



The  
**LEGION LINK**

*“Securing the Future for All Veterans”*



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

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**From Your Department Commander Steve Shuga**

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Happenings around the state. We endured Americanism programs throughout the month of February and completed visits to all posts in Districts 8, 11, 13, and 17.

The National American Legion Magazine Division sent a team to interview two Florida American Legion Posts who received NEF funds to repair damage sustained from Hurricane Irma. They were Posts 81 Melbourne and 135 Naples.

The National Washington DC Conference was held and representatives from Florida attended to speak with selected US Senators and Congressman regarding the American Legion's Legislative issues and concerns.

Hurricane relief support has closed and preparations are underway to create a lessons learned template for a disaster preparedness publication/order that will guide us through the various stages of becoming better prepared, communication trees, timely reporting, coordination of emergency delivery of supplies, hasty repairs, and reception of external support outside of the state.

Retention of all Florida American Legion members are vital to meet the needs of our communities. We aim to enter Department Convention at 100 + 1% before July 1. We need everyone to work towards achieving this goal.

Remember to use your reported Consolidated Post Report data sent to Department and National. This data tells your story on how your Posts are meeting the needs of your community, state, and nation.

Use this to your advantage within your community.

Remember that everyone must tell those willing to listen:

- ◇ Who you are.
- ◇ What you are.
- ◇ What you do well in your community.
- ◇ Why it is important for all Wartime Patriotic Veterans and their families to be a part of the American Legion.

March is now upon us. District visitations continue with the 7th, 15th, and 16th. We must also plan to celebrate The American Legion Birthday on March 15, 2018. Do something simple: get a cake, have ice cream, invite post members, read the birthday message, make a toast on behalf of those that have served = past, present, and future.

Our Department Oratorical Contest will be held March 10th at 9 am – come out and support this vital endeavor of our future leaders. Central Area Ball (Post 252 Seminole) – 10 March and Eastern Area Ball (Post 1 Titusville) – 24 March.

National's Race to the Top winners will be considered on March 31, 2018. Who in Florida will be considered the top district in the nation for their level?





MARCH 2018

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 1     | JROTC Cadet of the Year Due              |
| 1     | General Scholarship Due                  |
| 1     | Eagle Scout of the Year Due              |
| 2     | Read Across America Day                  |
| 2     | Employee Appreciation Day                |
| 3     | 12th District Meeting, Post 39           |
| 3     | Northern Area Ball                       |
| 4     | Dept Commander Visits District 7         |
| 4     | 15th District Meeting                    |
| 7     | Membership Goal 95%                      |
| 10    | 12th District Picnic Boys/Girls State    |
| 10    | Dept Oratorical Contest                  |
| 10    | Central Area Ball                        |
| 11    | Daylight Saving Time Begins              |
| 11-17 | Dept Commander Visits District 16        |
| 15    | The American Legion 99th Birthday        |
| 15    | Legion Link Articles Due                 |
| 17    | St. Patrick's Day                        |
| 18    | Dept Commander Visits District 15        |
| 18    | Harley Davidson Raffle Drawing           |
| 20    | First Day of Spring                      |
| 24    | Eastern Area Ball                        |
| 25    | Palm Sunday                              |
| 30    | Good Friday (HQ Closed)                  |
| 31    | National District Race to the Top 100%+1 |

- Commander Steve Shuga's Attendance Tentative.

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

**A Push to the Finish**

Jerry Brandt, 3rd Vice Commander  
[3rdvice@legionmail.org](mailto:3rdvice@legionmail.org)



Comrades,

The Race To The Top, is now here, you have until the end of this month to get the membership in. As of February 8th we have the following:

- 1st District is now 89.73% now only needing 605 renewals for 100%.
- 2nd District is now at 84.73% needing only 202 renewals for 100%.
- 3rd District is now 81.27% needing only 152 renewals for 100%.

**Stay on top of it...**

Dianne Boland, 1st Vice Commander  
[1stvice@legionmail.org](mailto:1stvice@legionmail.org)



**Greetings:** My but the year seems to be flying by quickly. Have you been staying on top of paperwork? Remember to ask (for their input) all your chairman as well as the volunteers who help out during the month.

