



# The LEGION LINK

*"Lil Leprechaun Fighting For Vets"*



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

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**Joe Magee**  
*Department Commander*  
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Greetings everyone,

This is the second article of 2017, I guess you could say the countdown begins. So far so good from this perspective. I just got home from the Florida Legion College, what a great program. I cannot thank the College staff enough for a job well done, the Department staff for their assistance in it putting all together and, of course, Tom Gora; without his research, diligence, and dedication for putting together the best possible curriculum available to those in attendance it wouldn't have gone nearly as well. I have had many e-mails and phone calls and they all have been positive.

Prior to the College, I attended the 1st Legion Riders Summit, another impressive program conducted by Jim Day and staff. We expected only about 150 or so, how about 325, what a turnout! I would also like to thank our National Riders Rep. for attending.

After the Riders Summit, there was the Southern Area Ball, nice job done by Joe Motes and Staff. The attendance was great and the food even better. The following day we were off to the Coast Guard Station in Fort Lauderdale for the Four Chaplains Ceremony. As always Steve Newman did an excellent job, thank you Steve. However, one aspect of that day Steve could not control was the weather, it was cold, raining and very windy. As I walked down the path towards the Inter-coastal with the Wreath, I kept saying to myself, "Geez! hope this wind doesn't blow me into the water!" I would also like to thank Dania Beach Post 304 for the delicious spread they put on after the Ceremony.

Following the Four Chaplains was the 12th District visit, all I can say is Bruce Thurber ran me ragged from one end the Eastern Area to the other. We hit so many Posts and I have to say, we were treated with the utmost respect by all. Thanks to all involved for the time they showed us. An added thrill was a visit and tour of the Navy Seals Museum, that was an experience Pat and I will never forget. Also, included in that memory bank is the visit to the Four Chaplains monument in Sebastian. That visit culminated with the Eastern Area Ball, what a wonderful job done by Felix and Maria (I think mostly Maria), I even wore my Kilt for that function.

From the Eastern Area, we were off to Tallahassee for the first ever March on Tallahassee. For a first-time initiative, I think it went very well. Next year we can tweak it for the better. At least we were visible and up front, not whispering from the background.

After Tallahassee, we attended the 35th Female Veterans Valentine luncheon in Hudson. This function is conducted by the Auxiliary and I would like to thank all concerned for job well done. Lots of activities are coming up in the next month. I will keep you posted.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

## HOMECOMING

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
JOE MAGEE      DETACHMENT COMMANDER  
STEVE GORDON

APRIL  
22<sup>ND</sup>

**WHERE:** Post 347  
Lady Lake, FL

**TIME:** 5:00 PM

**TICKETS:** \$30 each

**DRESS:** Business Formal

ADVERTISE IN THE COMMANDER'S BOOK  
 For more info: [kolze@floridalegion.org](mailto:kolze@floridalegion.org)





**MARCH 2017**

1	Dept Membership Goal 95%
1	FL General Scholarship Due
1	National Washington Conference
1	Ash Wednesday
1	JROTC Cadet of the Year Due
1	Eagle Scout of the Year Due
3	Navy Reserves Birthday
3	Fallen Warrior Memorial Dedication
4-6	ALR State Rally 🍀
4	Mardi Gras
5	9th District Picnic
6	EOY Forms Mailing
9	Cape Marksmanship Tournament
11	State Oratorical Contest 🍀
12	Daylight Saving Time Begins
15	Legion Link Articles Due
15	American Legion's Birthday
16	Boys State Online Reg Closes
17	St. Patrick's Day
18	Eastern Area Conference
20	First Day of Spring
23	Cape Marksmanship Tournament

🍀 - Commander Joe Magee's Attendance Events are subject to change.



**Charles E Schmidt**  
National Commander  
[legion.org](http://legion.org)

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt will award his national commander pin to any Legion member who obtains three new members into the Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2017 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2016 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

To maintain the integrity of the national

(National Commander - Continued)  
commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual.

Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Schmidt's incentive program will end June 30, 2017, or when supplies are exhausted.

You may download forms at:  
<https://www.legion.org/commander/pin>



**Steve Shuga**  
1st Vice Commander

March is the favorite month for all Lil Leprechauns 🍀 and lads and ladies who claim, believe, or wish to be Irish.

There is a magical sense of surprises from pots of gold 🍀, rainbows with surprises on the other side 🌈, shamrocks 🍀, green beverages 🍷, praise of St. Patrick 🍀, and the opportunity to achieve membership success.

Department Goals are at and beyond 95 % and we have seen the slippery slide of the river banks as Posts struggle to gain their footing to achieve their membership targets. We still have to work just a little bit harder to do our part, otherwise we will not be singing cheerful songs of praise. Remember, the Districts who have a chance to challenge other Districts/Counties around the nation, must achieve 100 plus % before March 31, 2017 to have a chance/be considered a National Race-to-The Top candidate.

The question is will Florida have a District sport its "Lucky Charm" 🍀 in the bid for recognition once again? Only precious time will tell.

🍀 Wishing all the luck of the Irish as we gain and claim membership success during March.



**Dianne Boland**  
2nd Vice Commander

Greetings,

By now, this year's Florida American Legion College

is over but wait! We have already started planning for next term. It should be taking place in September 2017 so if you missed out, plan to attend the next one. Remember, the ALEI Course (whether in person or online) is a prerequisite.

I have stated that the Florida Department Website [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org) and National's Website [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) have a wealth of knowledge about the American Legion: our programs, our history, our people and a whole lot more. Today as I was browsing the National website, I came across their booklet "Guide to Post Training." It's a 30-page booklet packed full of good information. Every Post should have a copy of this and start training (if you haven't already). Below is the Table of Contents for the book. The Sample Lesson Plan they mention is about The American Legion Emblem. Within the booklet, they mention how and where to find the handouts and booklets.

- Introduction
- Objective
- Why Train
- Benefits
- Developing a Post Training Plan
- Training Topics
- Training Venues
- Basic Training
- The Fundamentals of Teaching
- Techniques to Use in Training
- The Physical Environment
- Develop a Plan
- Sample Lesson Plan
- Legal Training
- Training Resources
- Current Training DVDs and Powerpoint Presentations
- Handouts/Booklets
- Biographical Resources on The American Legion
- Conclusion

New Training resource materials are continuously being produced by The American Legion National Headquarters. Each will be added to the electronic version of this guide on The American Legion Web site: [www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/posttrainingguide.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/posttrainingguide.pdf).





**Rick Johnson**  
3rd Vice Commander

Hello Legionnaires,

I hope this find you all well. February was a busy month. I attended the Eastern Area ball and a very good job by the Commander and his wife. Then attended the female veterans luncheon at Hudson and I will tell you, it is a very nice event 34 years in a row and counting. I will be teaching at the Florida college and it looks like we have 27 students that have signed up. This is a great way to get more information about the Legion and what we stand for. Our delegation was also in Washington D.C. to support our National Commander as he testified in front of Congress to let our leaders know where we stand on the issues that concern us every day.

March will be very busy as well. There will be an ALR rally in Jacksonville, the State Oratorical Contest and the 1st of April will be the C&Y Picnic at Post 117 in Palm Bay. I hope to get a lot of sponsors and baskets for this great event. You see that we can make a difference in what we do. Please try to learn more about our programs and why they are in place. You will be surprised what participating in a few of them will get you in return: New members, the Community behind you and especially the gift of giving.

