

# The Legion Link

December 2013

Vol. 21 Issue 5



## *Making a Difference for Veterans Everyday*



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

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**Art 'Ole' Schwabe  
Department Commander  
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407.247.5232**



Let me be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!!! I attended two veteran parades in Miami and Orlando this past month. Both were very well attended and exciting. Our Legion Family did a great

job of having representation at both parades. So proud of all of you!

The American Legion Family is doing great on the Children Organ Transplant Association project. We recently received a check for \$11,500 from the American Legion Post 275 Family. Thank you to the Post Family and Lyn Felice for the great golf tournament. You All are "Difference Makers"!

I attended a Thanksgiving luncheon for Veterans sponsored by Post 162 in Deerfield Beach and other Veterans Service Organizations and the Coconut Creek Casino. The Casino provided lunch for over 300 people. A great time was had by all and the music was great. There was a Pearl Harbor Survivor, Eddie Hammond, which I presented a pin and coin. He's a great guy and a member of Post 162.

I will be attending a Luncheon for Veterans at Post 252 on Thanksgiving Day with over 250 in attendance. I am looking forward to sharing this time with my fellow veterans.

Disaster Preparedness Chairman Dave Miller has requested that each district take inventory of items that will be available in case of a Disaster in Florida. Please let your District Chair know what your Post can offer if help is needed (i.e. generators, chainsaws, cots, etc). We have been very lucky this year with no significant disasters in Florida. Please take the time to find out what you have and let your District know so there's a plan in place if needed.

The National Commander's project is the "National Emergency Fund ". Please consider giving to this fund. Florida has used this fund in the past. Let's make sure there is money there in the future.

I was given a WWII parachute which weighs about 50 pounds at Fall Conference. Just to let you know, I will NOT be using this parachute!!! Remember, the goal is still 108%. Never, Never, EVER JUMP ALONE!!! 110% and the Adjutant jumps with me.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA  
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY**



Jay Conti Sr.  
Department Vice Commander  
ViceCommander@floridalegion.org  
BRAVO-ZULU  
352.287.1400

**Department Chaplain Steven Newman  
Chaplain Steve's Spiritual Corner**

Greetings and God Bless my fellow Legionnaires. The Fall Conference was great. I enjoyed getting together with the American Legion family. Thank you to all who honored me with your presence and participated in the Department Chaplain Class. I want to especially thank the Department of Florida Staff of Carol, Mary, Rachel, and our Adjutant Mike for their unwavering help and support.

Please remember December 7th, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Let us never forget the day that touched so many lives and changed our country forever.

My district level Chaplains training is in full steam mode. In November I conducted training at the 12th and 16th Districts. For the year-to-date I conducted Chaplain training at nine (9) districts throughout this great state of ours. However, this training is possible with the help of the District and Area Commanders. So I want to give them a big thank you very much. I will be looking forward to conducting a lot more training in the coming year.

Adriana and I will hold you all in our thoughts and prayers for a wonderful holiday season along with the feelings that come with this time of year. Let Christmas be a time of joy and thanks.

Words are very powerful this time of year. Be truly aware of your words. "Verbal first aid" is a way to cheer someone up with a kind, loving word. I wish you and all around you lots of blessings of health and contentment - share a prayer, a hug, or a candy cane and be hopeful for the coming New Year.

As John 3:16 says: "For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He gave up His only begotten Son, so that whoever trusts in Him shall not be lost but have everlasting life".

"I know and put faith in and rely on the love God cherishes for me. God is love, and I and all who dwell and continue in God, and God dwells and continues in us". 1 John 4:16

To all the Legion family have a wonderful and safe holiday season and may God bless and hold you all forever. For God and Country

With an awesome Fall Conference behind us, let's not forget what each one of you learned from the various classes you attended. Please use the knowledge that you had gained and also teach others what you learned and encourage other Legionnaires to attend the Department Convention in June 2014 to learn as well. Remember that a well trained Legion Family is a well-motivated one!

Florida Legion License Plates - if you haven't heard about them please listen up! It's been approved by the Department of Motor vehicles for The American Legion Department of Florida to start an exploratory 2 year sign-up committee to preregister 1,000 license plates in order to make it law. We have well over 125 and counting and the first 1,000 who register will get a Florida American Legion License Plate Lapel Pin for each tag you preregister. We had the DMV at the Fall Conference onsite to sign people up and made it very easy. You can also register on the DMV & Florida Legion websites and your local DMV as well. Any questions feel free to call Department.

