

# The Legion Link

November 2013

Vol. 21 Issue 4



## *Making a Difference for Veterans Everyday*



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

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

#### **Page 1**

Dept. Commander  
TAPS

#### **Page 2**

Dept Vice Commander  
Nat'l Executive Committeeman

#### **Page 3**

Dept. Sgt-at-Arms  
Dept. Chaplain

Historian

Past National Commander

#### **Page 4**

Membership  
ATTN: Post Commanders

#### **Page 5**

National Legislative  
Americanism

Homeless Veterans

#### **Page 6**

Military Liaison  
State Legislative

#### **Page 7**

POW/MIA

ALR

Word Puzzle

November Fun Facts

#### **Page 8**

Special Olympics  
15th District

#### **Page 9**

Children & Youth  
Employment

Program Updates

#### **Page 10**

5th District

#### **Pages 11**

14th District

Veterans Benefits

#### **Page 12**

Roster Changes

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



Let me be the first to wish you a Happy, Happy, Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

Hopefully you will have reached the 65 percent goal in membership by November 7th and if you

haven't, keep up the hard work. Remember the strength of the organization, in the eyes of our National Legislators, is based on the numbers we bring to the table!

The Fall Conference will be held November 15th - 17th and we look forward to seeing you there. If you have not booked a room by now you will be in the overflow hotel. It is located next door to the Hilton and rooms are available for the same price. The conference has a lot to offer to all members, remember this is your chance to be heard. If you live close just come for the day if you can. You will not be disappointed, I'm sure. "Please check the Legion website for

more details at [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org). in the 'Events' section.

We all know November has a lot of parades honoring our veterans. Please attend as many veteran events as you can, because who knows - you may be the one being honored.

All of our Posts are encouraged to be at 65% of membership renewal by November. Please help them make these goals by paying your membership dues on time. We have a lot of Veterans and Families that need our support.

I THANK YOU ALL for your support to the CHILDREN'S ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION (COTA). Your support will help children receive life-saving organs. Without you these children lose their lives. I am so humbled by the support you are showing. Thank You!!!

We are just around the corner from Veterans Day. Please come out and support those that have served this great Nation. Thank you to our veterans and family members. You truly are Difference Makers. God Bless our troops and God Bless America. For God and Country



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

November is always a very busy month with American Education week, National Family week, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and the Fall Conference. I urge each and every Post to get involved with all by participating in Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Recognizing a teacher and always remember your family. Remember at the Dept Fall Conference there is a packed agenda with LEAD classes, Service Officer course; and in case you missed the Area Training course the PDC's will be teaching it.

Recently the Politicians had given all of us a big scare not knowing if most of us were going to receive a paycheck recently with the debt ceiling & spending bills. I urge each of you to contact our elected officials and let them know how you feel as it seems that we will be going through this again in 2-3 months and who knows the way it will turn the next time. As a Veteran you should have a say in this and you should let your elected officials know how you feel concerning it. No one should ever mess with the Retirement, disability or any entitlement check of any **Veteran of the United States Armed Forces!**

National Commander Dan Dellinger said it best at a recent news conference: **"Politics has replaced patriotism,"** Dellinger said. "Defending America is a constitutional responsibility that should be job one for any political office holder. And you cannot defend America without supporting the good people who have sworn an oath to do it. This is even more essential in a country with an all-volunteer force."

On Friday, October 18th I had the pleasure of attending an Appreciation dinner in the 11th District at Post 199 for Past Department Commander Frank Reese and Past Department President Alberta Floyd. What an outstanding banquet the Legion Family put on and everyone needs to take the time out to recognize their Volunteers a few times during the year. A few days prior to this I got a Fortune Cookie read **"Recognition is the greatest motivator"** something that I have always lived by throughout my life in my 21 years in the Military as well as a Volunteer within my community! To **PDC Frank Reese and PDP Alberta Floyd** I say thank you again for your lifelong commitments to The American Legion Family. **BRAVO ZULU!** **"For God and Country"**



**Dennis Boland**  
**National Executive Committeeman**

After the election of our National Commander, Dan Dellinger, he stated in his acceptance speech that he would like to raise \$1 million dollars for the National Emergency Fund (NEF). Although this is a hefty goal it is attainable and is needed more now than ever. Since its inception in 1989 The American Legion has come to the aid of Legion families as well as Legion Posts. Commander Dellinger is challenging each Department to raise \$0.50 cents per member in their Department. Our Department has a membership goal of 111,525 members for the 2013/14 year which would equate to a donation of \$55,762.50 for our NEF goal.

Since 2005, the NEF has distributed more than \$3 million dollars in grants to assist veterans and their families. In May 2013 a total of \$242,050 was given for 264 grants from the devastating tornadoes in Moore, OK. In October 2012 a total of \$428,087 was given for 429 grants received due to Super-storm Sandy, for NY and NJ. On August 2012 a total of \$170,170 was given for 198 grants received from Hurricane Isaac, to the Southeastern United States. In the summer of 2011, \$105,910 was given for 95 grants received due flooding in Minot, N.D. In Aug-Sept 2005, \$1,705,520 was given for 2,105 grants received due the catastrophic hurricane Katrina, to the Gulf Coast.

