



The LEGION LINK

"Securing the Future for All Veterans"



Web Site: www.floridalegion.org

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From Your Department Commander Steve Shuga

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October 1st started off the new fiscal year for our military forces. I surpassed a couple of personal milestones without fanfare. Official visits were completed for the 3rd and 4th Districts, I was interviewed by some radio stations, and Those in attendance had a good time. I entertained a proclamation for Red Ribbon Week (Oct 23-29) for the Young Marines, and attended the annual Orlando Young Marines Birthday Ball. I also passed out Halloween Coloring books in conjunction with the trick or treat craze on the 31st.

Florida continues to monitor hurricane relief efforts underway around the state. Many of the areas hit are in now recovery mode, power has been restored, they are cleaning up debris, making repairs, filing claims, and trying to regain some sort of normal life once again. We must remind ourselves that Hurricane Season is not declared over until November 30, 2017 so we still have a few weeks to go before we can rest easy. Thank you to William "Bill" Hoppner for leading the charge as our Disaster Preparedness Chairman.

November is slated to be just as exciting. We seek to meet and exceed our next membership goal as we continue to strive towards pushing Florida over the 100% plus membership milestone. Our Department Fall Conference is November 3 – 5 at the Renaissance SeaWorld with plenty of classes, courses, roundtables, activities, and comradeship in Orlando. We hope to see many of your there. Daylight savings kicks in on Sunday, Nov 5th so don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour.

November 10th is the 242nd Birthday of the United States Marine Corps – Semper Fidelis Marines and November 11th is Veterans Day celebrating the appreciation for all veterans - past, present, and future. Parades will top off this day, with special ceremonies and activities.

Official visits to the 17th and 5th Districts are scheduled and families around the world will soon be making preparations to celebrate the annual Thanksgiving feast. Remember our statewide holiday blood drive kicks in on Thanksgiving Day until the end of December. If you choose to hold a blood drive, contact the Dept. Blood Chairman for resources and assistance.

LEARN MORE floridalegion.org

DEPARTMENT
FALL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 3-5, 2017
Renaissance SeaWorld Orlando
Orlando, Florida



NOVEMBER 2017

1-3	National Legion College
1	Membership Goal 70%
2-5	Dept Fall Conference
5	Daylight Saving Time Ends
4	President & Commander's Banquet
7	Election Day
8-12	"Welcome Home" Vietnam Veterans
9	District 11 Meeting
10	Marine Corps Birthday
11	Veterans Day (HQ Closed)
11	US Marine Corps Ball
12-18	American Education Week
12-18	Dept Commander Visits District 17
15	Legion Link Articles Due
18	9th District PDC and Presidents Ball
19-25	National Family Week
19-25	Dept Commander Visits District 5
21	Installation Post 366
23	Thanksgiving Day (HQ Closed)
24	HQ Closed
23-30	Holiday Blood Drive Statewide

 - Commander Steve Shuga's Attendance Tentative.

Events are subject to change. Additional details can be found at www.floridalegion.org. We share the information we are provided, please contact Program, Area, District and Posts for additional details and events.

Do you have a special, program, area or district event you would like to share?

Send details to skolze@floridalegion.org.

All Legion Link articles are due the 15th of each month, and are made available on the 1st of each month.

Training

Dianne Boland, 1st Vice Commander
1stvice@legionmail.org



Another month has gone by and "What a month it was!". Hurricane Irma did major damage to parts of our state and Puerto Rico. Remember in your prayers, the Posts and families that are still affected by this as well as all the families affected by the tragic shooting in Las Vegas.

The training in my Zone has been going well. A couple classes had to be postponed due to the hurricane. District 6's training will now take place on Saturday, October 21st at 10:00 AM. District 9 & 14's training has been combined. That will take place October 29th at 10:00 AM at Post 92 in Hollywood.

Keep in mind that National now has a Bi-Monthly Training Newsletter. You can sign up for it at legion.org/newsletters.

Except for the Adjutants, how many of you have looked at the Post Administrative Manual? Did

you know you can find it along with other manuals online at floridalegion.org/resources/legion-post-documents/post-program-manuals/? The front of the manual has a Paperwork Timeline – this is a very important breakdown of all your due dates such as:

November 3-5

Department Fall Conference

November 12-18

American Education Week

November 19-25

National Family Week

The Florida Legion College is taking place

January 11 – 13. The prerequisite (the old ALEI Course) is now called "Basic Training". It is still being taught at the Fall Conference and you can still take it online thru National (www.legion.org). It is now FREE – no charge.

The National Commander, Denise Rohan, has asked for all Posts, Squadrons, Chapters and Units (if possible) to put on the "Biggest and Best" Veterans Day Dinner. Invite fellow veterans, Boy Scouts, National Guard, reserve troops, youth program participants, civic organizations, educators, etc. Let the Community know who we are!

Many Thanks

Jerry Brandt, 3rd Vice Commander
3rdvice@legionmail.org



November is here and that means the annual Fall Conference. There is going to be more classes than ever this year with all the training our Posts will need to kick off the month. Not only do we have a Service Officer School, but many other training classes as well, please look at the Florida Legion web site, under Fall Conference/Agenda for details.

The Department Commander will be continuing his travels to the various Posts this month, with visits to the 17th and 5th Districts. This is an opportunity for the Posts to show the Department

Commander what we do for our community. Please, do not waste this opportunity.

Also, November is time to re-contact the local schools to remind them of the various programs that the American Legion is proud to support, such as Oratorical, Boys State and the Law Cadet Program.

A lot has changed in the past month, Hurricane Irma brought destruction to many in our State and we had an out pouring of assistance, not only from our State, but other places, stretching from Georgia to Maine, and even out west to Kanas. I would like to thank the Posts involved, as well as the S.A.L National Vice Commander Cannito of South Carolina, who came down to deliver supplies to Florida. I am very proud of the work of our members, Bill Hoppner, Barry

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3rd Vice Commander - Continued

and Wendy Roberts, and especially to our Department Commander, Steve Shuga, who traveled the state delivering water and supplies to those in need.

I would like to thank the following Zone 1 Commanders for what they did during Hurricane Irma: Post 57, Commander Art Lowes, Post 129, Commander Joe Maichle, and Post 155, Commander Gerald Kaufman, these 3 Commanders designated their Posts as Distribution Points in their community providing a location for assistance. American Legion Post 6 Commander Jim Deal, who with his team, delivered water and other supplies to various parts of the state, especially to the Arcadia Post 11 area. Post 250, Middleburg Commander Richard Rowe, still has his doors open to those personnel who were flooded out in the Black Creek area. Post 250 is also still providing 2 meals (free) each day to those families. These are few of the examples of the American Legion working with our Community. Thank you for your service.