I hope that everyone is treated great by Santa this year for Christmas and have a Happy New Year! Remember those who are serving abroad without their Families; please say a prayer for them, their families and the ones who previously made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

On Saturday, November 23rd I had the pleasure of attending an Awards Ceremony in Safety Harbor for WWII Veterans who served in France and played a big role in the Liberation of France that was under German occupation. By order of the French President François Hollande, Legionnaire Bob Kline a member from American Legion Post 225 in Floral City received the "French Legion of Honor" for his service in WWII by the French government.

In attendance were several Congressman, Senators, a General from MacDill AFB and the French Consultant from Miami. The National Order of the French Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. It recognizes extraordinary accomplishments and outstanding services rendered to France, based on a personal decision by the president of the Republic of France. To Bob Kline, the other Awardees and to my COMRADES of WWII I say thank you for your commitments in defending America. BRAVO ZULU!



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

I open this Legion Link on a sad note. On October 26th Chief Jim "Patches" Watson passed away. Chief was Past Commander of Post 39 in Vero Beach and a very good friend of the American Legion. He was a speaker at the Convention when Paul Martel was Department Commander. He became good friends with many members of the American Legion in Florida and other states. He will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace my dear friend.

District and Post Boys State Chairmen, December 23rd is the date that money for Boys State delegates must be in to Department Headquarters. Cost for each delegate is \$325.00. There are also some changes in the Boys State process which will be included in the Boys State Chairman's package. If you have not made Carol aware of your Chairman's name and address please do so. December is also the time to plan the process for choosing the delegates. After the students return from Christmas Vacation is when you will need to contact the Guidance Office to get information on those eligible to be Boys State Delegates.

At this time I want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. I also plead with all to have a SAFE Holiday Season. For God & Country



**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

**Clarence Hill, Past National Commander**

The American Legion will begin celebrating 100 years of service to veterans, military personnel, families and communities starting at the National Convention in 2018, continuing throughout 2019 and culminating at the National Convention in 2019. The Department of Florida will form a Centennial Celebration Observance Committee to develop a plan for events at the Department level. PNC Clarence Hill will serve as chairman of the committee. Anyone desiring to be on the committee should volunteer at the Fall Conference or by email to [cehill316@aol.com](mailto:cehill316@aol.com).

Posts are also encouraged to form their own centennial committees. Each Post can convey its legacy by sharing historical photos, videos and print material on the Legion's new Centennial Celebration web page: [www.legion.org/centennial](http://www.legion.org/centennial). Detailed instructions on how to create a Post history page is available on the web page, as are the types of information a Post should look to identify for their centennial. For more information on the National web page, email [ledwards@legion.org](mailto:ledwards@legion.org).

**John Dollinger**  
**POW/MIA Chairman**

It is time to take the rose colored glasses off and examine exactly what is going on with our POW/MIA program nationally. In August we heard extensive commentary about the significant duplication of effort in the POW/MIA community as put forward by the U. S. Government Accounting Office (GAO). The report sites many issues but it boils down to lack of real leadership. There are too many dysfunctional organizations trying to accomplish an unclear goal, and no clear plan to accomplish the statutory requirements Congress has enacted. The GAO clearly states that the duplication of efforts and the duplication of funding and the lack of achievement have a high cost associated with it.

A clear example of what the GOA presents is the relationship between Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command. (JPAC). Both have identification laboratories and personnel, both have investigative personnel. It doesn't stop there. The department's response to the accounting-for goal established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, that being 200 identification per year by 2015 has brought into sharp focus the longstanding disputes that have not been addressed by top level leaders. The Department of Defense has been tasked to fix this but no timeline is in place.

More disturbing than the above mess is the disclosure by the Department of Defense that the return of remains of our fellow veterans is a staged event for the families of the veteran. Most times empty caskets are carried off military transports with full military honors to make the grieving families feel their loved ones have finally come home. I find this entire situation disappointing and extremely damaging to the POW/MIA effort.