In 2004 the Department of Florida had 116 grants which received \$148,988 from the NEF, also in 2005 Florida again received \$114,500 for 95 grants applications. We have been fortunate these past few years and haven't had any hurricanes devastating our coast lines.

Our National Organization is always there when we are in dire need of assistance, so please consider Commander Dellinger's call for help and let's help him attain his goal.

**ORATORICAL**  
**Contest Dates**

Must be completed by:

Posts - January 12, 2014  
Districts - February 2, 2014  
Areas - February 23, 2014  
Dept. - March 8, 2014

### **Chaplain Steve's Spiritual Corner**

Greetings and God Bless my fellow Legionnaires.

The National Chaplain's conference held in Indianapolis, IN was a wonderful and rewarding experience that I truly enjoyed. There were many attendees from around the country that included the new National Chaplain and three (3) past National Chaplains. Many issues regarding the chaplains' duties and responsibilities were discussed. Additionally, I was fortunate to sit and participate in "the how to manual for the chaplain" review and update.

The chaplain training at the district level is in full swing now. So far I have provided training at seven (7) districts with almost 100 attendees. Your participation and support is appreciated. Chaplain training will continue at the district level until all districts have been provided an opportunity to participate and complete the training course, get their certificates from department and a copy of the chaplain training booklet.

I want to commemorate, honor, and thank all veterans and wish all of you a happy Veterans Day. At Fall Conference, during the chaplain workshop, I would like to address verbal first aid. Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Also, my wife Adriana and I want to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving at your home, post, with friends, relatives or anywhere that you may be. Please don't forget, if possible, to help the less fortunate during these difficult and trying times. For God and Country

### **Sue Mason**

#### **Department Historian**

I would like to remind all Post Historians (as well as those interested in being a historian in the future) that there will be a Historian's Workshop on Friday 15 November at 1:00. Bring your questions and concerns.

Something else is approaching. National has a Legacy Vision project that will give each Post an opportunity to "tell its story" for the Legion's 100th anniversary in 2018 a date that is rapidly approaching.

National's website has a section devoted to these histories (legion.org). National has produced a booklet and a workbook to guide you along. These items will be given to the District commanders for distribution to the Posts. We will hopefully receive them before the Fall Conference. I hope that each Post will submit a brief history.

It won't take much time and it will be an interesting project for the Post. National intends to take this material and produce a hard-cover "coffee table" book.

Once again, I look forward to seeing Post and District historians at the Workshop.

### **Walt "Sandman" Eatman**

#### **Department Sgt-at-Arms**

A reminder to the Area, District and Post Commander's to have their Sgt-at-Arms at the Fall Conference. We will be having a training session Saturday at 4:30 to 5:30 pm and hopefully the revised Sgt-at-Arms manual will be ready for distribution.

### **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).

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

Hello Legionaries,

Well time flies when you're having fun! It's already November and we are getting ready for our Fall Conference, which should not only be fun but very informative for everyone. I hope that you all signed up for the Leads membership course as I am sure alot of great and helpful information will be discussed. If you have not yet please do so. Well November 6th is our 65% Membership Goal target date and as of this write up I am happy to say that 114 post have already made that goal and 61 other post are within striking range.

Please keep processing your membership so that we may have at least 175 post making the 65% goal, I would love to see all 293 post make it if possible. I would like to congratulate the following post for making the 100% goal already, they are Post's 52, 68, 71, 114, 145, 187, 220, 287, 328, 344, 388, 399, thank you all very much for a Job Well Done! Before I close I want to stress to you all, if you need any assistance or membership material we here at Department are standing by to help. I hope to see you all at the Fall Conference. So until next month lets "Shoot for the Stars" and Get-R-Done!



### **ATTENTION ALL POST COMMANDERS**

Has your Post Boys State Chairman, Oratorical Chairman, or Blood Donor Chairman received their manuals from Department?? Have any of your Post Chairmen received the most updated information on their program from Department?? If not, please send pages 12-14 from the Post Administrative Manual to Department. If you cannot find this manual, email [cpolk@floridalegion.org](mailto:cpolk@floridalegion.org).



**Stanley Gold**  
**National Legislative Commission, Vice Chairman**

**What kind of legislation could The American Legion encourage Congress to enact, before our next government crisis, to ensure that veterans will be paid their earned benefits?**

Louis J. Celli, Jr. Director, National Legislative Division, Washington, D.C.

That is a GREAT question. There are a couple of things The American Legion is doing, as we speak, that will help to protect veterans from future problems regarding budget delays on Capitol Hill.

As outraged as we are over this issue, there is no guarantee that Congress won't "kick the can down the road" and stall – rather than pass -- a comprehensive balanced budget, as required by our Constitution.