There are a lot of hours, miles and money going undocumented because the right people are not asked. National/Department CPR's and Department Addendum are due by May 5th.

**Do you have an interest in becoming a Department Chairman?** I have received a lot of replies but not enough to fill all the jobs. I need your help now. Print the "Make an Impact" form on page 16, fill it out and mail to department.

- 4th District is now at 94.38%, needing only 191 renewals for 100%.
- 5th District is now at 88.91% needing only 847 renewals for 100%.
- 17th District is now at 87.42% needing only 635 renewals for 100%.

We have now completed the Department Commander's visit to the 17th District, so 4 of the 6 Districts are now completed. In April. Department Commander will be visiting 1st and 2nd District, PLUS he will be riding with the American Legion Riders on the 1st Unity Ride. Starting in Jacksonville FL, going thru Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana and back to Panama City FL to end. Not only is the Department Commander for Florida going, but other Department Commanders will join in route.

Commanders, as I previously stated, now is the time to start pushing awards, it is nice to be able to come up to the stage at the Convention to receive your awards. **Especially for 18 Posts**, who are at **100%**, they should be putting in for the **Post Excellence Award** and for **100% Post Award**. Some awards you should look for is the following:

- Post Excellence Award
- 100% Post Award
- Employer of the year
- Firefighter and Policeman of the year award
- Color Guard Award

**Dates you need to be aware of for this month are:** JROTC Cadet of the Year Scholarship – due by March 1st, General Scholarship – due by March 1st, Eagle Scout of the Year – due by March 1st, 95% membership goal – March 7th, State Oratorical Contest – March 10th and Post Elections – not elected before April 6th not later than June 24th.

The **Department Oratorical Contest** is very important to the contestants competing. They need the practice and it helps them gain confidence. Come out and show your support by attending the competition. There's nothing worse than speaking to a room half full. Who knows, you might actually learn something. We have some very talented students speaking at our Oratorical Contests

Don't forget your **"Basic Training"**. It is still being taught at the Convention and Fall Conference plus you can still take it online thru National ([www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)). It is now FREE – no charge.

- Membership Awards, (Gold and Silver Brigade)

Please look up Awards and Recognition under [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) for more details

For Northern and Western Area, these are the following dates you need to be aware of for March and April:

- March 3rd, Northern Area Ball at Post 129
- March 10th, Department Oratorical Contest
- March 10th, Central Area Ball
- March 17th, Post 402, Western Area Conference
- March 24th, Eastern Area Ball
- March 25th, Palm Sunday
- March 31st, National District Race to the Top
- April 1st, Easter Sunday
- April 1st, Medical/Nursing School Scholarships Due
- April 1st, National Child Welfare Foundation Week
- April 1st, Child Welfare Month
- April 1st, Department Commander's visit to 1st District
- April 4th, Membership 100% Goal
- April 7th, Florida Riders Southern Unity Ride
- April 7th, Department Children and Youth Picnic, Post 117
- April 13th, National Oratorical Contest
- April 16th, Tax Day
- April 16th, Department Commanders visit to 2nd District
- April 18th, Vietnam Reunion
- April 28th, Department Commander's Homecoming





### Suicide Prevention and Medical Cannabis Research

Dennis Boland, National Executive Committeeman  
[nec@legionmail.org](mailto:nec@legionmail.org)



According to VA, an average of 20 Veterans per day die by suicide and according to Congressional Research Service, there has been over 128,000 deployed veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), between 2000 – 2014.

The American Legion conducts System Worth Saving (SWS) site visits to VA health care facilities to cross-pollinate best practices, identify gaps of care, and evaluate overall performance of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical facilities.

The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention act of 2014

was passed into law for the purpose of increasing access to mental health services through peer support and community outreach, and to boost the accountability of mental health care by requiring an annual evaluation of VA mental health and suicide prevention programs.

By Resolution No. 28, entitled "Suicide Prevention Program," The American Legion established this program to bring attention to veteran's suicide and the call for all federal, state and local agencies to help eliminate veterans' suicide.