January was a very good month as we attended a couple Balls in the Southwest Area and the Southern Area. I attended the first ALR summit which was well received by the many chapters there lending their support. Thank you, Jim and Jennifer for all of your hard work as it will continue to make a difference.

We have a lot of work to do as a Family to attain our goals with membership and programs. Try not to forget, this is what we are built on. I know we preach it all the time, but the more we mention it the better we are and we will never forget who we are. So, with that being said, I hope all of you stay safe in your travels and I look forward to seeing you on the highways and by-ways out there. If there is a special event going on, please let me know and I will try to be there.

Thank you for all you do and continue to do for our veterans and their families. May God bless you and God bless this great country of ours.



**Dennis Boland**  
NEC

The American Legion is an organization of wartime veterans

dedicated to service of the community, state, and nation.

Service does not end when we take the uniform off.

Veterans can continue their service in the community as an American Legion volunteer.

The American Legion is a staunch supporter of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program, the largest volunteer program in the federal government.

As of September 2016, there are over 7,008 regularly scheduled volunteers and who serve veterans in VA Medical Centers, Clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses and State Veterans Homes across the nation.

The American Legion volunteers contributed 645,012 hours which is valued at over \$14 million in savings to the federal government.

To register, please visit any VA Medical Center's Voluntary Service Office.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DISCHARGE UPGRADE AND CORRECTION BOARD**

The American Legion is the only Veteran Service Organization that assists former service members in trying to upgrade their discharge and correct their official military record.

This is a valuable service and due to our representation, veterans can qualify for many Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

The American Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program also includes expert advocacy in the areas of health care, disability claims and other benefits as performed nationwide by more than 3,000 accredited service officers.



**Art Schwabe**  
NECA

On Feb 7th, the Department of Florida had a March on Tallahassee. We met at Post

13 in Tallahassee for a briefing. Bullet Points were discussed as well as lengthy discussion regarding gaming. This was the first such meeting, and was a learning experience for everyone. There is a lot of room for improvement, we know that, and it will be improved upon.

We had no idea who was coming, how it would be received or who had what Representative and the location of their offices. Once in the capital building there wasn't a floor that you didn't see Legionnaires. Many people were thanking Legionnaires for their service, and it was great to see the Legion being visible to our State officials.

We now need input on what was discussed with your Representatives. Please send information on what was discussed and who it was discussed with to Bruce Comer Assistant Adjutant, so we can plan a better and more informative agenda. We will have a meeting/discussion at the Convention in June on actions we will be taking for future Marches. Thanks to everyone who participated in the first March on Tallahassee. You truly are making a difference for Veterans.



**Tom Gora**  
Sgt-at-Arms

**"You will guard especially against the loss of one of The American Legion's greater possessions, our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship."**

This year the annual District Constitutional Conferences (DCC) begin on May 6th and end June 11th. The DCC is a time when delegates from Posts in the District come together to select delegates and alternates to the annual National Convention, elect District Officers for the next year, and hear campaign speeches from the candidates for Department Offices. Not all meeting halls are the same, District traditions vary, so these are JUST TIPS to help you have an orderly DCC.





*(Sgt-at-Arms - Continued)*

This year you can expect up to as many as 10 candidates for Department Offices that may travel to your DCC and ask to speak. These candidates make one or two DCCs in a weekend, sometimes two in a day, depending on scheduling, so time is precious to them. It is good to get their speeches done early in your DCC so they can "hit the road" to their next stop and your District can then carry-on with business.

1. Have a separate sign in sheet for Department level candidates and other visiting Department officers and dignitaries. This separate list will help your District Commander with introductions. The Sgt.-at-Arms should always make sure their Commander is aware of who is in the hall among guests and dignitaries. Remember to keep introductions by District, by Department, in the chain of command sequence always ending with the appropriate Commander. If NEC or NEC/A are present they are introduced immediately before the Department Commander.
2. At some point, Department Commander Joe Magee will be asked by the District Commander to address the DCC to deliver his annual report or present awards. The Commander's presentation should come before Department Candidate Call.
3. If you can, try to seat the Department candidates together. The closer they are to the podium, the shorter wait you have for them to get up there and finish speaking. The candidates will often voluntarily line up in speaking order for you to help move the process along.
4. Remember the order of introductions of department candidate call usually goes in the same order as department level elections; Sgt.-at-Arms Candidate, Historian, Chaplain, 3rd Vice, 2nd Vice, 1st Vice, Commander.
5. When candidate's call is concluded, a Department Officer may request that the District Commander dismiss the group of candidates so they can report to the next DCC, or if not rushed they may decide to stay for the remainder of your DCC.

Once again, these are all tips, every meeting hall is different and some DCCs may have traditions that I may not be aware of. Good luck and have a great DCC!



**Steve Newman**  
*Chaplain*

Greetings and a big hello my fellow Legionnaires.

It hard to believe how time is flying by. Soon my term as Chaplain will be up and the Department will carry on with an outstanding new one. However, I will always be around to assist anyone who needs my help no matter what. I truly appreciate all your wonderful thoughts and prayers that you have given me during the past four years. I will always cherish them. Of course, having God in my life is also a true blessing. With Him as I have told you many times things are always possible. He helps you get through the good times and the not so good ones.

God wants to always hear from you. Prayer is such an easy thing to do and it does not cost anything. God loves to hear your prayers. Since the beginning of my time as Department Chaplain and even before I was elected to that wonderful and fulfilling position, I always carried around and had as my thought the following: be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1-9. I really believe in that and always will as it has given me the strength, hope and peace of mind I needed to do the job. I have met some very wonderful Legionnaires, Sons of the Legion, Auxiliary, Legion Riders along with many of their family and friends. It has been a joyful journey, one that I will cherish forever. I personally want to thank all of you for your gracious support. It has truly been a blessing.



**Larry Sheets**  
*Judge Advocate*



Last month I had the pleasure of attending the first American Legion Riders Summit, in Coco Beach, FL. It was very well attended and, I must say, there were a bunch of bikes there. I was there on Friday, and had to go to Tampa on Saturday.

I was able, along with Jennifer Day, chair a

*(Judge Advocate - Continued)*

meeting on SOP'S. I would like to see all ALR Chapters have SOP'S rather than Constitution and By-Laws, however if a Chapter has a Constitution and By-Laws, they must operate in accordance with them, as long as they do not violate the Department ALR SOP.