Upcoming Events:

November 3-5

Department Fall Conference

November 5

Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 10

Marine Corps Birthday

November 11

Veterans Day

November 12-18

Department Commander Visits 17th District

November 19-25

Department Commander Visits 5th District

November 23

Thanksgiving

November 23-30

Statewide Blood Drive



NOVEMBER 5, 2017

21st Century Plan

Dennis Boland, National Executive Committeeman
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PURPOSE: A plan to provide "Service" to our veterans, their families and their communities is as solid today, in a period of high technology and lightning fast changes, as it was in 1919, when the founding fathers of

The American Legion met in Paris.

They were true visionaries. Much of The American Legion's success rests on its understanding that the fight for veterans' rights – past, present or future – is never ending. While our purposes may remain unchanged, our capabilities must not. The environment is changing and we must stay in front of change to be the nation's leading advocate for veterans.

For continued success, we must provide first-rate service to our veterans throughout the next century. The basis for this blueprint is the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion, which was finalized at the St. Louis caucus in 1919 and reaffirmed at Minneapolis in 1994. This declaration reaffirmed the principles on which our great organization was developed.

The method for applying this blueprint for success to American Legion activities has not changed either. Personal contact at every level of leadership within The American Legion is the catalyst that has made us successful in the past

and will make us even more successful serving veterans in the future.

21ST Century Key Challenges:

VISION: All must focus on service to the veteran, their families and the community. Legion officers at every level must lead the way in reinforcing this vision.

GOALS: A mission statement should be in place that includes goals and spells out a direction we should be in one, three, five and seven years.

IMAGE: We must be aware, at all times of our Image. Everyone in a Legion leadership position must set the example for all members to follow.

PARTNERSHIP: The American Legion Family need to be partners in providing service to our veterans. Our work of service to our veterans is a "Family Affair"

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Speaking at other fraternal organizations about our service to veterans.

Technology through Facebook and our own Post websites have afforded us the opportunity to reach out to veterans. Telling our story should be pursued.

Program, Training, Mentoring, Membership, Jobs, and Internet: These are vital to The American Legion plan of survival into the 21st Century.

The essence of the 21st Century Plan is personal involvement through demonstrated leadership. Our blueprint for success was laid out for each of us by our founding fathers ----It is

"SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND OUR COMMUNITIES"

Post Finance Officer Duties

Larry Sheets, Judge Advocate
judgeadvocate@legionmail.org



This month I am going to reiterate an article I had in a past Legion Link that dealt with the duties of a Post Finance Officer.

Article XI in the Department Constitution spells out the duties of the Post Finance Officer. Unfortunately, there are only a handful of the Post Finance Officers that understand and carry

out those duties.

There is more to the job besides making a Finance Report at the meeting.

Take the time to read Article XI in the Department Constitution, apply what they say in your Post, and you just might discover that being a Post Finance Officer can be fun.



Americanism Course for NFL?

Tom Gora, Sergeant-at-Arms
sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org



“...to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism.”

“...to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.”

I choose to open this month's article quoting two phrases from The American Legion's Preamble to remind Legionnaires about our dedication to Americanism, one of the four pillars of The American Legion. Americanism includes teaching respect of our flag, the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance, and the national anthem in our local communities.

At a recent meeting of my home Post 54, members discussed the NFL player protests during the playing of the national anthem. Very passionate discussion at the meeting, and after setting aside our disgust as veterans we then wondered what, if anything, we could do about this as Legionnaires? Voting to cancel the NFL

package in our canteen was done, but how could we, as an American Legion Post, try to change this behavior by NFL players? One of the ideas stemming from discussion was to offer American Legion Americanism education to NFL teams. Post 54 and many other Posts around Florida provides this type of education to local schools; so why not the local NFL team? Seriously, think about it, an Americanism class for any of the three NFL teams that call Florida their home. Post 54 in Fernandina Beach has sent a letter to the owner of the Jacksonville team offering to provide them Americanism training. Read those two bolded phrases that open this article again. Although we may personally find the protests disgraceful, a helping hand to provide flag education has been offered by this Post in an effort to perpetuate 100% Americanism by our individual obligation to the community, state and nation.

Things may be getting back to “normal” for most after Hurricane Irma while some will be recovering for months. Moving forward, we will soon gather at the SeaWorld Renaissance Hotel in Orlando for our 2017 Department Fall Conference. I will conduct a Sgt.-at-Arms class at the conference on Friday, November 3rd from 2:30 PM to 4 PM. I always invite Sgt.-at-Arms from the Sons of The Legion or the Auxiliary to attend these

classes. We may differ a bit in ceremonies from organization to organization but the basics are generally the same.

Also at the Fall Conference I will co-instruct The American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI)/ Basic Training with Nancy Thomas. National American Legion has renamed ALEI as “Basic Training.” I have had personal discussion with national HQ, and they had not thought about offering “Basic Training” off-line as they have ALEI for the past few years. For now, they intend to only offer the course on-line, free of charge. (Remember when they took away the six little books, local instruction, and moved it on-line a few years ago?) I took this new Basic Training on-line and it is basically the same information as in ALEI, just a different slide presentation. So, the Department has decided to present ALEI/Basic Training and each participant will receive a “Basic Training” graduate hat pin and certificate. You will also be credited on the Department's training record as a graduate of ALEI/Basic Training. Perhaps later this year national HQ will release a version of “Basic Training” for off-line presentation, but Florida will not deny its members this valued education just because of a name change to the program. Hope to see you at the Fall Conference November 3-5, 2017!

Let Us Give Thanks

Barry Roberts, Chaplain
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In the month of November, we have two very significant observances. Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. In our great Nation we are very thankful for both.

The most significant, important thing to be thankful for is life, and life is worth fighting for, and our Veterans have done just that. Freedom comes with a great price. Many paid dearly for the liberties we enjoy so freely today. We must not take them or the ones currently serving for granted.

For all those who have protected our nation, for the men and women in uniform, together, we say “Thank You.” We have much to be thankful for.

Dear God,

We thank you for the freedom you have given to us. We thank you for the brave men and women who have fought, and continue to fight, so courageously for our nation. We pray for your great favor, love and protection to be evident in their lives as You love them and empower them to continue protecting us every day.