About 20 years ago, scientists discovered a system in the brain called the endocannabinoid system that responds to 60 chemicals in marijuana, also known as cannabis.

This system plays a role in many of the body's functions, such as in the heart, along with the digestive, endocrine, immune, nervous, and reproductive systems. This discovery sparked interest in finding specific chemicals made from

Cannabis that could be targeted for specific conditions. Cannabis is classified as a schedule 1 drug.

In April 2016, the Drug Enforcement Agency gave its approval to a study on the effect of medical Cannabis on post-traumatic stress disorder. It is the first randomized, controlled research in the U.S. for PTSD that will use the actual plant instead of oils or synthesized cannabis.

By Resolution Number 11, entitled, "Medical Cannabis Research," The American Legion urges the Drug Enforcement Agency to License privately-funded medical Cannabis production operations in the United States to enable safe and efficient cannabis drug development research.

Furthermore, The American Legion urges Congress to amend legislation to remove Cannabis from Schedule 1, and reclassify it in a category that, recognizes cannabis as a drug with potential medical value.

### Post belongs to members...

Larry Sheets, Judge Advocate  
[judgeadvocate@legionmail.org](mailto:judgeadvocate@legionmail.org)



It seems that the majority of Post Commanders do not realize that the Post belongs to each of its members, not just the Executive Committee. The way that many Constitution and By-Laws are worded, the Executive Committee

has the final say on everything the Post does. Things the Executive Committee does must be approved by the general membership.

The easy way to do this is to have the Executive Committee meet prior to the General Membership meeting. If the minutes of the Executive Committee are approved, then their actions on the items discussed and voted on are passed as well.

If someone does not agree with a particular item in those minutes, that member can make a motion that the minutes of the Executive Committee be

approved with the exception of the item he would like to discuss.

It is not that hard, if you pay attention at the meeting when the minutes are read. in between meetings if an emergency arises that requires action immediately, the Commander can call for an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee to handle the problem.

If you have any questions, please call me at 305-467-7713.







**Beware the Ides of March**

Tom Gora, Sergeant-at-Arms  
[sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org](mailto:sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org)



"Beware the ides of March!" Those are famous words penned by William Shakespeare in his play 'Julius Caesar.' Through time those words have taken on the meaning of predicting something ominous is about to happen. The death of

Julius Caesar probably had little to do with the "Ides of March" which may be more related to a certain moon cycle, and a period way back in 44 AD that just coincidentally included the demise of Caesar.

**Legionnaires, beware the ides of March!**

Every year, March is about the time when many of posts and districts will be seeking candidates for officer positions for next year, while current officers look to wrap up their efforts for the current year. It can be a confusing time of the year what with planning for post nominations and elections, getting those CPRs in on time, District Constitutional Conferences (DCC), all culminating in attending the Department of Florida's 100th Annual Convention in July. Your Sgt.-at-Arms, play important roles in all these functions. Is the membership status of all voting in your annual elections verified before the vote? At the DCCs, will you have a sufficient number of Sgt.-at-Arms present to escort those seeking election in your district, or those department level candidates who speak to the podium, or stage? Will the Sgt.-at-Arms know the names and titles of those visiting your DCC so that proper introductions can be made by the District Commander? The time to

plan to for orderly post elections, and DCCs is NOW, and not the day before the event! If you plan for these events early and involve your Sgt.-at-Arms in the planning, I am confident you will have a successful event!

The rules for elections at the 100th Annual Convention in July have been conveyed to all in last month's Legion Link. Please review them to eliminate confusion in July.

**March is also the time of the year to start writing those nominations for the Eddie Hummer Award recognizing the Department's most outstanding Sgt.-at-Arms! APPLICATIONS FOR THIS DISTINGUISHED AWARD ARE DUE TO THE DEPARTMENT NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 2018. A NARRATIVE IS REQUIRED, AND THE POST MUST HAVE A CPR ON FILE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD!**

**Fellowship**

Barry Roberts, Chaplain  
[chaplain@legionmail.org](mailto:chaplain@legionmail.org)



Fellow Legionnaires and Family,  
 I recently met a veteran that had been angry at God for many years. The veteran asked me "in the midst of war, natural disasters and tragic shootings, can you explain the morality of God to me in a scientific way" I gave the first example: It is impossible to make darkness. Darkness is

the removal or absence of light. I then gave the example that it is impossible to create cold. Cold is the removal or absence of heat. In the same manner God is "LOVE"! Evil or hate is the removal or absence of God. It is very important for us to have fellowship with God on a regular basis.