**Jerry Brandt**  
*Membership*

Comrades,

The 90% Department Goal date was February 1st and the following Posts were able to achieve this goal. A Total of 73 Posts:

- 1st District, 7 Posts**  
Post 402, Panama City  
Post 382, Navarre  
Post 66, Panama City  
Post 235, Ft Walton Bch  
Post 395, Crestview  
Post 240, Pensacola  
Post 340, Pensacola

- 2nd District, 3 Posts**  
Post 172, Hosford  
Post 272, Blountstown  
Post 116, Post St. Joe

- 3rd District, 4 Posts**  
Post 215, Jasper  
Post 68, Madison  
Post 234, Monticello  
Post 96, Perry

- 4th District, 8 Posts**  
Post 210, Ocala  
Post 166, Homosassa  
Post 237, Beverly Hills  
Post 236, Williston  
Post 58, Dunnellon  
Post 153, Lake Butler  
Post 230, Hawthorne  
Post 354, Ocala

- 5th District, 4 Posts**  
Post 372, Jacksonville  
Post 102, Hastings  
Post 202, Keystone Heights  
Post 250, Middleburg





*(Membership - Continued)*

**6th District, 7 Posts**

- Post 409, Avalon Park
- Post 76, Tavares
- Post 357, Clemont
- Post 330, Leesburg
- Post 347, Lady Lake
- Post 101, Bushnell
- Post 112, Winter Park

**7th District, 2 Posts**

- Post 71, Lake Wales
- Post 15, Dade City

**8th District, 2 Posts**

- Post 254, North Port
- Post 69, Avon Park

**9th District, 4 Posts**

- Post 142, Pompano Beach
- Post 310, Hallandale
- Post 308, Hollywood
- Post 170, Coconut Creek

**11th District, 2 Posts**

- Post 62, Stuart
- Post 20, Belle Glade

**12th District, 10 Posts**

- Post 177, Cocoa
- Post 394, Palm Bay
- Post 200, Satellite Beach
- Post 1, Titusville
- Post 181, Gifford
- Post 81, Melbourne
- Post 318, Port St. Lucie
- Post 126, Jensen Beach
- Post 117, Palm Bay
- Post 189, Sebastian

**13th District, 5 Posts**

- Post 397, Fort Myers
- Post 405, Punta Gorda
- Post 404, Marco Island
- Post 136, St James City
- Post 130, La Belle

**14th District, 6 Posts**

- Post 144, Miami Lakes
- Post 145, Islamorada
- Post 29, Miami
- Post 374, Key Biscayne
- Post 32, Hialeah
- Post 31, South Miami

**15th District, 4 Posts**

- Post 108, Lutz
- Post 389, Ruskin

*(Membership - Continued)*

- Post 246, Sun City Center
- Post 186, Spring Hill

**16th District, 3 Posts**

- Post 275, Dunedin
- Post 273, Madeira Beach
- Post 104, Pinellas Park

**17th District, 2 Posts**

- Post 187, Deland
- Post 293, Interlachen

There is another 11 Posts at 89%, as you can see, we are doing well. We will make the National upcoming 85% goal on February 8th. (Please remember, the Department Goal dates are different than National).

Also on December 31st, 16,000 DMS members were transferred from National to our Department Database and are now available to us in our MyLegion.Org database. Use the My Legion.Org database and bring those potential members into our Posts.

April is Children and Youth month, also time to hold various events, ROTC and School medals awards, Easter Egg Hunt and Beaches Reopening. It is also an opportunity to increase membership. As indicated, 16,000 new members have been drop into Florida's MyLegion.org listing. Please invite these potential members down to your Post for an event.

One last item, checks are coming out to all Post and District Commanders for their members between 80-90%. A check will be issue to the Post and District Commanders for their members between 90-100% in April, and in June for those members over 100%.

**My upcoming schedule:**

- February 4th, 3rd District Meeting
- February 9-11, 5th District Revitalization
- February 11th, 1st District Meeting
- February 16th – 18th, Florida Legion College,
- February 17th, 15th District Dinner
- February 25th, FT. Steward Job Fair
- March 2-4, Central Area Revitalization
- March 4th, 4th District Meeting
- March 10, 8th District Meeting

Please let me know if you need assistance



**Sid Damsgard**  
*Central Area Commander*

This past week on Valentine's Day, Post 335 Auxiliary in New Port Richie (Hudson) held their 34th annual luncheon for Female Veterans. All Department Commanders were in attendance and many other locale chairpersons. In all there were 35 veterans, some of them from WWII. They shared stories of their time in service and how grateful they are for being honored by this outstanding Auxiliary Unit. The food was excellently prepared and enjoyed by everyone. We were entertained by the local middle school jazz band and chorus. The chorus ended with a tribute to all the military's by singing their anthems.

The Central Area continues to be near the top of the Department in membership with revitalization events scheduled soon. To all District Commanders, great work, continue doing what you are doing. It is only by retaining and recruiting members that we survive. I will be visiting as many Posts as I can as time will allow.



**John W Rose**  
*Northern Area Commander*

March has been a busy month. Last month we completed our Northern Area Oratorical Contest in Jacksonville and will move on to the State Oratorical Contest at Department on March 11th. I hope to see you represented at this event. We are making our Boys State selections and processing the paperwork. March 15th is the Legion Birthday and all of us will be celebrating and thanking the veterans that founded our great organization and all of us that continue all that our Legion does. Our Northern Area will be having its "Ball" on Saturday March 25th. Check our flyer for details.

The time is getting short to make our 100% membership. We all need a plan on how we are going to succeed. It's not just a single Legionnaire in some position working on membership, but each and every one of us. Have you got a renewal and a new member? We need each member of our Legion Family to pitch in and help







*(Northern Area Commander - Continued)*

us make our goals. Thanks to all the Posts who are at or above those goals. Those of us who are still behind, let's work together and make our 100%. Thanks again for all you do.



**Andy Burkett**  
Southwestern Area Commander

Hello Southwestern Area!

Thank you for all your hard

work, membership is on track but we still to keep working this on it. I have started to make my visits to your Posts with more scheduled to come. I am looking forward to seeing you at your Posts and if you have something you would like me to attend, just ask. Let's try to get to 90% this month.



**Fred Matthews**  
5th District Commander

This is the time in the Legion year when programs get carried out and the spirit of "working the programs" was in full force throughout the 5th District.

Oratorical contestants from 5 Posts participated in the annual Oratorical Contest which took place this year at the historic Karpeles Manuscript Museum in downtown Jacksonville. Post 54's contestant Madison Moore was the big winner. Interviews are underway in at least 10 Posts in the 5th District for this year's participants in the Summer Boys State event at the Florida State Capitol.

Members of the Post 88 Riders Chapter, along with the District Chaplain Fred Humphries, were called upon to escort a soldier home from Afghanistan. The full escort of riders greeted the soldier from the Jacksonville International Airport to the 75-mile ride to his family and final destination in Lake City, Florida.

The 5th District is blessed with two chaplains. Through efforts of Post 372's Haim Cassorla and Post 197's Fred Humphries, the annual 4 Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony took place with Color Guard and Bugler from Post 137 and a full house. Legion Members from across the

*(5th District Commander - Continued)*

4-county area of the district were in attendance. And finally, 7 members from the 5th District visited state legislators for the March on Tallahassee. Special thanks to Emory Austin and Ted Boutwell of Post 137, Post Commander Dick Rowe and Cindy Anderson of Post 250, Vermel Smith and George Davis of Post 197 along with the District Commander.



*Soldier escort from Riders Chapter 88*



*5th District Oratorical Contestants*



*Post 54 Oratorical Winner and Family*



*4 Chaplains Remembrance at Post 197*



*March on Tallahassee visit with State Senator, Audrey Gibson, with members of the 5th District*



**Bruce Thurber**  
12th District Commander

What a fun time we had introducing Department Commander Joe McGee to the great folks of District 12. As we traveled looking for someone that was more vertically challenged, we stopped at Post 191 in Melbourne and found Commander Andre Reed. It was only millimeters but we were successful. After leaving 191 we headed North to Post 163.