Let us also be very thankful for the Biblical foundation of our great Nation and The American Legion. As we thank God for His inspiration in our forefathers and molding our purpose let us always remember “For God and Country” is the reason and motivation of why and what we do. So, let us be thankful and continue to seek God to inspire us with the needs of our veterans and their families so we can serve them the way they need.

Photos for History Book

Gerry Kaufman, Historian
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We are moving along with updating the National Centennial Website. I have received some photographs in formats that are not compatible with the website.

I can only accept electronic submissions if they are in the JPG or GIF formats. I have been trying to convert several pictures that have been sent in PDF or Word formats. I have also received a few actual pictures which I am scanning and then uploading to the site.

We saw a large degree of devastation from Hurricane Irma in the Southern part of our state.

If you have pictures that you want placed in the history books please forward them to me with a brief description. I will publish an updated list of Posts that I need information from in the coming weeks.

A Helping Hand

James Brennan, Western Area Commander
westernarea@legionmail.org



In the Western Area Meeting held at Post 402, Panama City Beach 10/14/17, Post 402 has adopted Post 11 (sister post) and donated \$3,000.00 to help with their relief efforts. The second District has raised \$700.00 to be donated to Post 250 to

assist with a member who has lost her house and belongs.

In attendance was Past National SAL Commander Jim Roberts and he acknowledge efforts of both Districts to help with the recovery effort.

Also in attendance was Special Guest, Dianne Rich, a 2-time recipient of The Purple Heart. Dianne is representing V.I.4 V. (Virgin Island 4 Veterans) a 501(3)c that is raising awareness of

Damage to Central Area Posts

Jay Allen, Central Area Commander
centralarea@legionmail.org



The Central Area weathered Hurricane Irma and had some incidents in the 7th District in particular. Frostproof, Post 95 had damage from getting their electric back in the middle

of the night without any notification. When the power company energized the electrical lines, a fire broke out and destroyed the Post,

unfortunately they lost everything.

The 15th District, Hugh Gilbert Strickland American Legion Post 138 lost part of their roof over the kitchen area with minor damage. The 16th District Posts 125, 238, 252, and 273 all had power outages and lost all their food, but they are recovering. Post 273 also reported some dock damage.

We are still working hard on membership and conducting area training quarterly, our next training will be October 21st at Post 125. Training will consist of conduct for Post Commanders, Post Adjutants, Sgt-at-Arms, and membership.

Failure Not An Option

Jeff Durden, Northern Area Commander
northernarea@legionmail.org



First, I hope all are safe from the hurricanes. We all had close calls. I would like to thank the Posts that stepped up and went above and beyond to help your members and the communities' we live in. Post 129 was a

distribution center for the 5th District and Post 250 served lunch and dinner to their members and neighbors that have been flooded by high waters from the Black Creek. I tried to stay in contact with persons in each District to see if they needed supplies or help.

Second, the District Commanders have been assisting various Posts with personality and membership troubles. Remember, you elected these officers and now it is your responsibility to

help and aid them in their duties. If you let them fail, your Post and the Legion will fail. Third, there are too many posts with zero or only a few memberships turned in to Department. The District Commanders are working with some to get them back on track. If your commander or adjutant is ill or unable to perform their jobs, let your District Commanders know so they can work with you. The Posts that are not up to charter strength by Fall Conference may have their charter pulled.

The Department Commander has started his District visitations to the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 17th. Please have a schedule set up ahead of time for the visit and get as many Posts involved with the visit.

Last, when going after members, please do not go out of you District. If you are not sure, at least give the commander of that District a courtesy call. It can save you a head ache. Until next month, stand for the flag and kneel for the cross.

the plight of the Virgin Island and the American Legion Posts in the Department of Puerto Rico.

The forecast for the Island's infrastructure to be completely restored is a year or more. I have attached a flyer containing a list items and the contact information to donate. She will accept cash donation (make check payable to VI4V). Please,

forward this to all Posts.

Also in attendance were 3rd Vice Commander Jerry Brandt, Department Membership Chair Fred Matthews and Western Area Director Jim Bowers. Commander Brandt commended the Western Area on their relief efforts and membership. Chair Fred

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Western Area Commander - Continued

Matthews acknowledged the membership goals that both Districts have reached and encouraged all the Posts to continue the good work. Director Jim Bowers reported on the up-coming In-State Legacy Run in 2018. Post 72 (District 1) and Post 42 (District 2) each received The Western

Area Membership Plaque for having the highest percentage in membership as of their last District meeting. Each District winner will be announced at the next District Meeting and will be added to the plaque. It was announced that a plaque, "The Post with The Mostest" award, will be given to one Post in the Western Area with the highest percentage

of membership as of June 2018. There were 14 Posts present along with District 1 Commander Chuck Olsen and District 2 Commander John Folsom. Many thanks to Post 402 for providing a perfect venue for our Western Area Meeting.

Goals Are Within Reach

Fred Matthews, Membership Chair
membership@legionmail.org



Congratulations and thank you to the Post and District Commanders, along with the Membership Chairpersons on each level who have made the first leg of our journey to 100% more than a hope!

After just three months into the Florida Legion year, we have reached the halfway point in membership.

Percentage-wise Groveland Post 239 continues to grow their membership roles at 150%. This is a 50% increase over their goal for the year. If they keep the present pace, Post 239 could be at 200% of the year's goal and double their membership.

The other 100% Posts in the Department are:

- 2nd District Post 172 Hosford and Post 84 Havana
- 5th District Post 102 Hastings
- 14th District Post 145 Islamorada
- 2nd District Post 84 Havana
- 2nd District Post 172 Hosford
- 11th District Post 62 Stuart

By the time you read this, Posts 166 and 188, Homosassa and Stuart will join the 100% club.



Speaking of Islamorada, despite the challenges facing the Posts in the Keys, more than half the Posts in the 14th District have achieved

the first membership goal of the year; ranging from the 87% of Post 168 Key West to the 52% of Post 333 and 154, Key Largo and Marathon respectively. As their infrastructure improves on the islands, we trust that they will keep the pace in the coming weeks.

Its October, we have completed the first phase of this year's Membership Plan: Training. The belief is that if we are well trained in our "volunteer" jobs we will do a better job at not only gathering memberships, but in helping those in our veteran community get the assistance they need.