A few years back, The American Legion, together with some of our veterans' service organization partners, pushed Congress to include VA in the advance appropriations process, which allows VA to receive its funding authorization a full year in advance. So, as we are now still squabbling over 2014 appropriations, most of VA's budget is already approved and we are working on the 2015 budget.

When this bill was passed, certain parts of VA's budget didn't make it into the Advanced Appropriations process, namely information technology and construction. All in all, about 14 percent of VA's budget still needs to get into advance appropriations, which we are working on now through Senate Bill S.813.

Unfortunately, S. 813 will not protect veterans' compensation and pension payments, as it is currently written. Why? Because S.813 only addresses what is called discretionary spending, which is the allotment of money that Congress authorizes for projects or programs. They, at any time, can also choose not to fund these projects thus, the term "discretionary."

Compensation and pension payments are mandatory. They are entitled, by law, and cannot be unfunded. Title 38 of the U.S. Code of Regulations establishes the qualifications for a veteran to receive compensation or pension payments, and if they meet those requirements, then they, by law, are entitled to receive payment.

Compensation and pension dollars need to be budgeted for and authorized, before they can be deposited into the account that VA needs to draw from, in order to pay veterans the money they are legally entitled to. This account requires around \$6 billion a month, or \$72 billion per year. This represents 3.8 million veterans, more than 364,000 survivors and over 1,200 children receiving special benefits, such as those with spina-bifida born to Vietnam War veterans and certain Korean War veterans, as well as children of women veterans with birth defects.

Because lawmakers don't think they can accurately forecast how much money they will need for the VA budget's mandatory spending requirement, they are unwilling to include these in Advanced Appropriations.

The American Legion is trying to come up with a legislative solution in the form of a mid-year reporting requirement that would require VA to tell Congress just how much it needs to finish the current fiscal year and to give Congress a budget forecast of projected mandatory spending needs. This initiative is still in the very early planning process and may not be the final solution, but it's what we are working on at the moment.

We, as I am sure Congress recognizes now, know that compensation and pension payments to veterans are a critical obligation. The federal government needs to ensure that these payments are protected from petty political bickering and grandstanding in the future. The American Legion will not rest until there is a solution in place that ensures these payments are permanently protected.

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



Veterans' Day is Monday, November 11th, and is the most important day on the American Legion Calendar. It is THE day that we should be getting the "Legion Word" out to the public. In many places there will be parades and public celebrations and we should be making the most of the opportunity to get the word out about the American Legion. It is also the opportunity to get into the schools so that our children can better understand about the sacrifices that our military has made throughout the history of the United States. To parallel this, November 17th to 23rd is American Education Week and provides another opportunity to visit the schools and help students know about our military and the reason the Legion exists.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Legion family a very Happy Thanksgiving. If you are traveling over the holiday please be careful and return home safely.

**AL "GUNNER" DUDLEY**  
**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**  
**HOMELESS VETERANS CHAIRMAN**

Any Post wishing to do a Stand Down, or needs assistance in applying for a grant, please contact me at 321-258-3098

**Military Liaison  
Jim Ramos**

[militaryliaison@legionmail.org](mailto:militaryliaison@legionmail.org)

Operation Outreach is in full operation and a perfect opportunity to meet the troops of the nearby military bases. By contacting the Commanding Officers, Branch Exchange Managers and TAPS classes of the your local National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty components we can reconnect with our military and highlight who we are and share the Four Pillars of the American Legion:

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation      National Security  
Americanism      Children & Youth

We want to be there to support our troops and their families and we can recruit new members from this program. The more you put into this program the more benefits your Post will achieve. You may access most bases with proper government-issued identification though the Visitor Registration officer. Be sure to take a number of American Legion brochures with you for distribution. You may order any number of important brochures when you visit <http://members.floridalegion.org/resources/brochures>.

Join us at the Fall Conference training class to learn more about what to do and what not to do. If you need help contact me at [militaryliaison@legionmail.org](mailto:militaryliaison@legionmail.org) or [jramos149@bellsouth.net](mailto:jramos149@bellsouth.net) and /or call at 352-226-4370. For God and Country



Frank Carr (VA) and Jim Ramos  
at Mayport (JAX) BX



PNC Clarence Hill, Frank Carr,  
Jerry Brandt, & Skip Overdier



Skip Overdier & Jim Ramos  
at Hurlburt Field Exchange



Skip Overdier & Jim Ramos  
at Eglin AFB Exchange



## Happy Thanksgiving



### Gaming Talking Points Paul Martel

#### Department Legislative Chairman



In general it will be best that members speak about how gaming directly affects their post. For example how the money is used to support programs and veterans at the local level.

Be respectful of the committee members and be sure to wait until being called on by the chair to speak.

Mention your rank from your time in the service as well as your present title in the Legion.

There are many groups who would like to ride on the coat tails of legitimate veterans groups (adult arcades for example) while they are good people it is not our responsibility to carry water for them.