After having the Commander travel close to 500 miles in three (3) days, we settled in for the Special Olympics Run hosted by SAL Squadron 117 with the help of the entire family, including members of other Posts. Last, but not least, we attended the Eastern Area Ball at Post 81. We also visited the UDT/Seal Museum in Fort Pierce, if you haven't been there put it on your bucket list. I would love to put pictures of the entire time with the Commander but that would fill a book, we traveled and met with so many people. Now it's time for the District 12 Picnic, please come and join the fun.

The 12th District meeting is March 4th and our DCC is May 6th. We will be holding a District Revitalization on March 25th at Post 191 in Melbourne and hope everyone will join us. There will also be events at Post 171 in Ft Pierce. Anyone who can help please contact the Post Commanders and let them know what you can do.





(12th District Commander - Continued)



**Donna Artola**  
*Blood Chair*

Fellow Legionnaires,  
As we find our self into a new calendar year, it is time to think about giving the gift of life that keeps giving. One pint of blood will save the life of 3.

At this time if you do not have a Blood Donor Chairperson, it is time to get one. Your Chair for your Post can be a Legion, Son, or Auxiliary member. We are ONE big happy Family and we work together. Let's get the job done together.

If you want to have a blood drive and need my help in the organization of it, give me a shout, I will be more than happy to help you. If you are having an event and would like me there to help support, give me another shout out. I am here to help and support your Post.

Please, email me with your pints donated so far this year. Remember to get your narrative report into Department in time in order to be eligible for year-end awards. I look forward to hearing from all of you.



**Sid Damsgard**  
*Children & Youth Chair*

This month, just a couple of reminders of upcoming events. April is Children and Youth month with our picnic at Palm Bay Post 117. They are located at 189 Veterans Dr. Palm Bay FL 32909 in the 12th District. You

(Children & Youth Chair - Continued)

can get the flier for this event on the Department Web site calendar. Planning for the event is under way and we expect to finalize all activities by the end of February. Please plan to attend. There will be plenty of activities for children and adults alike. I look forward to seeing you there.

Another fund raiser coming up is the Legion Riders In-State Legacy Ride. This ride is open to riders of all skill levels. There will be a meet and great party at Post 347 Lady Lake on April 1st. This is also an opportunity to brief all riders on how riding groups are put together and rules of the road. Lady Lake is located in the 6th District their address is 699 W. Lady Lake Blvd. Lady Lake FL 32159. Look for the schedule on the Web site calendar.



**Tom Gora**  
*Legion College*

The Florida American Legion College Class of 2017, was in session February 16-18, with 27 students representing 13 Department Districts and all six of the Department Areas! As FALC Chairman, I thank all for their interest and the personal commitment each made to attend. I was impressed by the attentiveness and participation exhibited by class members and the enthusiasm of this class tells me the Department of Florida's future has just become brighter! I am confident the challenge extended at the beginning of FALC "to make a new friend from another district or area, and learn something new about The American Legion," was met. On February 18, 2017, all 27 participants became FALC Graduates, congratulations to them all! The range of membership years for those attending FALC was 32 years to 1 year, with the 'mean' of membership for the group at about 8 years. We also had a member of the Sons of The American Legion, Greg Trammel, Squadron 402, complete the FALC and we congratulate him for this accomplishment!

The 27 class participants were divided into five imaginary 'districts' and during classes they had some great discussions about many programs of the national and department organizations, and worked in their 'district' on assigned projects. One of those projects was to write a 'Resolution' which is the written format by which The American Legion accepts new ideas to develop or improve programs, to stay current with society in general,

(Legion College Chair- Continued)

and to improve the support we provide to our troops and veterans. Each district was required to write and present a Resolution at the end of the class. Included among the Resolutions the class wrote were: (1) The American Legion form a new program, as it did to create the Sons of The American Legion, to create a "Non-Veteran Male Spouse" program that would provide membership to male spouses of female veterans; (2) The American Legion promote a National American Veteran Suicide Prevention Day; and (3) The American Legion establish a new program titled "Family Whole Person Support Program," to address the increasing needs for veterans and their families such as suicide, divorce, and substance abuse.

The class also was asked to design an FALC emblem and to select a standard color for the FALC graduate polo shirt. They submitted a total of 9 emblem designs, and an emblem and shirt color will be selected by the FALC Committee.

So, in closing this article allow me to use the format of the resolution writing process

**WHEREAS**, Twenty seven participants assembled February 16-18, 2017, at the Department of Florida successfully completed the Florida American Legion College Class of 2017; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the FALC Committee and the Department of Florida express appreciation to all participants, instructors, and department staff who contributed to the success of the training; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the FALC Class of 2017 express their appreciation to American Legion families at American Legion Posts 19 and 183 who welcomed and provided hospitality to the class; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That the dates for the next Florida American Legion College Class have been established as September 7-9, 2017.



*The Florida American Legion College Class of 2017*







*(Legion College Chair- Continued)*



*The Florida American Legion College 2017 Instructors*

*(JROTC/Shooting Sports Chair - Continued)*

Award of \$1,500.00 for the Winner and is presented at the Dept. Convention in Orlando. The winner is invited as a guest of the Department and the presentation is made during the Youth Presentations. Thanks to all who are participating in our youth programs and please let me know if I can be of help at any time.

**Dave Miller**  
*POW - MIA Chair*

Attention all Florida Legionnaires,

I hope everyone got thru our short cold spell of weather down here in Florida. Time is flying as we are getting into March so I hope everyone is keeping the Pow-Mia issues on the top of their priorities. Our Country continues to try to get all former service men and women back to our Country no matter where they were deployed to. Many culvert operations have left many missing all over the world. Contact your Congressional delegate and Senator to keep investigations going to bring them all home from ALL wars and conflicts.

Hopefully all your Post homes have a Pow-Mia table set up somewhere in your Post. If not, and you need help setting one up contact me by email or phone and I will help you. Also, if anyone needs help dedicating a Pow-Mia Flag or table with the formal ceremony, please contact me. You can reach me 24/7 by email or phone. My home number is in the Department roster. (727-393-0548) home (727-331-1652) cell, my emails are listed as well.

Please keep our Pow-Mia program going strong in the Department of Florida, and remember you could be captive or missing somewhere and your family would be devastated. Help bring all these HEROES home! Remember Pow-Mias never have a nice day. Bring them home. God bless our missing heroes and God bless our great nation.



**Loretta Young**  
*JROTC/Shooting Sports Chair*

The school year is quickly slipping away. Timelines are very strict in both the JROTC and the Shooting Sports

Programs. We completed the First Round Postal Marksmanship Match at the beginning of February. I do not have the results yet, however they will be posted on the National website for your review. The lack of District Chairmen for the program is a cause for concern. Without designated Chairmen to continually monitor the schools and the Clubs to get the Targets ordered and returned, and with the heavy demand on the schools programming, the deadlines are often overlooked. Some of the schools are still competing in other areas such as Regional Matches, State Matches and CMP Matches, however, this does not help to comply with the Legion National Program which results in Scholarship Awards for our Department of Florida State winners or the National Winners who will be competing in July at the USA Shooting Facility, Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, CO on July 17-23.

The next deadline is the Department of Florida, JROTC Cadet of the Year. The application is due on March 1st. These applications are sent to the schools, but can also be downloaded on the Dept. of Florida website. The Cadet is chosen by the Senior Instructors of the program, and are allowed only one representative from each school. It is a short application, which on completion is sent to Dept. Headquarters. This is also on a strict timeline and is for a Scholarship



**Eunice Butts**  
*Post Development Chair*

Hello Legionnaires,

February was a very busy month for Revitalizations.

