00 to be contributed to the national Legacy Fund. To top off a great year of riding, ALR Chapter 69 in Avon Park hosted the first annual State Rally. The Captain (Rabbit) and crew (Post 69) with the help from a few ships in the fleet pulled off a fleet sized event with a group size force. GREAT JOB!!!! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!! Next year's rally will be held in Palm Bay around the middle of May, so mark your calendar and let's get everyone on board to the have a great time!!





**District 4**  
**Commander Chuck Ferguson**

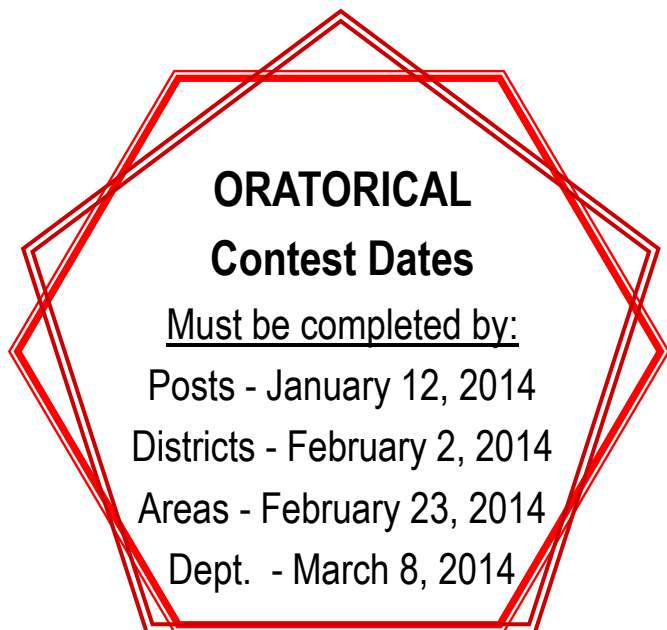
I want to thank all of you for again electing me for a second term as your District 4 Commander. And I thank you for your support during 2012 -2013. Remember, the District staff exists to serve all 19 Posts within the District.

2014 early surge of dues renewals is underway. Please process your cards and send them into Department as soon as possible. Don't hold them back. If you need help with membership just contact me and the staff will be ready to assist. Start working your Post membership plan. Our District goal is to have all Posts at 100% by December 2013. Let's get started!

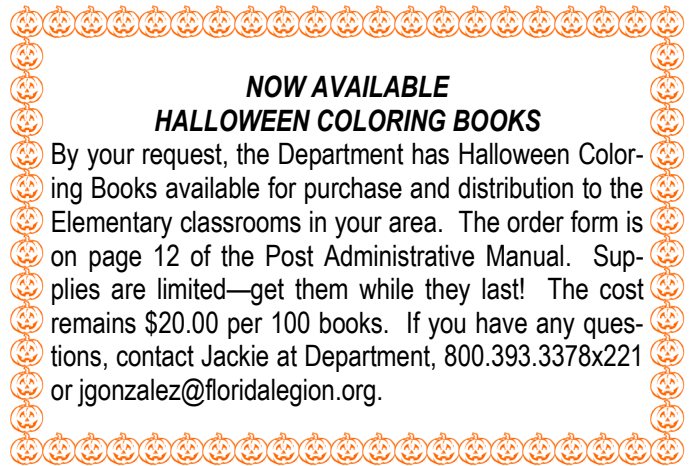
Upcoming events for the next couple of months include attendance at the National Convention in Houston, TX from August 24 and returning August 29th. A short time later on September 7th, the first District 4 meeting of 2013-2014 will be held at Post 155 in Crystal River. Registration starts at 9:00 am and the meeting will be at 10:00 am. Following the meeting the District will again feature a "Chili Cook Off" open to all members of the Legion Family. Awards will consist of a trophy for the top three winners.

Department Chaplain Steven Newman has offered his time to conduct a Chaplain training session following the District 4 meeting; it's open to all District 4 Chaplains, prospective Chaplains of the Posts, Auxiliary, SAL, and ALR.

School starts about mid-August and that is the time to reconnect with your High School Oratorical contacts and bring them current information and brochures needed to entice students to compete in this important and rewarding contest. The District 4 Chairperson for Oratorical is Pam Styx who can provide assistance. Contact her at (352) 245-5480.