Fellowship is often times overlooked in the life of a Godly believer. If you grew up in the church, you might associate the word "fellowship" as something your church family did by bringing a pot-luck style of lunch for all to share after a special Sunday service. But fellowship is not an event, it should be part of our daily life. Fellowship with God and each other supporting and encouraging each other. Our

founding fathers designed The American Legion as a ministry organization to serve veterans and their families in need. In keeping with those traditions, I would like to encourage everyone to visit The American Legion, Department of Florida Chaplains' page. The propose and vision of this page is to network resources of our American Legion family. The page will be used to share spiritual encouragement, current events and can be used for prayer requests. Please feel free to email me or message me with any questions.

<https://www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains/>

I pray God's very best for you!

**Post Yearbook Submissions**

Gerry Kaufman, Historian  
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To all of you photo bugs out there, thank you for all of the pictures from around the department. Keep them coming please.

For all of the post historians we are getting close to our deadline for your post yearbook submissions. The guidelines are in your awards manual.

We have been working diligently on the 100th birthday party to be held at Rock Crusher Canyon in Crystal River Florida on January 18th and 19th 2019. As information and plans are finalized we will be putting that information out. To those of you who have not taken care of the centennial website I have been publicizing the user name and password every month to make it easier for you to take care of your own post. That being said, last month the 12th district did not have any posts that had taken care of this. As of today they only have one post left. I would like to thank the district commander for all of his hard work in getting this

done. We now have two districts that only have one post left to reach 100% compliance.

The Centennial Website user name and password is as follows:

**The user name is:** 100thannvdept@legionmail.org **and password is:** melanie1969

If you need help please contact me at 407-218-9139, if I do not answer please leave a message with your phone number.





**Central Area Ball**

Jay Allen, Central Area Commander  
[centralarea@legionmail.org](mailto:centralarea@legionmail.org)



I attended the Florida American Legion College and it was very informative. There were a great number of my fellow Legionnaires in the class and they were as impressed with the classes as well as I was. I recommend anyone

that has the desire to move up in the Legion ranks attend this because everything the Legion College teaches you will help guide you through your life and great works in The American Legion.

We are working hard with the Central Area Ball to be held on March 10th. We hope everyone has seen and responded to attend this event. The theme of this year's ball is "Sunset Celebration" because the West Coast of Florida has some of the greatest sunsets anyone would ever hope to see.

The National Commander Denise Rohan came through our area and Post 273 hosted the luncheon in her honor. She was pleased with seeing one of the Nation's Largest Posts. After the luncheon she headed to Post 347 Lady Lakes and I hope she was as impressed with their Post as much as she was with Madeira Beach Post 273 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Commander Jim White for sponsoring the Luncheon.

Continuing to work with the District Commanders for increase and retainage on their membership. And a big THANK YOU to 7th District Commander Dave Tucker for working with his Posts in making them third District in the line up for the Department List of Districts for membership. Continue your excellent job in recruiting. Plus, like I would like to thank all three Districts along with the Central Area for keeping on top of the membership list in the Department of Florida.

Looking forward to the Central Area "Sunset Celebration" Ball to the camaraderie with the Legion Family and everyone attending. Feel free to contact me if there are any questions concerning this matter at (813) 545-4623.

**Its First & Goal on the 10 Yard Line!**

Fred Matthews, Membership Chair  
[membership@legionmail.org](mailto:membership@legionmail.org)



At the time of this writing, the ball is within the **10 yard line of the The Red Zone**. The Department of Florida's record is 1 in 5 over the last Five years. The period between January and April 1st admittedly is when the going gets tough and somehow the ball gets lost before time runs out on

another opportunity to cross that goal line with **100%**.