Post 13 in Tallahassee hosted the 2nd District revitalization, February 2nd-4th. Revitalizations were also held in Pensacola FL during the above dates. The 4th District also had a revitalization on February 10th-11 in Jacksonville. Post 283 was the host. All Posts in the 5th District did their individual revitalizations on Saturday, February 24th-25th.

This month revitalizations will be held in the Central Area, March 2nd-4th. The 12th District March 25th at Post 191 in Melbourne and at Post 171 in Fort Pierce.

I am encouraging District Commanders to please see that each and everything Post Commander is informed, even if you have to call them. It is imperative that they inform their members. We experienced a situation where the Post was not open and there was no Commander. To me, this is embarrassing since we had a National Membership Chairman there to help us. Thanks to all the Areas, Districts and Posts who participated in the Post revitalizations this year. It was because of you I have had a very productive year. As the Post Development Chair, I would also like to thank the Post who called on me and utilized this position.

Have a great month and I am looking forward to 100% membership for you and the Department of Florida. You have the tools and guidelines, now all you have to do is use them.



**Troy Horsley**  
*School Medals Chair*

The American Legion School Medal is the highest honor awarded presented to Youth by the American Legion. It is a medal that proclaims they are

kind of boy/girl that we believe worthy of such an honor. This is a good time to start ordering your medals and/or certificates so you will have them on hand in time for presentations in May/June. I have checked with National Emblem Sales and there are plenty in stock. You can order the medal only (item #717.200) or the medal and certificate (item #717.200C) for just 8.95 each. If you want to present just a certificate, they are only \$1.00 each or \$.70 when ordering in a batch of 100.

**CHECK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR PROGRAM DEADLINES  
MARCH 1, 2017**







*(School Medals Chair - Continued)*

Hopefully by now your Post Commander has identified an ambassador of the American Legion to be the liaison with your local schools and if not, now is the time for someone from your Post to contact your local school's administration and inform them of this opportunity to recognize students at the end of the school year. It is recommended that Post Commanders appoint a committee of not more than three members to contact local school administrations. When this has been done, it will be possible to run a coordinated program with the school and Legion to ensure quality candidates are awarded at the end of the year. It is very important to begin this interaction started because the school year will be coming to an end soon.

In working with school administrators, it is important to explain the details on how the recipients are to be selected and why selections should be made well in advance of the elections. Members of the graduating class and the faculty are to cast secret ballots to determine the boy awardee and the girl awardee. Traits underlying the selection of the boy and the girl will be Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service. Ensure that the voters understand the meaning of the qualities and their weights in the selection. The sole purpose of this undertaking by The American Legion is the cultivation of high character and wholesome ideals in youth approaching active citizenship. No trace of politics, sectarianism or favoritism should be allowed to attach itself to the School Award Program. Awards shall be made to the boy and to the girl of the graduating class in elementary, high schools and colleges.

The American Legion is an organization dedicated to the service of God and Country. We believe that one of the best ways to perform this service is to take an active interest in the preparation of our youth so that they will carry on the tradition of patriotism and become freedom-preserving citizens. It is in this interest that The American Legion School Awards Plan was born and is maintained on a National level through The Americanism Commission of the American Legion. With so many changes in our communities and their lack of supporting our shared values of duty, honor, and commitment to God and country, it is very important to recognize our youth who are guided by the highest ideals and on the right path.

On the Department of Florida American Legion web site, resources exist to help accomplish this worthwhile task. If you need assistance, please

*(School Medals Chair - Continued)*

contact me via email and I will be glad to help. I have put together a package that can be emailed to anyone who requests assistance whether your Post is experienced with the program or to help Posts that have not done this before.



**Gerald Kaufman**  
*National Security Chair*

There has been a rash of burglaries at American Legion Posts and VFW posts from Pasco County through Sumter County. These events have been happening after hours and the perpetrators have gained access through multiple means. Some events have even had their alarm systems disconnected and entire safes have been removed.

If your Post is not protected by an ACTIVE alarm system, now is the time to have one installed. If you have the little battery operated door or window monitors this is not enough to protect your Post. An active system is one that is professionally installed and connected to a monitoring site. Once a system has been triggered the monitoring station will call the Post and ask for a password. If the phone is not answered or the incorrect password is given the police will be at your Post within minutes. This protection is well worth the expense when you tally up the costs of repairs to your building and the loss of funds that will need to be replaced if your Post is hit.

There are other measures that need to be employed along with an active system. Never leave any cash behind your bar. Keep all monies under double lock and key. If your safe is portable, anchor it to the concrete slab or heavy beams under the floor system in your building. Make deposits as soon as possible so to limit the amount of cash on hand.

If you would like for me to personally visit your Post and assist you in assessing your security needs, just contact me and I will make arrangements to come to your Post and assist you.



**Roy Havekost**  
*Social Media Chair*

Greetings Legionnaires;

I ask that each of the District Social Media Chairmen

statewide review your District's Facebook pages for content showing the Post activities that help promote the programs of the American Legion. Please send me the Post# in your District that stands out among the others. The Post's Facebook sites that are submitted will be reviewed and considered for an award at the annual Department Convention in June-July 2017.

If your District does not have a Social Media Chairman, bring it to the attention of the District Commander so one can be appointed in accordance with established guidelines outlined in the National District/County Commanders publication.

The American Legion National website provides all members an area on their website with training and informational videos. These videos can easily be shared onto a Post Facebook page or group. Facebook is free advertising for your Post, and used correctly can be an effective awareness tool to inform our communities on what we do to help our veterans. Showing our public the programs that we are involved in also helps as a membership recruitment tool. Check out the available videos at [www.Legion.org/legiontv/](http://www.Legion.org/legiontv/). The playlist of videos is quite extensive and the categories cover not only the Legion programs but also informational videos ranging from the 100th Anniversary, Financial Assistance, Honor and Remembrance, PTSD, Troop Support and so much more. Share a video to your Post page or group, pin it to the top for a week or so, then retrieve another video and repeat the process. Let the community know who we are and what we do...the American Legion, veterans helping veterans!



**Did you receive your copy of the Florida Legion Scout?**

Anything coming from the Department will have this logo.

Contact Jennifer Cooper for your copy today, 407-295-2631





**American Legion Post 69 & Auxiliary Unit 69  
will be hosting a  
*Veterans Benefit Fair***

**Date: Saturday March 11, 2017**

**Set up 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.**

**Event Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Where American Legion Post 69  
1301 W Bell St Avon Park, FL 33825**

- This fair is to inform veterans and their family members of benefits that they deserve.
- With 30 to 50 vendors to provide information on VA, State, and Local Benefits.
- The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69 will also be hosting a Bake Sale and Craft Show, Fundraiser for the Veterans, and their families.
- All Non-Profit Organizations participating/Setting up a table is free. All other participants setting up a table a \$20.00 booth fee or a door prize that will go to helping veterans.