**POW/MIA Empty Chair**

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

# 75% Goal

## December 4, 2013

Membership Report as of October 30, 2013

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Thomas Biddle	10,777	7,759	72.00
15	Eunice Butts	5,329	3,634	68.19
12	Kenneth Wakefield	8,442	5,750	68.11
3	Randall White	1,715	1,160	67.64
17	Dorothy Moore	4,152	2,756	66.38
2	Willie Jackson	1,373	905	65.91
4	Charles Ferguson	4,198	2,766	65.89
13	John Dollinger	8,811	5,785	65.66
11	Frank Maitland	4,168	2,721	65.28
1	Jimmy Martin	6,288	4,060	64.57
5	Thomas Gora	7,810	5,040	64.53
16	Sidney Damsgard	12,028	7,709	64.09
8	Joseph Magee	8,255	5,280	63.96
9	John Vazquez	4,349	2,755	63.35
14	Gary Decker	3,026	1,901	62.82
7	Charles Giffin	3,911	2,434	62.23
Eastern	Robert Kiley	19,219	13,509	70.29
Northern	Michael Wolohan	17,875	11,722	65.58
SW	Debra Roush	17,066	11,065	64.84
Western	Verna Joyce	7,661	4,965	64.81
Central	James Burgess	21,268	13,777	64.78
Southern	William Johnson	11,543	7,377	63.91
<b>Dept</b>			<b>62,415</b>	
<b>Post 400</b>		<b>12,067</b>	<b>9,337</b>	<b>77.38</b>
<b>Post 208</b>		<b>3,181</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>71.42</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>111,525</b>	<b>74,024</b>	<b>66.37</b>

**Douglas Deierlein**  
**Membership Chairman**  
**ddeierlein@yahoo.com**

Hello Legionnaires,

Well November is now a thing of the past, but I want to talk about a lot of great things that happened at Fall Conference. First I would like to congratulate everyone who attend all of the LEADS Classes and received your Leads pin. The courses were great. I was truly happy to see so many people attend the Membership Class.

Now I would like to give you some numbers that I was able to give out during my time on the podium. We kicked off this year with a bang! We had 148 posts, 15 Districts and all 6 Area's that achieved 50% goal by Sept 4th. By Oct 2nd we had 196 posts, all 16 Districts and all 6 Areas hit the 55% Goal. The last Goal to be achieved before the Fall Conference was 65% by Oct 31st, there were 208 Posts, All 16 Districts and all 6 Areas. Great Job by all of you that worked so hard at reaching these goals. Also by Fall Conference we had 18 Posts that had achieved their goal of 100%. Way to go to those post, keep up the good work.

My last order of business was to give out a check in the amount of 1 nights stay at the Fall Conference, to honor a Legionnaire who has submitted 25 new members into the Legion by the October 31st deadline. It was my pleasure to recognize this great Legionnaire, Mr. Robert Brewster from Post 373. Great Job Bob! Keep up the hard work. Remember our goal this year is to make both Art and Mike fly! Please keep the great work you are doing for the American Legion and the Department of Florida. Remember the 75% goal is the 4th of December. So until next month let's "Shoot for the Stars" and "Get-R-Done!"



### Program Reminders

- ✔ **Boys State** - Registration Fees due December 23rd; fees are \$325.00 per boy.
- ✔ **Oratorical** - Post Contests must be held no later than January 12, 2014.
- ✔ **Blood Donor** - Holiday Drive begins Thanksgiving Day, ends New Year's Day.
- ✔ **JROTC/Shooting Sports** - Have you contacted your High School JROTC to find out if they are interested in participating in the Shooting Sports program?? Targets are due to National January 15th

**Boy Scouts**  
**Wayne Newland**  
**772.388.6677**

***waynewland@att.net***

Two important items are coming up fast.....

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR applications must be in Department NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2014. Please don't wait until the last moment. Look closely at the requirements. The candidate must be from a Troop that is chartered to an American Legion Post OR must be a son or grandson of a Legion member. The young man must live in Florida.

The American Legion Boy Scout Camporee known as "The Cracker Trail Competition" will take place on February 28, March 1 & 2, at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation, 8501 Boy Scout Road, Tequesta, Florida, near Jupiter. It will be hosted by District 11 this year. Contact is KEN NICHOLS, kenlin04@gmail.com, or 561-906-6469. They need Legion members to help score the various events. If you are an NRA Instructor, please let them know and bring your card. Your Scout Troop should be there. If you don't charter a Troop, you may sponsor a Troop. Check with Ken for details.