**ORATORICAL**  
**Contest Dates**  
Must be completed by:  
Posts - January 12, 2014  
Districts - February 2, 2014  
Areas - February 23, 2014  
Dept. - March 8, 2014



**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).

**Tom Biddle**  
**6<sup>th</sup> District Commander**

The month of June has engaged our new leadership through the installation process starting with the District level at Department Convention, District appointments effective immediately thereafter, and the beginning of 6th District Post Installations.

I thank you for your sincere trust and confidence to elect me as your 6th District Commander. I and our 6th District team will do our very best to provide you the service and support that you expect. This is a working relationship in progress as each Post and the 6th District Staff interact so we can achieve, together, a successful year. It takes teamwork at all levels to achieve success. We have shown the world these past two years what teamwork is all about. Let's continue the success that has achieved national recognition.

We have met two major challenges, never been done before, nor did anyone from National or Department, let alone the District ever thought it would happen. We proved everyone wrong and surprised ourselves. We must do our very best to continue this trend, to ensure that no one ever breaks this landmark. We have that ability to continue this. Our membership goal is to again achieve 1st place, Category 5, Race to the Top, faster than the past two years. It can be done so show the American Legion who is the best of the best.

Our membership year began July 1 and it officially ends June 30th. Our desire would be to do what has never been done before – we came so close this past year but we fell short. We need to overcome that deficiency and secure 100% plus membership for each post. To not work membership till the goal is achieved is not an option. Our 6th District Staff will support you and those Posts who have been successful can be of greater assistance. We must work together to be successful.

Once we become a contender for Race to the Top, we then secure the record that still exists – 100% District National and 100% District Department.



The article at the right is from The Boys State Inquirer; the newspaper by the Boys State Press Corps

*Pictures from top to bottom:*  
Boys State Governor—Wyatt Navarro  
Boys State Legislative Leaders  
At the Capital  
Mid week Dodge Ball game  
Memorial Service  
Boys State Senators



FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION  
BOYS STATE 2013

Dear Citizens,

THIS week was a once in a lifetime experience. The caliber of men here, the intellect of every citizen, the passion for the government and citizenship, the leadership of all 530, and the environment cultivated cannot be copied by other camps, schools, jobs. It is this privilege, and the challenge, which makes Boys State unique.

EVERY delegate is used to nothing but success; for many of us, this is one of the few times where we have failed at an endeavor or lost a position for which we have run. In fact, some people have lost every election. On the flip side, there are those who have won every election they ran in. I applaud everyone who had the courage to run for office.

WE:VE been here for a long week in which we bought into the experience, because of that, the experience has consumed some of us. What we all have to remember is that this is going to be over tomorrow. We will go back better and more prepared to tackle life, but we WILL go back.

THE sad truth is that there will be few people who understand what our week was like. People will ask about it and we'll describe it; they'll smile and say, "That's nice." And we'll smile back knowing they don't understand. But we'll meet others who have shared our experience and we'll have that instant connection. Gentlemen, from graduation on, we will always be the citizens of the Florida Boys State 2013. Your brother forever, Raffle



## Meaning of the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes ... The American Legion recognizes the influence of Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors and declares the allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and nation.

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America

The Constitution of the United States is the written bulwark of our free way of life and representative government. It is our guarantee of liberty, freedom, justice and democracy. Members of The American Legion bore arms and went to war to defend and uphold this document of freedom.

To maintain law and order

Without law and order, liberty would become license. Law and order protect our pursuit of happiness, one of our God---given rights. Members of The American Legion served in wars to uphold law and order among nations. It is just as important to maintain the due processes of law in our domestic affairs. It binds Legionnaires to obey the laws of the land and to support the constituted authorities in enforcing those laws.

To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism

Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unlimited opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world---wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars

Service in defense of America is the greatest experience in the lifetimes of all veterans. Recalling the highlights of that service means more than flashbacks to tense moments of excitement and danger in battle: the grime of muddy trenches, the perils of sub---infested oceans and the combat in the wild blue yonder. It means also the inerasable recollection of the comradeships, the bravery of pals, the team work, the sacrifices, the miseries and hardships of military campaigns shared in common. It means the bond that binds all ex---servicemen and women together in mutual affection, respect and gratitude. It also means keeping green forever the memories of the supreme sacrifices of gallant American patriots, sacrifices necessary to the winnings of wars. It means faithful annual observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation

Always interested in building a better nation, the founders of The American Legion believed that such building must start first with the individual in their own community. So they made it one of the cardinal principles of The American Legion to inculcate that sense of personal obligation to the community, state and nation into the individual citizen. That means educating the citizen – young, old and future – in his and her responsibility to be active in making the hometown a better place in which to live, in discharging the duty of voting in elections, in paying taxes promptly, in contributing to community chest funds and to blood banks. The word “inculcate” means “to impress by frequent admonitions” and “to enforce by frequent repetitions.” Like the duties themselves, the reminders that they remain to be carried forward are never finished.