**There will also be a  
50/50  
and  
Door Prizes**

**Veterans Benefits Fair  
Point of Contact: Larry Roberts  
American Legion Post 69  
Service Officer  
(850)718-7773**

**Bake Sale/ Craft Show  
Point of Contact: Mary Striecker  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69  
Auxiliary President  
(812)593-3453**





The American Legion, Department of Florida  
would like you to join us for the

# *Annual Children & Youth Picnic*

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**12:00 PM until 6:00 PM**

*Live Entertainment* **BY D.J. Doc**

## *Activities*

Carnival Games  
Safety Finger Printing  
Bounce House  
Vendors  
Chinese Auction  
50/50 Raffle  
Dunk Tank

## *Food*

Cotton Candy  
Candy Apples  
BBQ Chicken  
Hot Dogs  
Hamburgers



## *Poker Run*

Registration starts at 8 AM  
Kick stands up at 9 AM  
\$10 per Rider  
\$10 per Passenger  
  
Cars are Welcome!!  
\$10 per Car  
\$10 per Passenger  
Includes food

**Fun Carnival Atmosphere for All Ages!!**

*Picnic Hosted* **BY Post 117**

189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, FL 32909

For More Information Contact:

Syd Damsgard—post275cmdr@yahoo.com; (727) 642-0246

Jim Fournier – postcommander@al117.com; (561) 201-6189

Or visit [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org)

*Admission:*  
\$10 per Person  
(Children under  
12 years old are  
free!)

## Sponsorship Levels:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze \$25 – Name on Sponsorship Board
- \_\_\_\_\_ Silver \$50 – Name on Sponsorship Board and Two Tickets to Annual Children & Youth Picnic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gold \$100 - Name on Sponsorship Board, Two Tickets to Annual Children & Youth Picnic, and Children & Youth Shirt with Name on it (Cut-off Date for Gold Sponsorship March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

Size Shirt (please circle): Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2XL, 3XL

Make Checks out to Post 117, in the memo put C&Y Picnic  
Mail Checks to Post 117 – 189 Veterans Dr. Palm Bay, FL 32909

**We are in need of Basket Donations for our Chinese Auction. Any gifts will be appreciated**

## Poker Run Registration:

Post Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Riders: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hotel Information:

**Comfort Suites** – 1175 Malabar Rd. N.E., Palm Bay, FL  
(321) 369-1234  
Room Price: \$95 per night

**Mention Post 117 Picnic before March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### For More Information Contact:

Rick Johnson – rickjtank@hotmail.com; (954) 242-4496  
Jim Fournier – postcommander@al117.com; (561) 201-6189  
Syd Damsgard – post275cmdr@yahoo.com; (727) 642-0246  
Or visit [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org)





**Larry Roberts**  
VA Entitlements Chair

Most veterans do not understand that there are different types of Compensation and here they are:

All Information comes from: Veterans Benefits Administration VA » Veterans Benefits Administration » Compensation » Types of Compensation

Types of Compensation

VA disability compensation provides monthly benefits to Veterans in recognition of the effects of disabilities, diseases, or injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service. The program also provides monthly payments to surviving spouses, dependent children, and dependent parents in recognition of the economic loss caused by a Veteran's death during military service or, after discharge from military service, as a result of a service-connected disability. A summary of VA's disability compensation programs is below.

Disability Compensation

A tax-free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. The benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the Veteran's disability on a scale from 10 percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may also be paid for disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, or to survivors of Veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities. Parents DIC is an income-based benefit for parents who were financially dependent on of a Service member or Veteran who died from a service-related cause.

*(VA Entitlements Chair - Continued)*  
Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)

SMC is an additional tax-free benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or by specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg. For spouses and surviving spouses, this benefit is commonly referred to as aid and attendance and is paid based on the need of aid and attendance by another person.

Claims Based on Special Circumstances

Veterans may be eligible for other types of disability compensation once a disability has been determined to be service connected. Special VA disability compensation programs include: individual unemployability, automobile allowance, clothing allowance, pre-stabilization, hospitalization, convalescence, dental, and birth defects.

*(VA & R Chair - Continued)*  
generous gift of several motorized mobility scooters. We are reviewing applications for them and will shortly be awarding them to deserving veterans. Beyond those we were hoping to be able to donate scooters to VA hospitals however, we've learned that the VA does not allow acceptance of donations of motorized equipment of this type. That said though, we will have no trouble finding ways to put this generous donation to good use for the benefit of our fellow veterans. In the meantime, I'm interested to know your thoughts about the VA's policy as well as how best we can use the scooters Share your thoughts with me at: var@legionmail.org. A heartfelt American Legion "thank you", Tony. We deeply appreciate all you do.

While it may seem still a long way off, we're in the process of coordinating the Post Service officer class at our upcoming Convention in June. Applications are now online at [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org) so don't hesitate to register early. If you have any questions, contact Elizabeth Douglas at Legion Headquarters or myself.



**Alan Cohen**  
VA&R Chair

Greetings fellow Legionnaires. Another busy month and it seems that as time goes on they pass all too quickly but it continues to be an honor to do all we can to help our fellow veterans and their families.

In that spirit, I'd like to highlight the great work and dedication of Tony Rizzo, who is our Deputy VAVS volunteer and the Bay Pines VAMC. A multi-year Legion member at Post 273 in Madeira Beach, Tony not only served on the Executive Committee there and at the District level as well, but has for the past 7 years volunteered at the hospital. Without hesitation he shares duties with our Rep there, at times stepping in to shoulder great responsibility enabling the team to expand their services to the large hospital campus, sometimes acting as patient advocate, often lending a sympathetic ear as well as expanding the type of events held for patient comfort and morale.

As I'm sure you're already aware, the Department was fortunate to have received an extremely



**Bob Brewster**  
Youth Law Cadet Chair

Here I am again talking about the American Legion/Highway Patrol Cadet Program. Just recently I visited the Sheriff's

Department of Clay County. Not only will I get a cadet from them for our Post 373 program, but I also picked up a new Legion member for our Post. To say the least, the Clay County Sheriff's Department is fully behind this program. The reason I am telling you this is to give you some ideas for where to find your cadets for this program. Plus, you might pick up members for your Post. This is called a "win, win."

Again, I am reminding you that the applications can be found on the Department website under Programs. I believe we are the last program on the list. We have ample brochures at Department. I also have brochures at my home office.

Remember, this program is open to all 16 to 18-year-old boys and girls with a "C" average or 2.0 GPA. Home school applicants who meet the "C" average requirement are also eligible. Our counselors are in place, and we will have a female counselor this year to accommodate the girl candidates.



**Jim Day**  
*American Legion Riders Chair*

Let me start with this: I am humbled and proud to be the Florida ALR Chairman. We had a great turn out and a successful 1st Florida ALR Summit. Together WE DID

IT for THE CAUSE not THE APPLAUSE. I have heard very positive feedback and a lot of buzz about "Unity" rides. Good news, we are negotiating with the same location for the 3rd weekend in Jan 2018 for the 2nd Florida ALR Summit. I wonder if we can take over the whole hotel next time?



Attendance was record breaking (almost 400), the classes and instructors were outstanding, the entertainment (thanks to Space Coast Harley Davidson) was great, hospitality rooms from Chapter 392 Panama City and new ALR Chapter 410 Viera were greatly appreciated, and the Florida ALR and Legion Family in attendance were all welcoming.

**Special thank you to our instructors:**

Bob Sussan, National ALR Chairman  
Mike Kirchoff, National ALR Committee  
Jim Wineland, Florida ALR Vice Chairman North  
Jim Bowers, Florida ALR Western Area Chairman  
Steve Shuga, Florida AL 1st Vice Commander

The information for ALR LEAD, tracking forms, Four Pillars, Road Captain and the Summit Planner are all online at [floridalegion.org](http://floridalegion.org) under the Legion Riders and Summit.