Important points to make.

The American Legion is a congressionally chartered Veterans Service organization with nearly 3 million members in over 14,000 Posts worldwide.

Gaming has a long history of being a source of revenue for nonprofit organizations, from poker night at a Catholic church to bingo at a Veterans hall.

With the changes in Law last year there has been an unintended and detrimental secondary effect of shutting down legitimate nonprofit fundraising.

Nonprofit groups need the legislature to modernize the Bingo and Raffle statutes to both prevent fraud and allow them to enter the 20<sup>th</sup> century with games that are comparable to what pari-mutuel tracks and tribal lands are allowed to have.

Nonprofits use the money raised to directly help their community. No post commander, adjutant, quartermaster or member is making a salary off of games.

Allied Veterans was a fraudulent organization that should not reflect on the service and good works of legitimate Congressionally Chartered Veteran Service Organizations.

## Thanksgiving Word Scramble

Unscramble the Thanksgiving words and then use the highlighted letters to form the secret message. You will have to unscramble the message as well.

ICUONROPCA [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 ETRSHVA [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 MEVRNOEB [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 ILIGPMR [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 KUTEYR [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 BCNERRRAY [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 YRAOMEFWL [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 TMOLPYUH [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 AYHLIOD [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 GWNMPAAOO [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 INKPMUP [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

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 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] !

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**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!**

**Jim Burk**

**Department ALR Chairman**

I just received my monthly Legion National Magazine and saw the following concerning the concerning the Legacy Run:

5 states  
 250 Riders  
 1,500 miles

\$ 764,000 raised (this was at press time)

Florida was well represented by Goat and his posse but I would be remiss if I didn't mention the awesome mission finished by 2 riders from my home post 318 in Port St. Lucie.

Jerry & Barb Heider started their journey at mile marker 0 in Key West. They ended their incredible journey at Prudhoe Bay Alaska. Along the way they collected thousands of dollars for the Legacy Run, visited dozens of post, and made countless new friends. But wait, I guess I was incorrect. The journey didn't end there. After riding back to Kentucky, their original home state, they turned around and did the entire Legacy Ride. America has a new Ironman & Lady. And their names are Jerry & Barb Heider.

## POW/MIA Update

**John Dollinger**

**POW/MIA Chairman**

Last month I mentioned the JPAC operation at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (informally called "Punchbowl"). The cemetery is built on the Puowaina Crater, an extinct volcano that looks like a giant punch bowl.

Interred in this cemetery are 53,000 veterans, and their dependents, from WW I, WW II, Korean War and Vietnam. Within this cemetery are several gravesites marked simply "unknown". Within these graves are the remains of veterans who were unidentifiable at the time of death because the technology didn't exist to provide identification. Today, the technology does exist and JPAC is attempting to process these remains in an orderly plan.

There are many challenges ahead. After the Korean War the U.N. and North Korea carried out "Operation Glory" to return the remains of military personnel. What the U.N. received were boxes of co-mingled remains. This makes identification a slow tedious process. With the increased staffing at DPMO/JPAC identification labs, this process should produce greater results. With all the distractions from the G.A.O. reports and Washington intrusion we, as veterans, as Members of the American Legion need to hold our Government accountable to their commitment "**Keeping the Promise**" to our POW/MIA families who are waiting for answers on their loved ones.

## November Fun Facts

- 1 - All Saints Day
- 2 - All Souls Day
- 4, 1922 - King Tutankhamen discovered
- 5, 1927 - First seeing eye dog in U.S.
- 10, 1989 - Berlin Wall started to be taken down
- 11 - Veterans' Day
- 11, 1921 - Unknown Soldier buried at Arlington Cemetery
- 12, 1954 - Ellis Island Closes
- 17, 1970 - Computer Mouse patented
- 22, 1927 - Snowmobile patented
- 23, 1936 - First issue of 'Life' magazine



**Commander Eunice Butts**  
**15<sup>th</sup> District**

Our motto in the 15<sup>th</sup> is "Teamwork". What better way to support the American Legion's four pillars than all of us working together, united, strong. We are moving forward this year with our membership and are excited that last year our District was 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Membership at National, and we are certainly striving for that coveted 1<sup>st</sup> Place this year! Yes, the "race" is on! We celebrate our individual Post's successes, and continue to support and drive them on to become better.

We also recognize the "go-getters" in our District – two of our Legion Riders (Jose and Shelli Romeu) rode their motorcycle on the Legion Legacy Run from Tampa to Indianapolis to Houston (where they also attended the National Convention) and then rode back to Tampa – 4, 326 miles! These same two also participated in the Funeral Escort Motorcade and Flag Line for our recently passed Congressman (and fellow Veteran) Bill Young and previously for our dearly departed PDC Moreland. This shows 15<sup>th</sup> District's commitment to support our Legion programs, communities, and veterans.