Speaking of Training, congratulations to 12th

District Commander Bruce Thurber for a well organized and informative District meeting held at Post 1, where PDC "Gunner" Dudley is back as Post



Commander. His use of PowerPoint to backup what was being said, a concise agenda and a focused plan for his District was on display. This can be duplicated for those Posts with the resources. This is what can encourage higher

meeting attendance and participation. I've posted some of the photos on Facebook.

This month we're asking for another push in Direct Mail Solicitation(DMS) transfers. Membership Chairpersons should take a look at the listing obtained from the Department or from Legion.org and offer these members a Post home. Edit the suggested call script in the Membership Training Manual to fit your situation when calling these members.

Remember, any member whose name is marked "AD" on that list can be converted and will count on the Post membership rolls THIS YEAR!

What are we offering? Their membership funds will support local programs and veterans directly. Each Post can add those benefits specific to their Post. The call should only take 5 minutes and if a team is put together at the Post level, the calls can be made from anywhere. Can't call them? Send them a letter on Post letterhead. It costs nothing for the incoming member. Give me a call if you need assistance.



We are less than 8% away from making the November membership goal Department-wide. We can do this!

Happy Thanksgiving

Americanism in Today's Environment

Ira Anderson, Americanism Chair
americanism@legionmail.org

Americanism is defined as an attachment or allegiance to the traditions, institutions, and ideals of the United States. Kneeling during the National Anthem should be considered un-American, no matter if you are protesting the President or the perceived injustices against groups of citizens.

Americanism, the third pillar of the American Legion creed, is more than protecting our flag, illegal immigration, voter registration

and participation, Boy Scouts, the Pledge of Allegiance, motorcycle runs, Boy's State, or baseball. Americanism is one citizen helping another during times of strife, donating to hurricane relief efforts, preparing meals for volunteers, driving from flood-ravaged Texas to wind-blown Florida to coordinate relief efforts, supporting relief utility workers and law enforcement during an emergency, and ensuring children understand the importance of giving of themselves.

During the past few weeks, we have been

witnesses to what being an American is really all about. American Legion Posts throughout the United States have given, some until it hurt, to assist in storm relief efforts in Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. Post weren't asked to assist, they volunteered. No matter color, age, sex, financial situation, neighborhood – if someone needed food, water, tarps for their roof, or just moral support, members of American Legion Posts were there.

Americanism is the American Legion.

Children & Youth Class

Bruce Carl, Children & Youth Chair
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Welcome back snowbirds!!!! It is hard to believe, but the holiday season is almost upon us. Hurricane season will soon be behind us, and I sincerely hope everyone will soon have their lives back to normal. There are several important dates to

keep in mind this month. If your Post is hosting any events, they should already be planned, or in the final stages.

The Fall Conference will be held from November

3-5 in Orlando, and this year, for the first time in a while, there will be a class for Children & Youth. The class is highly recommended for all Post, District, and Area C&Y Chairmen, but is open to everyone. Veteran's Day is on November 11th, and November 23rd is Thanksgiving Day, and it falls during National Family Week.

If your Post is planning on hosting a Pearl Harbor event on Dec. 7th, or doing something for Christmas, now is the time to get started on those, if you have not already done so.

The date for the Children & Youth Picnic has been set for Sat. April 7th, at Post 117, Palm Bay. The Department Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Friday, May 4th, at Post 347 in Lady Lake. Both events are in the planning stages, so please check

the Calendar, or the Link under Children & Youth for any updates as they become available. At some point, the flyers will be posted with all the pertinent information on them, including cost, directions, sponsorships, registration, etc.

For those Posts that are sponsoring ROTC programs, or Teacher of The Year, now is the time to get the applications out to the schools. This will allow enough time for the applications to be filled out completely and accurately. As a courtesy, please check back with the schools periodically to remind them about the forms. Deadline for ROTC submission is March 1st, 2018. The deadline for the Teacher of the Year is April 15th, 2018.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!!!

Wreaths Across America

Diana Hook, Florida National Cemetery Chair
floridanationalcemetery@legionmail.org



I hope this report finds y'all safe, healthy, and with no or minimal damage to your homes after Irma. Personally, I had no power for a week so I lost a bunch of food in the upright freezer and I had some roof damage and must

replace the shingles on the whole roof. It could have been much worse so I feel blessed.

Now, I have a reminder for y'all! It's time to get ready for WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY!!!! The annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. Is Saturday, December 16, 2017, 11:00 AM. You are advised to arrive early (9 to 9:30 AM) to have time to park (shuttles both ways will be available), bring your own chair, and if you want to buy a wreath. The wreaths will be escorted by Police

and motorcycles from Lakeland, FL. to arrive at the cemetery around 10:00 AM.

Remember the fallen, Honor those that serve, veterans and their families, and Teach our children the value of freedom by letting them help place the Wreaths and be a part of the ceremony.

For more information about this amazing heart-warming event, go to the website at:

www.wreathsassamericabushnell.com

Contact Local High Schools

Loretta Young, JROTC/Jr Shooting Sports Chair
jrotc@legionmail.org



The 3rd Annual Jr. Shooting Sports Program Conference was held in Indianapolis Sept. 15-17th at the Sheraton City Center along with the Children and Youth Conference. Registration was Friday afternoon followed by the Opening

Session along with the Children and Youth Committee in the evening. This was followed by a Reception in the ballroom.

The JSSP Conference General Meeting was opened the following morning by the National Match Director from the Dept. of Washington, Loren "Bud" Sperry. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and POW/MIA Ceremony was conducted by the Chief Range Officer, Ida May Jewel from Indiana. We had the Welcome Greetings given by the National Americanism Chairman, Richard Anderson from Connecticut. We also had remarks from the Sons of the Legion Americanism Chairman, Gerald Hammerschmidt from Kansas and the Youth Activities Subcommittee Chairman, Charlie

Tucker from Georgia. We also had remarks given by the National American Division Chair, Jill Druskis. This was followed by a Review of the 2017 3PAR National Championship given by the National Americanism Assistant Director, Shayne Abrahams, Sr. This was a comprehensive review of the National Match which was held in Colorado Springs in July.

The Conference was also attended by other staff members who were assisting with the National Marksmanship Competition and they were able to give personal comments on the Match proceedings. The National Assistant Director gave the 2018 Postal and National Finals Planning briefing which was followed by a presentation by Patrick Myers regarding Fund Raising opportunities. We were also given a session on "Best Practices" by Loren Sperry and Shayne Abrahams including discussion on the Orion Scoring System, CMP technical assistance, USA Shooting Sports and NRA assistance with new clubs and fundraising as well as practices already in place.