Also in attendance and available for questions and advice: membership Jerry Brandt, 3rd Vice Rick Johnson, 2nd Vice Diane Boland, Dept. Commander Joe Magee, NEC Dennis Boland, Florida ALA 1st Vice TK Wildrick just to name a few.

*(American Legion Riders Chair - Continued)*  
Please welcome Chapter 45 and Chapter 410 to the Florida ALR family.

Next up is the 5th Florida ALR Rally, graciously hosted by Chapter 283 Arlington and District 5 ALR. They have a great event planned with lots of rides, food and entertainment. The registration and shirt order is online. Please utilize the online sign-up and order forms.

During the ALR Summit our Vice Chairman Manny Ayala became very ill and has been in ICU. He is on the road to recovery but still needs our help and support. Chapters 72, 138 and 148 have stepped up and organized a fundraiser to help with bills and income loss. If you can't make the event, please send donations Chapter 148 and note in the memo: Manny Ayala.

2017 Florida Legacy Run hotels have been negotiated and the route is being finalized. This year we will be stopping at 2 Posts per day, riding 250-300 miles per day, starting @ 9am and off the road by 3pm daily. Depending on participation, we will be breaking into groups of 20-25 and have a Road Captain and Sweep for each group. Anyone interested in leading a group needs to contact Jennifer Day @ [floridalegacy@legionmail.org](mailto:floridalegacy@legionmail.org).

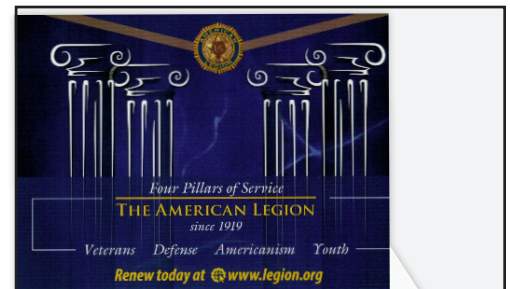


The route will begin in Lady Lake area on Sunday, April 2nd, we will ride up to Old Town for brunch/lunch, then head back down to Beverly Hills for late lunch and end at Bella Oasis in Homosassa Springs. Monday, we will head out to some backroads in the Central area end in Port Charlotte area. Tuesday will be a long day through back roads and across the state to Homestead. Wednesday, we will have a fun day riding down to Key West to spend a few hours of "leave" (you can do whatever you choose for a few hours),

*(American Legion Riders Chair - Continued)*  
then we will head back up to Marathon and back to Homestead. We will stay in Homestead 2 nights for a loading/reloading break. Thursday, we will head out towards Okeechobee and wind around to Melbourne. Friday, we have some secret visits planned and possible a National Cemetery wreath laying before ending in Orange City. We will stay 2 nights in Orange City and make a loop up to the 5th District for some more great county roads before ending in Deland/Debra area. Registration is online and highly suggested.



*Many Thanks to all who supported the Florida Department's "March on Tallahassee"!*



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - PAST DUE**

Our records indicate we have not yet received your 2017 membership renewal. If your dues have been mailed, please disregard this notice. Membership is important and making a donation has also to be made and a number of our members are preparing to complete their applications and programs for Congress. Your contributions are needed to complete your membership. Please call us at 1-800-453-4534 for assistance with your renewal. We appreciate your membership and we are looking forward to seeing you.

*The 2017 Renewal Postcards have arrived!*

Send requests to  
**Irene Graham**  
[igraham@floridalegion.org](mailto:igraham@floridalegion.org).



# PROJECT: VETRELIEF



## FUNDRAISING EVENT RECAP

A huge thank you to the **Legion Riders Chapter 154** in Marathon and **SAL Squadron 92** in Hollywood for hosting fundraising events to raise money for our service members and their families!

### ALR Coral Head Music Fest - 2/18/17

The Legion Riders Chapter 154 put on an all day music festival featuring several bands and vendors at the Marathon City Park Amphitheater in Marathon, FL. The American Legion, Department of Florida Adjutant, Michael McDaniel, made the trip down with the PROJECT: VetRelief trailer to support the event. Also, PVR's Board Vice President, Bob James, supported the event by becoming a sponsor with his company RL James General Contractor.

Many event attendees came out to see the two headliner bands: Molly Hatchet and the Georgia Satellites. The date for next year's event has already been booked, February 17, 2018. Mark your calendars now, because you won't want to miss it!



## Funding Guidelines

1. Veteran, Active Duty Military, or Immediate Family Member (*Spouse, Legal Guardian, or Child*)
2. **Honorable Discharge or General Under Honorable Conditions**
3. Must be a Florida Resident for at least 120 days
4. **Show Sustainability**
5. Provided for necessities: *shelter, food, utilities, and some emergency transportation and critical medical expenses*
6. **Application / Interview does not guarantee funding**
7. Funds are awarded on a case by case basis
8. **Funds are granted one time annually**

## PVR CHALLENGE

We have a goal for 2017 of having the ability to help one service member or veteran *every work day*. - If you do the math, that's 260 military or veteran families in one year!

We are well on our way to reaching that goal, as we are getting more and more applications on a regular basis. However, our limited amount of funds can prevent us from reaching this goal. Even though we have plenty of veteran families who still need our help, we have to have strict guidelines due to the lack of resources.

**YOU can help us reach this goal!** - If your Post has not gotten involved or sent in a donation to meet your PVR Challenge goal, do so today! Posts can make a one time donation or hold a fundraising event to meet their challenge goal.

As a veteran service organization, helping veterans is what YOU do! By donating to PROJECT: VetRelief, you give our program the ability to reach more families who need us to keep their lights on, or a roof over their head.

Check out the PVR Challenge Central **on the reverse side** for details and the leaderboard of Posts and Squadrons who have already made their donation!

## MICHAEL BEAVEN

Please help us welcome aboard Michael Beaven to our team. He is our new Case Worker. Michael is an Army tank mechanic veteran and was stationed in Germany, Fort Knox and Fort Benning. He joined the American Legion in Sellersburg, Indiana and moved to Florida in September 2014 and now a current member of Post 6 in DeLand.

Mike brings a lot of experience and passion to our Case Worker position. It is his goal to help as many veterans as he can that meet the guidelines of funding.



For more information visit our website: [www.ProjectVetRelief.org](http://www.ProjectVetRelief.org)

# PROJECT: VETRELIEF



Each month a leader board will be posted of all donations that has been turned in.

- ★ Donations can be sent to: PROJECT: VetRelief, 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810
- ★ Donations must be turned in by May 31, 2017 to count towards recognition awards

By now, your Post should have received your Challenge packet from your Area or District Commander. If you have not received it, please contact them or Jennifer Cooper at the Department Headquarters.