The American Legion Square Knot Award is my ongoing project for this year. A Legion member may apply for this award. Requirements are at [http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/squareknot\\_update.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/squareknot_update.pdf). Only 23 awards had been given by the Department of Florida when I was asked to be your Chairman. Since then, I have forwarded 2 more for approval. Please, if you know a Legion member who is in Scouting, let him or her know about this opportunity. If you have applied before and the paper work was returned, contact me and I will try to help you complete the application. I know the way.

I want to personally thank the many Legion members who have already given me support. This is a job for a posse, not the Lone Ranger.

**Stanley Gold**  
**National Legislative Committee**

At the fall meeting I met a representative from a Veteran Group called Boringquereers CGM Alliance. He requested the American Legion to help them get a co-sponsor to Bill HR 1726 sponsored by Bill Posey and Senate bill S1174. It was mandated by act of Congress on March 2, 1899. The 65th Infantry Regiment was the only Hispanic segregated active duty unit in the US Armed Forces that played a prominent role in our American military history participating in three U.S. Wars. Of all the honors Congress can bestow, the awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal is the most distinguished. After speaking to our Legislative office in Washington, Congressman Posey's office, and other members, now all 27 members from FL, are co-sponsors as well as our two Senators. All we need is to help get the bill voted on the floor.

**Law and Order**

**Tom Gora, Department Chairman**

Greetings to all Department of Florida District and Post Law and Order Chairman!

Just a reminder that nominations for Law Enforcement and Fire Fighter/Paramedic/EMT are due to the Department April 11, 2014.

For Law Enforcement Officer of the year in the Department of Florida: Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest and must be assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district or state police; highway patrol; sheriff's office or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer. Military police officers or investigators are eligible if they are state law enforcement certified. Nominees must also reside and be assigned or attached for duty within the Commonwealth of Florida.

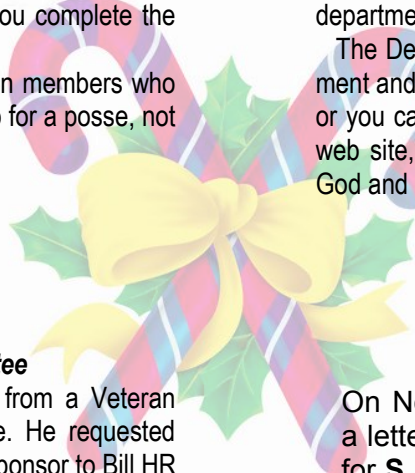
For Firefighter/EMT Officer of the Year in the Department of Florida: Nominees must be active firefighters and U.S. citizens. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are eligible only if they are certified firefighters. Nominees must also reside and be assigned within the Commonwealth of Florida.

These awards recognize law officers and firefighters who go above the call of duty. A major secondary purpose of this award is to encourage further development of department and post Law and Order Committees through continued recognition of law enforcement officers and firefighters. It is firmly believed these awards serve to promote public trust and support of our law enforcement agencies and fire departments.

The Department of Florida Applications for Law Enforcement and Fire Fighter of the Year have been mailed to you, or you can find them posted on the Department of Florida web site, under the Programs tab, Law and Order For God and Country

**Letters of Support**

On November 15 The American Legion sent a letter of support to Sen. Robert Casey (PA) for **S. 1682**, the *Veterans Education Counseling Act of 2013*, which would improve the academic and vocational counseling options available to student-veterans. It requires VA to differentiate between the educational counseling that all GI Bill users are entitled to, and Voc Rehab program. Additionally, it requires VA to let veterans know that they are entitled to this "basic" educational counseling, and provide information on how to apply for it, prior to the veteran applying for GI Bill benefits. [Resolution 303-2013]



**Special Olympics**  
**Dianne Thibodeau, Chairman**

Greetings again. "Merry Christmas – Happy Holidays" to everyone.

This past month I had the pleasure of attending Post 117 as they spent the day raising money for Special Olympics. They had a great turn out starting the day with a Poker Run. A group of Special Olympic Athletes and their families were there to cheer them on their way. There was food, music, and fun for all. Thanks to everyone involved.

The State Fall Competitions (Bowling, Powerlifting, Softball & Gymnastics) will take place during our Fall Conference so I will not be able to volunteer for them at this time. There will be an athlete at our Conference to speak and they will also have a table set up. I hope you had a chance to stop by and ask questions. Below I am going to list a few of the upcoming competitions.