The final session was an "Open Forum" with Questions and Answers that would better improve the overall program and participation throughout all the Departments. We were given an updated list of all the teams registered by Posts throughout

all the Departments. Sunday morning both groups had a Joint Patriotic Religious Service followed by a Continental Breakfast. Each group then broke off for the final sessions. The JSSP Conference had a Wrap Up Session and Action Items for Staff Members and State Chairmen. We had our Closing Ceremony with a Benediction by the Chief Range Officer, Ida May Jewel.

As the school semester is now in full swing, I would hope that our Posts are making contact with the schools and attending some of the events that are being held on a regular schedule throughout the year. Make sure that you have all the teams that you are supporting in the Postal Marksmanship Meet go online beginning Nov. 1st and register for their targets. We would like to have the Department of Florida remain at the top of the list for team registrations again this year. The Post can reimburse the team as soon as they determine how many targets they would like to order. Each target is still only \$12.50 and they are not limited on how many they can order. There is a minimum 4-person team however, they can also have individual shooters. All the information is on the National website as well as ordering the targets. Each team member only has to have a CMP number. If you have any questions please contact me. Thanks for all you are doing for our youth programs.

Gaining Access

Jim Ramos, Military Liaison Chair
militaryliaison@legionmail.org



How does it work?

Access Granted is a program for the American Legion Posts to work with our Military Service members on base by getting access to the military base. Access Granted is a joint memorandum of understanding between the DoD and The American Legion. DoD leadership has responded to our requests to be on installations or in armories to assist and explain

our role in the community. Access Granted gives The American Legion and other veterans service organizations the opportunity to interact with active-duty, National Guard and reservists around the nation. They need our help, and this gives us greater access to families in need.

How can my Post help our Veterans?

Go to legion.org website, search for Access Granted or go to publications key word Access Granted. This is a free download. Getting outside of your Post is key, because not all of your business can be conducted inside your Post. So be involved with your Post members, especially those retired members that can get on to the base to share The American Legion story of your Post

and always wear your Legion cap and shirts; and show the Legion pride of your Post and our The American Legion. People like to belong to organizations that are successful, and we are successful, going on 100 years. For more tips, ask me.

There are opportunities for the Legion to connect with service members by reconnecting, informational event, fundraising and more. Please contact me at militaryliaison@legionmail.org or jramos149@bellsouth.net

Note: Please let your Zone Commander, Area Commander and District Commander know if you need assistance first.

Legion College Rescheduled

Tom Gora, Legion College Chair
deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the re-scheduling of the Florida American Legion College (FALC) that was scheduled for September 7-9, and now has now been re-scheduled for January 11-13, 2018.

The class was re-scheduled due to a low number of applicants and the approaching Hurricane Irma. In this article I address ALEI and Basic Training, and hope to eliminate some confusion about the name change of this class. I recently completed the 'Basic Training' course on my laptop to make the comments below.

Training is a strong focus of any successful organization, especially those organizations with a large volunteer base. Lack of effective training leads to inconsistent outcomes and divergence from overall mission.

Conversely, effective training leads to increased program participation, adherence to organizational values, and identification of potential leaders. The American Legion Extension Institute has been a critical part of this training.

To qualify for FALC applicants must have completed what we previously knew as "The American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI)." That training has been updated with new information and photos and is now called "Basic Training". Much of the change beside the new name is cosmetic. The course has the same basic content, just looks different, with some updated information.

However, the new Basic Training Course is currently available only as an on-line course offered by The American Legion. In the Department of Florida since 2015 we have trained over 300 members of the Legion, the Sons, and Auxiliary in ALEI at the Fall Conference and Annual Convention. Several hundred more graduated during the years PDC Jim Ramos instructed the course at those department functions.

So how does this change affect YOU, and what class will be available at the 2017 Fall Conference? The Department of Florida has decided to present a 'hybrid' of ALEI and Basic Training at the November 2017 Fall Conference. Instructors for this class will have completed the new Basic Training course and will be prepared to present updated 'Basic Training' information during the ALEI class. Those who complete the class will receive a Basic Training Graduate Hat Pin and certificate. FYI, when you take the "free" course on line you only get a pin if you buy one from Emblem Sales.

In an organization as large as The American Legion "change" is often necessary to stay abreast with new developments, so we can continue all the good work we do for our troops, veterans and communities. My goal with this hybrid training and the upcoming FALC Class is to make this change as painless as possible. Not to confuse you any further but you will continue to see the use of the acronym 'ALEI' by The American Legion but ALEI now means "American Legion Education Institute.

Support Special Olympics

Jamie Grinis, Special Olympics Chair
specialolympics@legionmail.org



Now that we all have survived Hurricane Irma, it's business as usual. We all were affected in one way or another by this storm that encompassed the state. I hope all of the Legion fared well. Let's

not forget that not only the Legion family was affected, the Special Olympic Athletes have suffered as well.

Should your Post not have a program to support we wish that you adopt Special Olympics. All funds raised will stay in your

county helping those participating in the many activities that the Program covers each month in your region.

Should you wish to donate directly on a secured website go to specialolympicsflorida.org. Mention your Post and County at time of donation. If your Post family would like to donate by check please make the check payable to **Special Olympics Florida**, and mail to the Department at:

American Legion Department of Florida
 Attn: Special Olympics Special Olympics
 PO Box 547859
 Orlando, FL 32854

I look forward to seeing you all at Fall Conference.

THE
 AMERICAN
 LEGION
 DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
 LEGION COLLEGE

**JANUARY
 11-13**

floridalegion.org/flc

Constitutional Literacy

Meri West, Oratorical Chair
oratorical@legionmail.org

Every day

there is something in the news that reminds me why our Constitution, even 230 years later, remains so very relevant to our daily lives.

- NFL players kneeling during the anthem and what exactly is “free speech?”
- Can employees be fired for exercising their right to free speech?
- A mass shooting in Las Vegas that begs the question “Do Americans have a Second Amendment right to automatic rifles or can the government regulate?”
- A border wall between the US and Mexico that brings up the issue of eminent domain.
- The first female officer graduates from the Marine’s Infantry Officer Course and some ask “Do women have a Constitutional right to serve in combat roles?”