Since all our installations have all been completed and visitations are near completion – only 6 more remaining that will be completed by December 18<sup>th</sup> – we are focusing on our communities and our programs as well as membership. Our first big event was our very successful District Picnic on October 5<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the great food, entertainment, and camaraderie. We especially thank the members of Department for taking time out of their busy schedules to support our District's event to help us in our endeavor to raise money to pay for the Boys and Girls State transportation. We welcomed the Auxiliary Department President Gerrie Bailey at Post 5 and a dinner at Post 139. The USO Fundraiser picnic was also a very big success and we extend a special thanks to Commander Schwabe, Erna, and NEC Dennis Boland for their attendance and support. We invite everyone to come down to our District - If you have not been to the 15<sup>th</sup>, you are missing out on our hospitality and friendliness! We are the "do-ers" getting it done – come watch us in action!



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1 - USO Fundraiser Picnic at Post 138. Pictured: Lee Weiss (Tampa Dart Team and USO Volunteer), NEC Dennis Boland, Commander Art Schwabe, USO Volunteer, Jacque Meyers (USO Tampa Rep)  
2 - Dept President Gerrie Baily Visit to Post 5: 15th District Pres Mary Kehoe, Barbara Fuerst, Department President Gerrie Bailey, Unit 5 President Rosemary Hamblin, Post 5 Commander Bill Hamblin, 15th District Commander Eunice Butts, Pattie Hewitt  
3 - Flag Line honoring Rep. Bill Young far left representing 15th District and ALR 138: Shelli and Jose Romeu  
4 - 15th District Picnic: Vice Cdr Jose Romeu, Adj Shelli Romeu, Dept. ALR Chr Jim Burk

**Special Olympics**

**Dianne Thibodeau, Chairman**

Greetings and Happy Thanksgiving: Last month I attended the State Aquatics Championship for two days. The days were hot but it was worth it. Did you check out the web site to see what is taking place in your area? Go to our web site – already a member – programs – there is a link to the Special Olympics Florida web site. Look for their calendar to see what is taking place and where. Also, there is a letter to all posts which explains how the awards are given out based on your monetary contribution as well as the form to use so we can properly keep track of your contributions.

Special Olympics Florida provides year-round sports training and competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities, at no cost to the athlete or their caregiver as a means to achieve physical fitness, self-esteem and the life skills necessary to be productive, respected and contributing members of their communities.

Special Olympics is committed to empowering people with intellectual disabilities on and off the playing field. By working to remove obstacles, change attitudes and open minds, Special Olympics provides opportunities for its athletes to demonstrate courage, experience joy and share their gifts, skills and friendship with the world.

While they are a sports organization, first and foremost, Special Olympics over the years has expanded its services in order to help athletes become healthier, more confident and capable of serving as leaders, both within Special Olympics and in their communities.

Because of programs such as **Healthy Athletes, Athlete Leadership, and Young Athletes**, Special Olympics now stands as a leader in the field of intellectual disability, making incredible strides in the areas of health, research and policy change.

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).



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

*Department Fall Conference is upon us – mark your calendars for Nov 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Post activities should be focused around the dates of holidays and events below. Please report all CY monthly activities. Our goal is a 100% reporting from every post. Everyone benefits from timely submissions. Remember your **Coins for COTA and Children Welfare Foundation –Piggy Banks or Cans.***

Important C&Y Program Dates

**G.I. Josh Raffle** during Fall Conference – Nov 16. Win a GI Josh and support Child Welfare Foundation!

**American Education Week** – Nov 17 – 23; **National Family Week** – Nov 24 – 30;

**General Scholarship Alert !!!** – Provide applications to your Senior High Schools and encourage Seniors to apply for a chance to be selected for a 2014 General Scholarship from The American Legion. Scholarship applications must be submitted no later than 1 March 2014.

**Children Welfare Foundation** – 100% Member Per Capita Banner Program – Every Post, Unit, Squadron, Chapter can support this by providing \$1 per member and submitting this check to Dennis Boland, Child Welfare Foundation.

November Holidays

1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day

3<sup>rd</sup> – Daylight Savings (**Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour at 2 am**)

6<sup>th</sup> – Florida American Legion 65% Membership Goal

10<sup>th</sup> – 238<sup>th</sup> Birthday of United States Marine Corps

11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day

15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Florida American Legion Fall Conference – Walt Disney World Hilton

17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> American Education Week

21<sup>st</sup> – Great American Smokeout

23<sup>rd</sup> – Black Friday

24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> National Family Week

28<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day

The month of November is also known as: Child Safety Protection, Aviation History, National Adoption Awareness, National Epilepsy, National Model Railroad, National Novel Writing month just to name a few. ([www.holidayinsights.com](http://www.holidayinsights.com))



**Bob Brewster**

**Department Employment Chairman**

*(...and still recruiting new members)*

I keep hearing that it is very, very hard to get the young veterans to join the American Legion. For the last several years, I have been working the veteran job fairs from Miami to Pensacola, and from Jacksonville to Tampa. Very seldom does anyone from the local area show up to help. We have called the Area Commanders, District Commanders, and still no one shows. PDC Larry White and I have worked several shows together. I am sure he will attest to the fact that these shows are full of young vets who would join local Posts if local Posts made any effort to meet them. Numerous times, veterans attending the show, fill out the application to join the local Post, and we give them the address and phone number of the local Post. Yet, when they enter the building with their application, DD214, and a check in hand, they are basically snubbed. My question is, to all 144,000 Legionnaires in Florida, would you join if you were treated this way?