**FLAG FOOTBALL**

Last Day for County Competition Not Required	Last Day for Area Competition November 2	State Competition December 13
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**2014 STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

Tournament Site	Areas	Dates
Southeast, Cocoa Beach	Areas 7, 10, 11	February 7-8
North, Gainesville	Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9	February 14-15

**2013 EQUESTRIAN SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Last day for County Competition March 5	Last Day for Area Competition March 23	State Competition May 2-3 (Grand Oaks, Weirsdale)
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**2014 SUMMER GAMES**

Sports: Athletics (Track & Field), Bocce, Cycling, Football (Soccer), Tennis, Volleyball

Last day for County Competition March 23	Last Day for Area Competition April 6	State Competition State May 16-17
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ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex, Kissimmee

Don't forget - when you make a donation – use the new form. Make sure you or your post get the proper credit. It can be found on the Florida Legion web page, under Programs, under Special Olympics.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me by phone or email. [diannethib@bellsouth.net](mailto:diannethib@bellsouth.net) (321) 733-4951 (home) (561) 315-0679 (cell).

*Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree.  
In the eyes of a child they are all 30 feet tall*

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

Well, first of all I hope that everyone enjoyed the Fall Conference. There was a lot of information put out so please take what you learned and pass it down.

The holidays are here and I hope everyone has safe and enjoyable holidays. Just about every month we talk about membership. Please get with the posts that are having problems and help them to try to achieve the goal that they have set. Congratulations to Post 399, 220, 287, 145, 168 and 144 for achieving 100% membership.

The Southern Area Ball will be Feb 15th 2014 at Post 142 more information will be coming out shortly, so just mark it on your calendar.

District Commanders - please get your calendars updated with everything going on within your District so we can plan to visit as many Posts as possible. Get the word out and be proud of what your posts are doing. Contact your local media and papers and get our positive image out there. With your help we can make a difference.

Ask yourself a question, if you're Post was to close down today, would the community miss you not being there. If the answer is yes then you are doing your job. If the answer is no, well we need to work on our relationship within our community.

So, again, have a happy holiday, enjoy yourselves and, as always, be safe.

**Bob Kiley**  
**Eastern Area Commander**

Hello to all the great veterans in the Dept of Florida. This is your long lost Eastern Area Commander who should have written one of these 2 months ago. I was tied up trying to help make the Eastern Area, "Top Area in the Nation," in the "Race To The Top" for tier 5, which, by the way, is the highest tier.

To break this down, The Mighty 6th District is doing exactly what it has done for the last 2 years. Membership is going all out to reach what I call, "The 100% Plus 1 club". Until the 3rd District, jumped ahead of everybody and went right to the top, the 6th had been in first just about all year. I do hope the 3rd enjoys being in first. They obviously earned it. Congrats to them. But, I can almost guarantee that the 6th will be back on top VERY soon, like.... next Thursday. The 6th, under Commander T.C. Biddle has taken up where it left off last year. They are making it happen big time and I am very proud of the District and the efforts they are making. They have had their District meeting, plans are going well for the bowling tournament, and the picnic, which raises money for Boys and Girls State transportation. Of special note, to show just how dedicated the vets in the 6th are, one post is doing very well, (that would be Post 52, Leesburg), and at the District meeting they presented Commander Biddle a check for half the cost of the Boys and Girls transportation (approx. \$3,000). Kudos to the Post Commander Kim Flanders. Outstanding Kim!! Also, more great news...We have a new post in the 6th; Post 403, Sumter Veterans. I am sure that we all welcome them. They are located in the Sumter County Correctional Institute right next to our National Cemetery in Bushnell....

Now for the Tremendous 12th District. I must admit I wasn't sure what to expect when I went there for the first time. But I should have known. They are Legionaries, my brother and sister vets. They did everything possible to make me feel like one of their own, and that is how I feel. I am very proud to be an honorary member of the 12th. I have been to their installations, a picnic, District meeting, etc and they have re-enforced my faith in what the Legion is all about; that the Legion is made up of the best people in the world, period, case closed.