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses

This clause places the Legionnaire on the side of right in opposing autocracy by either class or mass when this threatens. In a democracy such as ours, composed as it is of all nationalities, races, creeds and economic groups, there are bound to be both classes and masses. Indeed, the masses are composed of classes – but all groups within the mass must feel assured that in this nation, reason and fairness will prevail in all human activities and relations.

To make right the master of might

Many wars have been started by dictators who wanted their might to be the right. If human freedom is not to perish from the earth, right must always be master of might. The rights of small nations must be protected against the tyranny that powerful neighbors may seek to impose on them, just as the rights of minorities in our society must be protected and respected. Legionnaires are pledged by this clause always to stand with the right, protect the weak and preserve the liberties of the individual. This concept is the basis of The American Legion's continued advocacy of a strong national preparedness so as to achieve the ideal situation that right will be backed by adequate might.

*continued next page ....*

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To promote peace and good will on earth

Until the entire world becomes a good neighborhood, Legionnaires must continue the effort to promote peace and good will on earth. It is in pursuance of this founding ideal that The American Legion has supported from the beginning and seeks to strengthen the United Nations organization. Obliquely, The American Legion also contributes to this ideal by firmly supporting a strong national defense to discourage breaking of the peace by aggressors.

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy

On this ideal of safeguarding and transmitting the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, all of the youth--- training programs of The American Legion are built. All Americans can be proud that in our international relations we have tried to live by the golden rule, the mark of justice. We have granted to others, as we prize it ourselves, the great boon of freedom. Through the Monroe Doctrine, we called a halt to foreign imperialism in the western hemisphere. We gave freedom to the Philippines. These principles are part of the American heritage. Legionnaires are pledged to protect and preserve that heritage.

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness This is the most important ideal expressed in our preamble. We can hail The American Legion today as an unparalleled force in these United States for social betterment. American Legion concepts and its ideal of devotion to mutual helpfulness warmed the entire social climate of America. Today America is extending its helpful hands all over the world through our assistance programs of foreign aid. This all came about because the veterans of World War I came home enriched with wonderful ties of friendship and gave those ties meaning by consecrating them to the ideal of mutual helpfulness.

**August Trivia Firsts**

- 1, 1906 - First diamond mine; Pike County, Arkansas
- 2, 1909 - First issue of Lincoln head penny
- 3, 1921 - First crops dusted by an airplane
- 4, 1821 - First issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*
- 5, 1861 - First U.S. income tax
- 9, 1988 - First night game at Wrigley Field
- 12, 1877 - First voice recording by Thomas Edison
- 16, 1954 - First issue of *Sports Illustrated*
- 18, 1892 - First mail-order catalog
- 24, 1939 - First turbojet airplane flight
- 27, 1859 - First successful oil well
- 31, 1895 - First professional football game



*A bad day fish'n is better  
than any day at work*

## August Puzzle Challenge

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

T	T	M	K	W	P	M	M	T	C	R	C	W	P
G	R	R	L	W	L	H	S	O	E	O	V	M	L
F	T	A	W	K	F	T	O	N	N	D	B	K	Z
Q	C	I	D	F	N	H	W	T	K	S	C	Y	P
E	N	N	W	E	G	O	R	Y	O	M	O	R	H
S	O	C	G	L	E	A	X	Z	J	S	R	O	Q
T	I	A	Q	M	C	G	N	T	R	M	E	T	N
I	T	N	O	T	F	K	A	Y	G	R	T	N	K
M	I	H	O	H	B	J	H	M	T	G	S	E	V
A	L	R	P	H	R	X	T	T	A	N	U	V	K
T	O	C	L	A	I	M	S	M	R	D	J	N	J
E	M	N	O	I	S	O	R	R	O	C	D	I	B
L	E	A	D	E	R	S	H	I	P	B	A	J	F
V	D	R	B	M	I	N	T	E	G	R	I	T	Y

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Adjuster   | Homeowner  |
| Agents     | Integrity  |
| Claims     | Inventory  |
| Contractor | Leadership |
| Corrosion  | Monsoon    |
| Damage     | Photos     |
| Demolition | Rain       |
| Estimate   |            |