We want to hear from all Posts all over the state about any company or corporation that is hiring vets in your local area. Also, anyone offering special training for vets so they can secure a good job. If we work together, not just in helping our young vets, but all vets, we will all succeed in growing our membership. I know that none of you would deliberately snub a new member, but it happens every day. It's because we are sitting around having coffee with our friends or playing cards or shooting pool, etc., and when someone we do not know walks in the door, we don't stop what we are doing and say hello, we just go back to doing what we were doing. Just ask yourself, how you would feel if you were the one walking through the door and not knowing anyone.

**Program Reminders**

- ✓ **Boys State** - Registration ✓
- ✓ Fees due December 23<sup>rd</sup>; fees ✓
- ✓ are \$325.00 per boy. ✓
- ✓ **Oratorical** - Post Contests ✓
- ✓ must be held no later than Jan- ✓
- ✓ uary 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 partici- ✓
- ✓ pating in the Shooting Sports ✓
- ✓ program?? Targets are due to ✓
- ✓ National January 15th ✓

## **5<sup>th</sup> District Happenings**

### **-Tom Gora, District Commander-**

We have had a very busy month in the 5<sup>th</sup> District while supporting Legion programs and having a bunch of fun! Friday night, October 4<sup>th</sup> Department of Florida Commander Art Schwabe and his wife Erna attended the October Fest celebration at Post 54. Many enjoyed the annual 5<sup>th</sup> District picnic at Post 137 on Saturday, October 5. In order to raise some funds for COTA, several dignitaries took a dip in the post's in-the-ground pool, including our Department Commander Art Schwabe, or they sat in the dunking tank and took the plunge during the picnic for a COTA donation. Art is a good sport and the dip in the pool was to prepare him for a potential "water landing" when he jumps out of that 'membership goal' plane, hopefully with a parachute, at the end of the year! He was quite a sight with his flippers, diving mask, and snorkel!

Over \$800 was collected for COTA at the picnic alone, and as of writing this article, the 5<sup>th</sup> District Posts have contributed over \$2,000 to COTA!

The District has also met the first October membership goal of 55% and we are close to meeting the next membership goal of 65%! By the time this article is published in November I am sure we will be there. Thank you to all Posts for working their membership as we all strive to achieve 100%+ membership this year!

5<sup>th</sup> District Post Chairpersons and their committees are busy handing out coloring books at this time of the year, preparing for kid's Halloween parties at Posts, and the Post Oratorical Chairs are getting out to the local schools meeting with counselors and students for Post Oratorical contests. ALR Chapter 283 had another very successful poker run to benefit the Community Children's Hospice Care Program, presenting a check to that program for \$25,000! They have raised over \$110,000 hosting this event the past six years! On the day of that successful event members from Posts 88, 129, 316, 197 and 233 participated in the stand down event in Jacksonville. On October 12<sup>th</sup> the District's newest Post (401) raised over \$2,600 at an auction to benefit their programs and the local AFJROTC Unit with State Senator Aaron Bean volunteering as the guest auctioneer. ALR Chapter 129 raised over \$6,000 for Wreaths across America with a successful poker run on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Post 250 and ALR 250 recently held an event that raised \$9,000 for the Wounded Warriors Project. ALR Chapter 54 scheduled their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Toys for Tots ride on October 26<sup>th</sup>. And for fun, ALR Chapter 316 had a costume "Zombie" ride for the "undead" on October 25<sup>th</sup>. ALR Chapter 009 has a 'Ride for Pride' for Wounded Vets dice run on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. As you can tell by these reports the 5<sup>th</sup> District Legion Riders are very active and supportive of the American Legion and its programs, and the fall weather is great for riding in northeast Florida!

Post 88 is preparing for a couple of Halloween parties for local school children and will team up with Post 54 and other Posts to provide Thanksgiving Day meals at the USO Lounge at the Jacksonville Airport. Several Posts have blood donor events scheduled at their Posts in the near future. On October 6<sup>th</sup> Legion training was provided for twenty members at Post 373 by Post Commander Bob Brewster and the District Commander. This training is modeled after the Area Training provided by the Department earlier this year. Post 54 sponsored a carnival booth at the Lake City V.A. Hospital's Fall Festival on October 19, 2013, and every hospitalized veteran went away from this booth a winner with a nice bag full of goodies, hygiene items, new socks, Christmas cards, calendars, and cross word puzzles.