There are hopeful signs from Players on the Florida Home team: **11th District Commander Donna Artola** is holding the lead for the **3rd week** in a row in the "Race to the Top" competition. While **7th District Commander David Tucker**, in 3rd place, continues to encourage his team with just 3 points separating him from the lead. Less than 45 days to the RTTT finish line.

Highlights over the last 30 days are **Posts 347 and 273** with a combined **10,339** members on the rolls, are now at **95 and 92 %** of their goals respectively. Both are less than **300** members each away from 100% and both have worked the **DMS** listing to bolster their numbers and bring new members onto their rolls.

Speaking of DMS, **5th District Commander Troy Horsley** and his team have taken the list to heart. Commander Horsley's district leads the Department with 88 conversions and

counting. With over 88% his district stands with the Department average. **12th District Commander Bruce Thurber** comes the closest to the 5th District with 76 conversions to date. Again, the DMS conversions, particularly those with "AD" markings, are still valid as long as the members show a 2018 payment on the roster. These are the members to replace those deceased members we have all been talking about. Let's make the call.

Over the next 40 Days: **District Commanders**, you have already identified those players(Posts) who are struggling. Lets now conduct another round of visits and phone calls to get every Post that's in the 70% and below percentile, into the 80s.

One of the discoveries being made as we travel from Post to Post, District to District are that a number of new Post Commanders and Adjutants who are mis-identified from the official Department Roster. Those "new" officers are not totally up to speed on the Department communications process, nor are we clear on exactly who is in charge at the Post level. Which means that those dues-paying members are not getting the benefits that come with their membership.

As we come up on the mid-winter round of District meetings, let's make sure that we emphasize and offer assistance with using [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org), setting up a website, and Facebook page. Why? So that these Posts can be found by Veterans and their families who live in or are traveling to their area and are looking to make a connection with the American Legion.

Now that Post programs are taking place, let's remember that *Publicity* is an important part of the Membership process. Send out a press release to the local media on the **Oratorical Contest** and

the winners, the **Boys State** interviews and its importance, those **Women's Veterans Month** programs in the works and the programs to bring down the incidents of **Veterans Suicides**. Let us encourage publicity of these programs on the Post and District level. These are **recruitment** and **retention** tools; reasons to stay with the Legion and to join and we must tell the story.

**Each One, Bring Five!**



Post98 Coral Gables Briefing



Post166, Homosassa



Post291 Eboard







### Gearing up for Unity Ride

Jim Day, American Legion Riders  
[legionriders@legionmail.org](mailto:legionriders@legionmail.org)



Welcome to spring and great riding weather. As usual the Florida ALR has been busy with local and state events. The 2018 ALR Summit was once again well attended and immediate feedback has been positive. Next, we have the 2018 Unity Ride and the 2018 Florida American Legion Convention. Where has the time gone?

A giant THANK YOU goes out to the following: Janie and Dale Fish, Robin and Chris Watrous and Billie Jones, without all your help there is no way the 2018 ALR Summit could have been so successful. Each of them jumped in and helped without hesitation and stuck it out to the bitter end. Hats off and a big THANK YOU to all the instructors as well: Jim Bowers, Jim Wineland, Jim Ramos (wow we have a lot of Jim's), Commander Shuga, NEC Boland, JA Sheets, Chaplain Barry Roberts, VA&R Larry Roberts, Eastern Area ALR Chair Ed Falkowski, Beverly Wooten (LEAD candidate for ALR Adjutant), Adjutant Mike McDaniels, Charlotte Bass ALA, and National

ALR Chair Bob Sussan. We had many Department, Area and Districts Officers in attendance supporting our 2nd year and lending a hand and knowledge whenever needed. Special thanks to Southern Area ALR Chairman Julio Sanchez for handling the t-shirt ordering. Planning for next year is underway. Currently the projected date and location will be: the 2nd week/weekend in January 2019 @ the International Palms in Cocoa Beach.