This is why I love the American Legion’s Oratorical contest—it is helping students get educated about the Constitution, their own rights and their responsibilities to their county. It promotes civil engagement in a time when the US has some dismal statistics about civil participation.

If I were stopped on the street and given a pop quiz about the Constitution, I’d probably fail. I learn more every year when I attend the Oratorical contests and listen to the students speak. It’s my way of trying to be more constitutionally literate. It is far more enjoyable than reading a history book. The students who compete are doing a phenomenal job and we should be proud that this program is in its 81st year! Each year we award about \$138,000 to students who want to go to college. In 80 years, that is a lot of money and equals a lot of learning!

The Oratorical program was the only reason I joined the American Legion in 2006. I was attending college to learn how to be an educator and I was subbing in schools all over Duval

County. I felt passionate about education being the best way to improve our lives and country. I’d still be stuck in a town of 300 people, in a dry county no less, sweeping floors at the local pharmacy if I did not get out and get an education. We are helping students get there when we offer this generous scholarship! It feels good to know we are part of the solution. We are not just talking the talk. Legionnaires and the Legion Family are walking the walk.

Florida has about 300 American Legion Posts and 71 of them have an active Oratorical program. I look forward to getting to know all the Oratorical chairmen as I suspect you are equally passionate about helping youth or you would not take on this commitment!

If anyone is interested in helping on the program do call and let me know. We can never have enough people! And for those who I have been emailing, stay in touch and ask me anything about the program. Do you need something? Have a question? Email, text or call me. Meri West, oratorical@floridalegion.org. 904-704-0936.

Boy Scouts to Scouting

Rick Hewett, Scouting Chair
scouting@legionmail.org



What an honor it is to serve as the Department Scouting Chairman this year. I am excited to provide my first input into the Legion Link this month. This past quarter marks the start of the Scouting program year

that matches the school year. Most elementary-school age Cub Scout Packs take the summer off and start back up with school while the older programs (Boy Scouts, and the co-ed programs of Venturers, Sea Scouts, Varsity Teams, and Explorers) meet throughout the year. Every Post is encouraged to CHARTER a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) unit (different than sponsoring). If you do not have a BSA unit, work through your American Legion District Scouting Chair

to contact your local BSA Council for recruiting. You do not have to have a Post home. Often the Post can charter a unit and the BSA unit meets at a public location such as a school, church, or library. Now is the perfect time to start a unit! My wife is our Post’s Scouting Chair and Charter Organization Representatives for our Pack and Troop. I am simultaneously the Cubmaster and Scoutmaster for the units. I can tell you firsthand how rewarding it is, not just personally, but also to the Post in terms of membership growth. You will not regret it!

BSA units serve as your Post’s pointy end of the spear into the community. They are all walking billboards for your Post doing community service and wearing the Post’s numerals on their uniforms and flags. Each new Scout and his family members are potential quality active and serving members in the Post family. Just this quarter, the 15th District grew two new Cub Scout Packs for Post 99 and Post 138. They are following

the new guidelines for American Legion BSA units which is that BSA units under the Post use the Post’s numerals. For example, “Post 123” would have a Cub Scout Pack “1231”, Boy Scout Troop “1232”, Sea Scout Ship “1233”, etc., etc. Existing American Legion BSA units are grandfathered of course. However, it is well worth the investment of a Chartering Post to pay and provide their existing BSA units with new solid embroidered numeral patches with the Post name and a new BSA flag with the Post’s name on it. They are your marketing in the community!

The Cracker Trail was cancelled for 2018 due to lack of a committee to lead and staff the program. That said, my vision for our 2019 Centennial Celebration is to conduct three BSA events—all military service themed—throughout the state. Ideally, we would have one in South Florida, North Florida, and Western Florida

Continued on Page 11

Scouting Chair - Continued

and each on a military base, either federal or National Guard. There would be one single large and unique patch inspired by the American Legion Department of Florida. Scouts would earn a unique pin to stick into the patch where the event took place in the state representing each event they attended. I am now seeking volunteer committee members to help me liaison with the military, and BSA Councils, to develop unique American Legion inspired programs going back to our Great War legacy, social media and PR advertising, finance, and logistics. Please contact me if you are interested. No prior BSA experience is needed. This has the potential to be a big PR boost for the American Legion.

I'm sure you all have seen the news and heard that BSA announced that BSA will become fully co-ed. You may have questions—don't hesitate to contact me! There are lots of

rumors, assumptions, and fake news out there so here's the real deal: This decision had nothing to do with some skewed social agenda. BSA has been co-ed since 1971 starting at the age of 14. In elementary school, Cub Scouts is a family program and encourages all family to participate. As a result, sisters often do everything that their brothers do, but don't get recognized for it. For several years families (like mine) have been writing and complaining to BSA to create a program that the entire family can participate in. This year the BSA board of directors agreed. Starting in fall 2018, girls may join a Pack, but will have their own girl-den separate from the boy-dens. In 2019, BSA will announce how girls will integrate into BSA Troops (e.g. integrated patrols or gender specific patrols like Cub Scout dens).

I expect this to be a GREAT thing for the American Legion! BSA's numbers are going to explode across the country as families seek alternatives. As the American Legion BSA units grow, so will

the potential new recruits for our American Legion Posts. The BSA Packs and Troops will be a reflection of our own American Legion Post family.

The American Legion National Organization's Americanism Commission and BSA National's annual conference is at the end of October. I am attending with the other Department Scouting Chairs. Our new Department of Florida Scouting Chairman and Charter Organization Representative (COR) Manual, along with several of our example BSA unit standard operating procedures are going to be highlighted by the Americanism Commission to Departments throughout the country. I will have lots of information to share at the Fall Conference, including more details on BSA's plan to incorporate girls into all the programs. Please join me for the Scouting class there.

See you in Orlando!

Benefits

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements Chair
veteransbenefits@legionmail.org



I would like to start by saying thank you, to all the American Legion Family for stepping up and helping with the Emergency Supplies that was delivered and passed out, this is what the American Legion is all about.

Aid and Attendance or Housebound Allowance

If you need help with your daily activities, or you're housebound, you may qualify for Aid and Attendance (A&A) or Housebound allowances in addition to your pension benefits. Find out if you can get these monthly payments added to the amount of your monthly pension.

Can I get A&A or Housebound benefits from VA?