I was invited to the mortgage burning party at post 200 and we had a great time (we being my wife and I) I am waiting for another post to send me an invite to their grand opening of their new post home (they said they would). This is just another way that says the Legion is ALIVE AND WELL in Florida. Their fine Commander, Ken Wakefield, has led his District to 2nd place in the state, in membership standings. They are not that far from 1st place. The 6th and the 12th are working together (like we all should be) to make this years "Race To The Top" an all-area event. Which, by the way, has never happened before. They are marching forward to make this happen and I just want to say how proud I am of the "Area" and their efforts. This is history in the making for the American Legion and the Dept. of Florida...And they are making it!! They are also making money for the Boys and Girls State transportation. The picnic I attended went very well (had a ball), and it went a long way to accomplishing their goal for the transportation costs..

In closing, I want to say that, what the Eastern Area is doing this year is, without a doubt, OUTSTANDING!! For those who look at the numbers, the Eastern Area is in first place in the State, due to the fine work of the Mighty 6th, and the Tremendous 12th. And knowing the 6th and the 12th, I feel that it will be that way at the end of the year. Besides, I have to admit, I am pulling for the 12th a little. There is this thing that if the 6th tops the 12th, I have to eat a big bowl of green stuff, (and I don't do green) so 'GO 12th! You have to save me on this one.... P L E E E Z E.

God bless all our members and remember our homeless vets this time of year, they need us too. They served us and now it is time for us the serve them. God bless the greatest country in the world.



**12th District**

**Ken Wakefield - Commander**



Our Fall District Picnic was again a huge success. Held annually at Wickham Park in Melbourne the picnic always draws 150-200 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Legion Riders along with SAL and family members. We had plenty of great food and beverages along with live entertainment. We do a 50/50 raffle, as well as a raffle for baskets of cheer. We always conduct a great auction which is generally the highlight of the event. This year we raised over \$4,000 to support Boys and Girls State.

On October 24th, 25th and 26th Department Commander Schwabe made his visit to District 12. The Commander visited many of the Posts in the District and enjoyed a tour of the Veterans Museum in Merritt Island.

Speaking of Merritt Island, I want to congratulate Commander Bob Doyle of Post 344 and the Adjutant David Brand for attaining over 100% membership by October 31st.

Exciting news from Post 318 Port St Lucie, they expect to be moving into their new building by the end of the year. Commander Daryl Bowie and the membership have been working very hard to make their new facility a reality. Kudos to Post 318 on your successful endeavor.

## ROSTER CHANGES RECEIVED UP TO NOV.25, 2013

375 Adjutant- Dennis DeLisle	2214 Michigan Ave, Panama City, 32405 (850) 615-4125 dennisd153@gmail.com
133 Adjutant-Rafael Guzman-Apoute	20825 SW 86 PL, Miami, FL 33189 (305) 720-4708 army1sg26@yahoo.com
34 Commander- Thomas Mason Jr.	2737 Sequoyah Dr. Haines City, FL 33844 (863)438-6110 tmasonjr@live.com
7 <sup>th</sup> Dist. Membership Chair- Chuck Giffin	1532 Wallace Manor Ave, Winter Haven, FL 33880
401 mailing/billing address	PO BOX 153, Hilliard, FL 32046
401 physical/post home address	554084 US HWY 1, Hilliard, FL 32046
268 Adjutant email- John Smith	harborairhvac@gmail.com
310 Commander- Jim Farney phone #	(954) 646-1814
20 email address	deannakingman@gmail.com
54 Commander- Edward Krass	87506 Creekside Drive, Yulee, FL 32097 904.491.0689 ejkrass@comcast.net
296 Commander- Ted Duncan	315 Benning Dr., Destin, FL 32541 850.502.6125 lamangal171@aol.com
321 Adjutant- Ricardo Molina	5318 SW 87 Ave, Cooper City, FL 33328 954.658.8281 gormobley@aol.com
296 Adjutant- Travis Hinton	1586 Indian Woman Rd. Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 813.243.3562
	patravhinton@aol.com
270 Adjutant- Robert McLaughlin	4650 Links Village Drive B302, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127 386.788.6015
	bobmac01@bellsouth.net
259 Adjutant- Gene Farrell	1187 Ramble Ave. Deltona, FL 32725 386.259.4789 eramble1@cfl.rr.com
91 Adjutant- Richard Czarniak	6529 S.E 91 <sup>st</sup> Trail, Trenton, FL 32693 352.399.0202 stgsali@bellsouth.net
385 Post mailing/billing address	6573 SW 11 <sup>th</sup> St, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
7 <sup>th</sup> Dist. ROTC & School Medals Chair	Roger King, 234 Jean Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33815 863.709.5522 post4@hotmail.com
5 <sup>th</sup> District Vice Cmdr- Emory Austin	8611 OLD PLANK RD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 904-783-0928
	EMORYT@BELLSOUTH.NET
8 <sup>TH</sup> Dist. Commander- Joseph Magee	2277 Parrot St. North Port, FL 34286 (941) 423-7785 8thdistrict@legionmail.org
25 Post email address	placidpost25@hotmail.com
9 <sup>TH</sup> Dist. Oratorical chair- email	JWFITZGERALD2252@SBCGLOBAL.NET
296 Commander Larry Carpenter email	lbcarpent@cox.net
366 Commander Ronald Tesnow email	rontesnow@cfl.rr.com
Dept. Boy Scouts Chair- Wayne Newland	8740 97 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32967 772.584.2450 waynewland@att.net
10 Post home address	205 Lake Shore Dr. Kissimmee, FL 34741
275 Adjutant Eleanor Denslow email	dunedinadjutant@yahoo.com
45 Post email	post45palatka@gmail.com