On November 8, 2013, the Missing in America Project (MIAP) will conduct its first mass internment of un-claimed veterans' remains at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. The remains of 13 unclaimed veterans, and 1 veteran spouse will be laid to rest with the full military honors that they so rightfully earned and deserve. We invite Legionnaires from all over the state to join us in honoring these veterans on November 8, 2013, at 1 PM, at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Thank you to Kathy Church, MIAP Coordinator, Post 233, and all on the committee for their hard work in making this 1<sup>st</sup> MIAP service to honor those missing in America with a burial with full military honors in Jacksonville possible.



There have been some personnel changes to report in the District:  
Post 009- new Post Commander is Steve Johnson  
New 5<sup>th</sup> District Blood Donor Chairman - Kevin McKeefery, Post 37  
New 5<sup>th</sup> District Membership Chairman - Robert Brewster, Post 373



**14<sup>th</sup> District Events Schedule  
2013-2014**

**Updated as of October 18, 2013**

- Sept. 29, 2013 – Boys/Girls State Dinner at 4:00 p.m. At Post 31-South Miami.  
To be attended by Department Commander, Art Schwabe.
- Oct 19, 2013 - District Roundtable/Meeting - Starts at 10:00 AM.  
Sign In 9:00 AM at Post 31-South Miami. Followed by Lunch.
- Nov. 8, 2013 – **“Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans”** Parade, Downtown Miami.  
Starting at 12:00 p.m. Post 144, 346 and Dept Commander to participate.
- Nov. 10, 2013 – 34<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day Parade in Miami Lakes, starts at 8:30 a.m.  
Post 144 and Post 346 have already committed to participate.
- Nov. 11, 2013 – Veterans Day Ceremony City of Hialeah, starts at 11:00 a.m.  
Post 32 and Post 144 co-hosts and participates with guest speakers.
- Nov. 11, 2013 – Veterans Day Ceremonies, various events sponsored by  
Post 346 Miami, and Post 374 Key Biscayne. Time-Place TBA.
- Nov. 15 - 17, 2013 – Dept. Fall Conference – Hilton-Walt Disney World
- Nov. 16, 2013 – Flag Retirement Ceremony, hosted by Post 346 and  
other Veterans Organizations, and Boy Scout Troops 83 and 97.
- Dec. 1, 2013 – Junior Orange Bowl Parade, Coral Gables.  
Post 346 has already committed to participate.
- Feb. 8, 2014 – Flag Retirement Ceremony, Town of Miami Lakes.  
Hosted by Post 144
- March 8, 2014 – Dept. Oratorical – Dept. Headquarters – Time: TBA
- April 12, 2014 – Dept. Commanders Homecoming – Post 7, Clearwater
- May 31, 2014 – 14<sup>th</sup> 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

**John Ebling**

**Dept Veterans Benefits Chairman**

I am often asked, “What are my burial benefits from the VA?” Well the answer is rather simple and basic:

All Honorably discharged Veterans are entitled to a flag at the time of passing.

All Honorably discharged Veterans are entitled to a graveside marker at the time of passing regardless as to where they are laid to rest.

All Honorably discharged Veterans are entitled to be buried in any National Cemetery at no cost. Prior arrangements cannot be made with any National Cemetery. Remember Arlington Cemetery is not part of that system.

The only time that there is any form of financial reimbursement toward funeral expenses are if the Veteran is receiving a VA check monthly prior to his/her passing or; if the Veteran passed away in a VA facility.

For any questions regarding this information you should contact you County Veterans Service Office.

**Top 10 Military Slang Phrases  
That work at Home!**

This list was compiled by MANY Military spouses across the country and I thought I would share it with everyone! Ref: <http://spousebuzz.com>

**1. High and tight.** One day I was sitting in the base barber shop as my husband and our son got haircuts. I looked at the men sitting in the chairs around me, clutching their numbered tickets as they waited their turn to be called. And you know what I noticed? Not a single one of them needed a haircut! The stubble on the sides of their heads barely covered their scalps. **That’s the high and tight.**

**2. Bravo Zulu or “BZ.”** Doesn’t that sound so much cooler than saying “well done?”

**3. Hit the head** “I’m gonna hit the head.” I guess this phrase is better than some of the alternatives to announcing your intention to use the restroom. It’s just really strange hearing your 8-year-old son saying it.

**4. Soup sandwich.** I actually used this phrase when I taught kindergarten. My students thought it was hysterical to imagine trying to eat a sandwich filled with soup. Yes, things are really messed up if you have a soup sandwich on your hands.

**5. Mandatory fun.** Who hasn’t gone to that command picnic or holiday party because their husband was invi-told to attend? That’s mandatory fun. Just remember, this term is fine to use in the privacy of your own home, but it’s probably best not to use it while you’re at the event itself.

**6. ...and a wake-up** “My husband will be home in 4 days and a wake-up!” That sounds so much more doable than 5 more days, doesn’t it?