**Thank you to the following Posts and Squadrons for participating during our Challenge!**

	POST	DISTRICT	AREA	CITY	DONATION	PVR GOAL	GOAL %
SAL	148	15	Central	Riverview	\$1,000	142	704%
	29	14	Southern	Miami	\$3,000	476	658%
	221	1	Western	Niceville	\$1,000	333	300%
	382	1	Western	Navarre	\$1,000	406	259%
SAL	117	12	Eastern	Palm Bay	\$476	196	243%
	131	3	Northern	Greenville	\$50	22	227%
	67	14	Southern	North Miami	\$400	179	223%
	170	9	Southern	Coconut Creek	\$108	54	200%
	59	3	Northern	Branford	\$70	41	171%
	57	3	Northern	Lake City	\$1,121	728	154%
	47	11	Southern	Lake Worth	\$300	228	132%
	224	3	Northern	Cherry Lake	\$123	102	121%
	92	9	Southern	Hollywood	\$300	254	118%
SAL SAL SAL SAL	321	9	Southern	Cooper City	\$131	150	115%
	113	8	Southwestern	Rotonda West	\$225	209	108%
	375	1	Western	Southport	\$140	134	104%
SAL SAL SAL SAL	81	12	Eastern	Melbourne	\$120	119	101%
	385	9	Southern	Pembroke Pines	\$233	233	100%
SAL SAL SAL SAL	80	6	Eastern	St. Cloud	\$101	101	100%
	24	8	Southwestern	Bradenton	\$141	141	100%
SAL SAL SAL SAL	379	1	Western	Pensacola Beach	\$50	56	89%

CHALLENGE CENTRAL

**For more information and Challenge materials:**  
Jennifer Cooper at [jcooper@floridalegion.org](mailto:jcooper@floridalegion.org)



# 12th District Picnic

March 11th 2017

Post 117 Palm Bay



**BBQ**



**Raffles and 50/50**



Tiki opens at 12 pm  
Food from noon-3:30  
Last Bike in 2:00 for Poker Hand  
Drawings Start at 3pm

**Ride**

**Entertainment**

THE AMERICAN LEGION



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



T  
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# Grill of Cheer



Tickets

\$1

or

6 for \$5



**Drawing to be at  
District 12 Picnic  
You do not need to  
be present to win**

of the picnic to win  
you do not need to  
attend the picnic



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

# HOMECOMING

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
JOE MAGEE

DETACHMENT COMMANDER  
STEVE GORDON



APRIL  
22<sup>ND</sup>

**WHERE:** American Legion Post 347  
699 W Lady Lake Blvd  
Lady Lake, FL 32159

**TIME:** Cocktails 5:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

**TICKETS:** \$30 each

**DRESS:** Business Formal (Suit & Tie)

## MEAL CHOICES

**Tilapia and Margarita Shrimp**  
*Milk flaky fillet sauteed with butter and tender gulf shrimp seasoned with lime zest and tequilla.*

OR

**Tender Beef Medallions**  
*Simmered in bourban gravy, with baby Portobello mushrooms*

## HOTEL INFORMATION

### Waterfront Inn

1105 Lakeshore Dr  
The Villages, FL 32162  
**(800) 592-0774**

\$119 Standard  
\$129 Waterview  
\$139 Waterview w/Balcony

Deadline March 18, 2017

### Holiday Inn Express

1205 Avenida Central  
Lady Lake, FL 32159  
**(352) 750-3888**

\$120 Includes Breakfast  
Deadline April 7, 2017

### Hampton Inn & Suites

11727 NE 63rd Dr  
The Villages, FL 32162  
**(352) 259-8246**

\$109 Standard  
Deadline March 21, 2017

All rates are nightly and do not include tax.  
Group Name "**American Legion Homecoming**"

PLEASE PRINT

# HOMECOMING R.S.V.P.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEAL CHOICES

Tilapia and Margarita Shrimp  
Tender Beef Medallions

## HOW MANY?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Pickup tickets at the door

### CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

American Legion Post 347  
Write "Homecoming Dinner" in memo

### MAIL TO:

American Legion Post 347  
Attn: Bill Walsh  
P.O. Box 1534  
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1534

CUT HERE



CUT HERE

## SOUVENIR BOOKLET ADVERTISING

### RATES:

### QTY:

1/4 Page (2.25" x 3.75") \*\*\*\* \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

1/2 Page (5" x 3.75") \*\*\*\*\* \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Full Page (5" x 8") \*\*\*\*\* \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Page Spread (10" x 8")\*\* \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

2 PAGE SPREAD - 10" X 8" - \$100



Deadline for all advertisements is March 31, 2017. Please submit your advertisement artwork via email in one of the following image file types: .ai, .eps, .psd, .pdf, .tif, .jpeg, .jpg, .png. All artwork must be digital; no scanned or printed artwork will be accepted. Advertisements may be in color.

All imagery must be original or legally licensed. We reserve the right to redesign any advertisement due to required formatting and licensing issues.

### CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

The American Legion, Dept of Fl  
Write "Homecoming Booklet" in memo

### MAIL TO:

The American Legion, Dept of Fl  
Attn: Carrie Kolze  
P.O. Box 547859  
Orlando, FL 32854





***"If they are remembered, they are not gone truly, they simply change duty assignments and are amongst the best."***

## POST EVERLASTING

### **Douglass M. Burleson Sr.**

*Past 1st District Commander*

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past 1st District Commander, Douglass "Doug" M. Burleson, Sr., of Pensacola, FL on February 15, 2017 at the age of 70. Doug is survived by his three sons, Douglass Jr., Derek and Michael.

A viewing will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2017 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at the Bayview Fisher-Pou Chapel, 3351 Scenic Highway 90E, Pensacola, FL 32503. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, February 24, 2017 at 9:30am at the chapel. Interment will immediately follow at Barrancas National Cemetery, 1 Cemetery Rd., Pensacola, FL 32508.

Doug was a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran and a member of Frank Marston Post 33, with 27 continuous years of membership. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers in this time of grief.





**2017**  
**The American Legion**  
**Department of Florida**  
**95% Target Report**

16	John Sloat	91.77%
6	Daryl Bass	91.53%
12	Bruce Thurber	91.22%
14	Gary Decker	90.95%
15	Luther Allen	90.45%
7	Stephen Anthony	89.46%
5	Fred Matthews	88.78%
1	Raymond Olsen	88.26%
17	Paul Alexander	87.88%
8	Dennis Walsh	87.80%
13	Chuck Weinberg	87.66%
9	Donald Schwiesow	86.03%
11	Robert Miller	85.17%
2	James Brennan	84.89%
4	Victoria VanBuren	84.87%
3	Frederick Hutto	83.81%
Eastern	Felix Ayala	91.40%
Central	Sidney Damsgard	91.03%
Southwestern	Andrew Burkett	87.72%
Western	Jimmy Martin	87.64%
Northern	John Rose	87.21%
Southern	Joseph Motes	87.16%

as of 02/23/2017



Call Now: 1-800-235-6943  
 Monday - Friday 8AM - 7PM (EST)

**DEPARTMENT TRUSTED.  
 LEGIONNAIRE APPROVED.**

We provide a wide range of benefits designed to protect you, your family and your health.



From Your American Legion Department

**We are committed to serving the unique insurance needs of LIT members and their families.**



**Emergency and Accident**

A crisis can strike at any moment. Learn how we can help you prepare for the unexpected and get assistance when you need it most.



**Insurance Coverage**

From health to auto, we offer valuable insurance products designed to fit the specific needs of Legionnaires.



**No Cost Protection**

Your valued status as a Legionnaire makes you eligible for LegionCare, up to \$5,000.00 in NO COST to you benefits.

**Cancer Care Insurance Plan**

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust products and services are there when you them most. Listen to how others have benefited from services like our Cancer Care Insurance Plan.

- Cash benefits sent to Legionnaire members diagnosed with cancer
- We send you money – even if you don't have cancer

**www.thelit.com**