**John Dollinger**  
**13th District Commander**

The 13th District is running on all cylinders. We made our 65% membership target and are charging towards that Dec 4th target of 75% and then on to 80% by the New Year. Let's get it done.

Congratulations to Post 336 – North Fort Myers. Their Veterans Day member recruiting party achieved 34 new or transfer members for their Post.

The Southwestern Area Ball is being held at Post 110 on January 25, 2014. Cocktails beginning at 5:00 pm. Attire is semi-formal and tickets are \$25.00 per person. To obtain tickets make your check payable to Dennis R. Boland, and send it to 314 Lake Avenue, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-1438. Your menu choices are a 6oz. Delmonico steak or Chicken Parmesan so please designate which meal you want for each ticket. Ticket cutoff is January 11, 2014. Dinner Tickets will be picked up at the door.

As part of the Southwestern Area Ball a program is published. You can have a full page ad for \$40.00, half page for \$20.00 or a business card ad for \$15.00. Send any pictures or layouts by e-mail to [paratrooper@embarqmail.com](mailto:paratrooper@embarqmail.com). Again make all checks payable to Dennis R. Boland and send them to his address listed above. Any questions concerning the Southwestern Area Ball should be directed to Mr. Boland at 239-641-1224. Come have some fun and support the Southwestern Area Commanders favorite Charity.



## 14th District Events Schedule

Updated as of November 22, 2013

Dec. 1, 2013 – Junior Orange Bowl Parade, Coral Gables.

Post 144 and 346 will participate. If your Post is interested in participating, please contact Robert Molleda at bobmolleda1@bellsouth.net or 305-322-3744

Feb. 8, 2014 – Flag Retirement Ceremony, Town of Miami Lakes.

Hosted by Post 144

Jan 24-26, 2014 – Boy Scouts Lincoln Marti Jamboree. Post 346 will participate.

Feb 28-Mar 2, 2014 – American Legion Florida Cracker Trail Camporee.

Post 346 will participate

March 8, 2014 – Dept. Oratorical – Dept. Headquarters – Time: TBA

April 12, 2014 – Dept. Commanders Homecoming – Post 7, Clearwater

May 26, 2014 – Memorial Day Observed.

Post 144 will participate at City of Hialeah Ceremony.

Post 346 will participate at local venue – TBD

May 31, 2014 – 14th Dist. Constitutional Conf – Starts at 10:00 AM.

Sign in – 9:00 AM at Post 31 - South Miami.

June 12 - 15, 2014 - Department Convention – Renaissance-Sea World

\*\*In addition, the District Commander will be conducting Post Visitations every other week throughout the year beginning in September. These visitations will be used to ensure that our Posts are operating properly, to reinforce the need for increased membership, participation in Legion Programs, and to provide support and leadership training to Post Commanders and Post Officers.

**NOTE: Schedule subject to change. Additional dates may be added**



*Always remember that you are absolutely unique ~  
Just like everyone else.*

*~ Margaret Mead ~*

### Update on Flag Amendment Bills

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 currently has 23 cosponsors.

On June 13, Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT) introduced **Senate Joint Resolution (S.J. Res.) 17**, a companion measure. This measure currently has 22 cosponsors.

The task before us now is finding additional cosponsors for these two measures. Please contact your representative and senators, and ask them to become cosponsors of the flag amendment in their respective chambers. [Resolution 272-2012]