You may qualify for A&A if you get a VA pension and:

- You need another person to help you perform

daily activities, like bathing, feeding, and dressing, or

- You have to stay in bed—or spend a large portion of the day in bed—because of illness, or
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to the loss of mental or physical abilities related to a disability, or
- Your eyesight is limited (even with glasses or contact lenses you have only 5/200 or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less)
- You may qualify for housebound benefits if you get a VA pension and you spend most of your time in your home because of a permanent disability (a disability that doesn't go away).

Note: You can't get A&A benefits and housebound benefits at the same time.

Who's covered:

- Qualified Veterans
- Qualified surviving spouses

How do I get this benefit?

There are 2 ways you can get this benefit:

- Write to your Pension Management Center (PMC)
- You can write to the PMC for your state. Find your PMC.

Include this information:

- Evidence, like a doctor's report, that shows you need A&A or Housebound care, or VA Form 21-2680 (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance), which your doctor can fill out. Download VA Form 21-2680.
- Details about what you normally do during the day and how you get places
- Details that help show what kind of illness, injury, or mental or physical disability affects your ability to do things, like take a bath, on your own.

If you think you qualify please contact your Post Service Officer or your County Service Officer for more information.

Hurricane Havoc

Post 71

Hurricane Harvey: a week before landfall the American Legion Post 71 started collecting for a delivery to Houston. By the time that Harvey hit and started moving on its northern path the donations were coming in by the pickup truck, van, and trailer loads. On the 30th of August, the American Legion shipped out two full semi-truck loads of product.

After a brief respite, the Volunteers of the American Legion started again in preparation of Irma. When Irma made land fall on the 7th of September the Legion was ready. We housed 20 people, 9 dogs and 4 cats.

The Post suffered minimal damage and the Volunteers were troopers in dealing with the menagerie of people, animals and their needs. With the passing of Irma, the Legion went into action again, by contacting Veterans and Civilians in the procurement of supplies. After many phone calls and face book by all of the Members to the EOC and the USNRA and the surrounding communities, the supplies started coming in.

The Legion was one of the first (on the 11th of September) to start supplying the local community with water, food and other supplies. The Legion was blessed with Volunteers coming from Indiana, New York, Texas, Ohio, Alabama and Louisiana. These Men and Women from all walks of life, some Veterans and some Civilians were a God send in all they did. They organized and accomplished over 35 primary and 50 minor missions to as far south as the Key and within a

local are of 35 square miles. They did this on their own dollar with the Legion feeding and housing them. They were the back bone to the Irma relief out of the Legion. The American Legion Post 71 was one of many organizations that stepped up and did the job that needed to be done.

The American Legion Post 71 would like to give kudos to the Department of the American Legion and all they did in transporting and delivering supplies to the areas in need. The last of our Volunteers left on the 23rd of September with a lot of sniffles and hugging. They will be missed and they became part of our family.

Below is a list of the areas that were serviced by the American Legion Post 71 and the Volunteers. Please note that we covered almost half of the state. We are not pointing fingers but the Legion feels that the preparedness of the City of Lake Wales, the County EOC, Fema and the Red Cross was somewhat lacking. The supplies were slow in coming and varied in quality. The City was slow to respond and failed to be flexible in its willingness to help the Volunteers who were helping the City. With that being said, the Legion would like to say THANK YOU to everybody that participated in the Relief Effort. Some of the areas were serviced two to four times during the 18 days of the Irma Relief Effort out of the American Legion.

A List of some of the Supplies: Water, Canned Food, MRE's, Snack MRE's, Diapers, Clothes, Medical Supplies, Packaged Food, Tarps and Pet Supplies.

List of some of the Area's: Dundee, Lake Wales,

Frostproof, Winter Haven, Hillcrest Heights, Bartow, Alturas, Fort Mead, Arcadia, Ft Myers, Palmdale, Clewiston, Lake Placid, Sebring, Avon Park, Hall City, Okeechobee, Taylor Creek, Fort Drum, Yeehaw Junction, Vero Beach, Indian Lake Estates, Wauchula, Marco Island, Everglades City, Haines City, Bonita Springs, Zolfo Springs, Cypress Lakes, Walking In Water, Marathon, Naples, Key West and Camp Mack.

This is not a complete list but does indicate the scope of the Legions efforts. It is still going on to this day.

We have heard of the horror stories from some of the people that had to stay in a shelter if they could get into one. The City of Lake Wales has one Shelter that will hold 200 people. With a population of 15 thousand, one shelter to hold 200 people without pets is unconscionable and indicates a lack of planning and caring on the City's part.

The American Legion Post 71 has been working toward the Post becoming a certified Pre and Post Shelter. This effort has been worked on for the past 6 months. The Legion would like to submit a request for the City to endorse and support either in administrative or financial the effort.

Please contact the EOC and the Governor's office and request this to be accomplished. Not only is it our obligation but our Christian duty to help people in need. The American Legion Post 71 went above and beyond its financial ability and physical ability to do this. Help us Help the City, County, State and its inhabitants.



Every Day is Veterans Day

Rick Johnson, 2nd Vice Commander
2ndvice@legionmail.org



Well legion family, we have been through a lot the past couple of months. I want to thank the numerous family members of this great organization for all of their help with in the State of Florida and the continuing support that is still going on.

We still have a few post that really got hit hard so let's keep them in our prayers.

The time the letter comes out, we will be at Fall Conference reporting on the year so far. I

apologize for not being out there the past few weeks and with the third surgery and getting married and this Lady called Irma, well you know the rest of the story. The Florida Legion College will be coming up in January 2018 and the applications are on line. I strongly recommend this great course to all Legionaries who wish to move up within our great organization. The November renewals should be out so you should have another influx of members renewing. We can't wait for those letters as we have to be pro-active and do a lot better job in renewals at the post level. I keep saying that YOU the Post have to take a better stance within your community and stop having the American Legion being the best kept secret out there.

Veterans Day Nov 11th should be a great day but remember every day is Veterans Day. I hope you are planning some sort of function at your post to honor all of our veterans and their families.

Thanksgiving Day is another great opportunity to show your community who you are and what you are about. I know numerous Post do a great job on this day feeding needy families and Veterans who cannot feed their families. Keep up the great work out there and will see you out there soon.

We want everyone to have a great year and mostly HAVE FUN doing it as we are all volunteers. So with that being said, see you next month.