**7. Hooah.** I haven’t quite pinpointed its exact meaning, but it seems to be the comprehensive response to just about anything requiring abundant enthusiasm.

**8. Got your 6.** I got your back. A phrase all MilSpouses should be saying to each other.

**9. Zero dark thirty.** This is my daughter’s favorite time of day. Really, really, really early in the morning.

**10. Rog/Roger/Roger that.** My favorite, constant fixtures in my emails/phone calls/text messages. Message received. I understand.



## **ROSTER CHANGES RECEIVED UP TO OCTOBER 15, 2013**

6 Adjutant- Peter Bluto	4160 Lakeview Ct, Deland, 32724 (386)734-3786 <a href="mailto:PETBLUT52@AOL.COM">PETBLUT52@AOL.COM</a>
9 Adjutant- Kenneth Foldy	91 Devoe St, Jacksonville, 32220 (904) 710-5886 <a href="mailto:finalymine@msn.com">finalymine@msn.com</a>
323 Adjutant- Jackie Frady	318 Harold Ave S. Lehigh Acres, 33976 (239)292-9426 <a href="mailto:jacqueline.frady@yahoo.com">jacqueline.frady@yahoo.com</a>
40 Adjutant- Mary Pat Bland	402 Dakota Cr. Fort Pierce, 34946
103 Adjutant- Ronald Lakin	1442 Gerbe Dr. Punta Gorda, 33950 (941) 639-6337 <a href="mailto:firefighterir@comcast.net">firefighterir@comcast.net</a>
32 Adjutant- Larry Sheets	8950 NE 8th Ave, Apt 204. Miami, 33138 (305)467-7713 <a href="mailto:rivetkckr@bellsouth.com">rivetkckr@bellsouth.com</a>
90 Adjutant- Brian Gehling	P.O BOX 100424, Cape Coral, 33910 (239)785-8282 <a href="mailto:bgehling@hotmail.com">bgehling@hotmail.com</a>
129 Adjutant- Jerry Brandt	4344 Tideview Dr. Jacksonville, 32250 (904) 910-5201 <a href="mailto:jerry.brandt@comcast.net">jerry.brandt@comcast.net</a>
325 Adjutant- James Kelly	4219 Duck Creek Way, Ellenton, 34222 (941)721-6259 <a href="mailto:wildthingtfk@yahoo.com">wildthingtfk@yahoo.com</a>
189 Adjutant- Barney Giordan	442 Peterson St. Sebastian, FL 32958 (772) 388-1885
19 Adjutant- Paul Rompel	5465 Leon Cir. Orlando, 32810 (860) 460-7930 <a href="mailto:subtusk@yahoo.com">subtusk@yahoo.com</a>
189 Commander- Michael Taylor	765 Carnival Terr, Sebastian, 32958 (772)228-0392 <a href="mailto:post189sf@comcast.net">post189sf@comcast.net</a>
130 Commander- Matthew Kindermann	4096 Rainbox Ct. Labelle, 33935 (863) 599-1404 <a href="mailto:MATTKINDERMANN@HOTMAIL.COM">MATTKINDERMANN@HOTMAIL.COM</a>
104 Commander- Kenneth Hoover	4946 58th St. N, Kenneth City, 33709 (727)546-5057 <a href="mailto:khoover10@tampabay.rr.com">khoover10@tampabay.rr.com</a>
325 Commander- Patricia Stiles	7723 Laurel Way, Ellenton, 34222 (941) 704-7318 <a href="mailto:taira45@yahoo.com">taira45@yahoo.com</a>
278 Commander	Position vacant at this time
8th Dist. Commander	Position vacant at this time
6th Dist. Disaster Prep Chair- John Gella	503 Seminole Ave. Fruitland Park, 34731 (352) 360-3028
Boys Scout Dept. Chairman	Position vacant at this time
6th Dist. Vice Cmdr- Bob Koger	636 Braidwood Ln. Orlando 32803 (407) 894-8048 <a href="mailto:bobkoger@aol.com">bobkoger@aol.com</a>
323 Mailing/Billing address	1124 Ashlar Ave, Lehigh Acres, 33936 fax # (239) 369-3438
107 Mailing/Billing address	6443 161st Road, Live Oak, 32060
245 Mailing/Billing address	22680 Vistawood Way, Boca Raton, FL 33428
332 Adjutant- Ruth Quillian email	<a href="mailto:resq@mcp4u.com">resq@mcp4u.com</a>
78 Commander- Harold Webb email	<a href="mailto:sweetoleman@att.net">sweetoleman@att.net</a>
383 Post email address	<a href="mailto:tboyd383@yahoo.com">tboyd383@yahoo.com</a>
59 Post email address	<a href="mailto:poppa-k@msn.com">poppa-k@msn.com</a>
314 Adjutant Donald Portis email	<a href="http://www.dcportcall@hotmail.com">www.dcportcall@hotmail.com</a>