TANK OUT



October 19, 2017 70% Target Report (Currently 58.41%)		
District 4	Victoria VanBuren	65.80%
District 11	Donna Artola	64.79%
District 6	Michael Seidel	62.40%
District 2	John Folsom	62.13%
District 15	Richard Little	60.30%
District 16	Raymond Perez	58.95%
District 1	Michael Wolohan	58.75%
District 17	Raymond Olsen	58.56%
District 5	Troy Horsley	57.54%
District 7	David Tucker	57.52%
District 12	Bruce Thurber	56.74%
District 9	Donald Schwiesow	55.68%
District 13	Michael Raymond	54.37%
District 8	Jerry Faught	52.70%
District 14	Gary Decker	52.46%
District 3	Frederick Hutto	48.93%
Eastern	Daryl Bass	59.96%
Central	Jay Allen	59.37%
Western	James Brennan	59.03%
Northern	Jeffrey Durden	58.57%
Southern	James Tewes	57.73%
Southwestern	Dennis Walsh	53.62%
Post 400		64.01%
Post 208		59.91%



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- We send you money – even if you don't have cancer

70% MEMBERSHIP GOAL
11/1/2017

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Domanique & her son Prince

"There were no strings attached and I was never disrespected or made to feel inferior. You supported me, a female veteran, who thought I had my life together!"

- Ms. Domanique, Navy Veteran (pictured above)

2017 FALL CONFERENCE

This month is The American Legion, Department of Florida Fall Conference. The event will be held at the Renaissance at Sea World in Orlando, FL from November 3-5, 2017.

Below is the list of opportunities to join us and learn more about the program. There will only be **ONE** chance to take the Advocate Training class and it's open to the *entire* Legion Family. We are adding another course for Post Commanders and Adjutants for them to see how the Post can get involved.

ACTIVITIES:

- **Pick up NEW marketing materials** (Vendor Area)
November 3-4 at 8:00AM - 5:00PM
- **Service Officer Presentation** (Atlantis)
Friday, November 3 at 8:00AM
- **Introduction to Post Leadership** (Labrid B)
Friday, November 3 at 9:15 - 9:45AM
- **Advocate Training** (Nomeus)
Friday, November 3 4:30-5:30PM
- **Legion General Session Presentation** (Crystal DE)
Saturday, November 4 in the morning

Trained Advocates - We need volunteers to sit at the vendor table to answer questions, spark the interest of the Legion Family and pass out NEW marketing materials. If you are able to help, please contact Jennifer Cooper at jcooper@floridalegion.org.

**Times and room locations are subject to change.*

THE CHALLENGE IS BACK!!

The PVR Challenge is back to support the growing needs of Florida veterans, active duty military and their families. Over the past 3 years we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of financial assistance applications. In fact, the amount of funds we've been able to distribute to our service members in their time of need has doubled each year!

We are anticipating the need for our program to grow again this year. If we use the same trend as we've seen each year, we project the amount we will need to continue to support our fellow comrades is over \$115,000!

We are asking for every member to the Legion Family donate \$1.00 to continue our mission.

The PVR Challenge is based off the Posts's membership goal and the Challenge to every Post is to raise \$1.00 per member between now and May 31, 2018. This goal can be reached by a Post making a one-time donation, or several donations given within the year.

Remember, the Department Commander, Steve Shuga, chose PROJECT: VetRelief to receive the first \$50,000 raised for his Commander's project. Anything submitted to the Legion earmarked for the Commander's Charity will account for the PVR Challenge.

Please continue to support our service members and families with your contribution to the PVR Challenge.

UPCOMING EVENT:

NOV
18
Challenge 22
5K "Ruck" Walk
Winter Garden, FL
Cost: \$20/adults
\$5/kids under 17



SUPPORT CASES:
JULY-SEPT 2017 TOTALS

families helped | amount distributed

31 | **\$25,955.59**

**Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY*

NATIONAL LEGION CHANGES TFA GUIDELINES

The American Legion National Headquarters has changed the funding criteria for the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) Program. During the recent Fall National Executive Committee meeting in October Resolution 8, *Restructure of Temporary Financial Assistance Policy*, was passed to adopt the following changes:

- A single **onetime** non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to \$1,500 will be permitted to qualified applicants
- A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, or any current member of The American Legion
- Formal documentation is required as part of the Temporary Financial Assistance investigation process and application packet for verification that all other forms of financial assistance available have been sought and applied for, or have already been denied
- Annual cumulative expenditure of Temporary Financial Assistance grants may not exceed \$700,000 without prior approval of each chairman of the Americanism and Finance Commissions and the national commander

The changes made to National's TFA program will directly affect PROJECT: VetRelief and increase our financial burden. We strongly urge all Legion Family members to participate in the PVR Challenge so that we can continue to serve our service members!

For more information visit our website: www.ProjectVetRelief.org

Virgin Islands for Veterans Hurricane Relief and Recovery Effort

Supply Drive Saturday, October 14th 12pm-8pm & October 21st 12pm-8pm

@ VFW Post # 2185 located at 2136 Sherman Ave, Panama City, FL

All supplies will be sent directly to Jonathan Rich, Director of VI4Vets, who is on the ground in St Thomas and will be used to help needy veterans and their families.

Supplies Needed

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Generators | 11. Solar powered lanterns, fans, showers |
| 2. Chainsaws | 12. Solar battery chargers |
| 3. Gas cans | 13. Battery powered fans |
| 4. Men's work clothes (Medium/Large/X-Large) | 14. Batteries (All sizes) |
| 5. Work Gloves | 15. Paper plates, cups, silver ware |
| 6. Safety Glasses | 16. Dish soap, cleaning supplies, Vinegar |
| 7. Hard Hats | 17. Mops and buckets |
| 8. Flip Flops (All sizes) | 18. Bleach, anything to prevent mold |
| 9. Zero Filters/Water purification filters or tablets | 19. Hygiene items |
| 10. Mosquito coils, mosquito reefs, mosquito repellents | 20. Diapers/Wipes/Baby – Toddler Clothes |
| | 21. DVDs (new or used) |

Donations are also being accepted Mon – Sat 12pm-8pm @VFW Post # 2185 and Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm @ American Legion Post # 392 located at 535 Oak Avenue, Panama City, FL



Thank you for your Support!

For more information on Virgin Islands for Veterans (VI4Vets) please visit our website at www.vi4vets.org or our Facebook page Virgin Islands for Veterans. Point of contact: Dianne Rich (340) 201-7050
Dianne.rich@vi4vets.org <https://www.facebook.com/vi4vets> <http://www.vi4vets.org>