Next, we have the 2018 Unity Ride. The run is approaching fast and registration is up and running. Jim Bowers and Jim Wineland

have been doing much of the leg work and talking to all the stops working out details. We will have National American Legion publicity during much if not all the ride this year. It's an honor to have the National American Legion recognize our work and our enthusiasm to promote the American Legion Family programs through the Legion Riders. Steve Shuga, now Florida Commander, will once again be on the ride and joined by the Detachment Commander Wildrick and ALA President Wildrick (thus we will have the "Three Amigos" on our ride). The hotels are booking up quickly, so, if you haven't

booked yet, you may want to get on that. This year we will be going to Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and back into Florida, spreading our Florida ALR "For the Cause, Not the Applause", promoting the American Legion Family programs, and spreading our enthusiasm for UNITY. For those curious, yes, we will have "Hardcore" patches for all those that complete the entire ride. Thank you to all that submitted ideas for the logo, and super THANKS to Carrie @ Dept for taking all those ideas and making them pretty.

I just want to take a moment to personally thank Jim Wineland for stepping up and taking charge the past few weeks while we finish a huge life transition. We are officially residents of the bustling town of Perry, Florida. We will be completely moved by 1 March and back on track and focused on finishing out the year. Thanks for all the patience during this grand adventure.

Stay tuned for more announcements and plans. Keep your eyes open for a SURVEY coming soon. Once again THANK YOU to all those that helped behind the scenes to make the Florida American Legion Riders 2nd to NONE!

<https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/legion-riders/special-events/unity-ride/register/>

### Save Lives and Donate

Donna Artola-Wallace, 11th District & Blood  
[11thdistrict@legionmail.org](mailto:11thdistrict@legionmail.org)



**11th District**  
Thank you to all posts that welcomed our national commander in January.

We had a great visit with our state commander Steve Shuga in February.

You should be proud of your self our district

has held 1st place in the state for 4 weeks. We are rounding up race to the top. We are doing great. Let's get the membership in.

Our next district meeting will be March 8th at legion post 268 Riviera Beach at 730pm. The meeting is open to the whole family.

#### Blood Chair

Let us all remember that blood is a gift of life that gives to 3. With the sad sad shooting that happened on valentine's day in Broward County the gift is needed. The blood banks are short on

O negative. Please if you are or know anyone who is O negative let's get out and donate. You will never know when blood is needed if being your self, family member or a friend. But does it matter who needs it. We are all one and that is human.

Also remember to document every blood drive your post has had. Put this on your CPR each drive counts.





**Deadlines and Special Events Approaching**

*Bruce Carl, Children & Youth Chair*  
[cy@legionmail.org](mailto:cy@legionmail.org)



Winter appears to be done as the grass is getting green and the robins are flocking in the yard. Spring/summer will be here before you know it, and so will the end of this term. The snowbirds will be getting ready to head back North, much like those robins.

The deadlines for many of the programs have passed as of March 1st, and the next important deadline will be coming up in April, and that is the Teacher of the Year Award. Just a reminder, that April is also Children and Youth month. There

is not much going on in March, but there are two important dates. The first one is the American Legion birthday on March 15th. I hope your Post has plans to celebrate this event with the community, and let them know what we are all about. This could be a great way to also pick up some new members! The second is for all the "wee little folk", aka leprechauns, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day.

Now is the time to also start getting all your materials together to fill out the form for The Post Best Children and Youth Program. Your Post C&Y Chairperson received this information in the packet from Department. The form is due in May! Also, all applications for grants from the Children and Youth Fund are due in May. Please make sure you have any interested parties get those requests in on time.

The Department Children & Youth Picnic and Golf Tournament are fast approaching. The forms are easily downloadable from the Department website calendar. We are looking for sponsorships for both events, as well as donations for baskets for the auctions. The information on where to send your checks and donations are on the fliers for both events. Hotel information for both events is also available on the fliers. There will also be a poker run for the picnic, and registration info is on the flyer for the ride.

I still have many 2017-2018 Children and Youth coins available for sale. I am not sure why they are not selling, as I have been to many places and events, and so many people collect the challenge coins. I will continue to push them in my travels, and remember all proceeds go back to the Children & Youth Fund.

**Accreditation**

*Loretta Young, JROTC/Jr Shooting Sports Chair*  
[jrotc@legionmail.org](mailto:jrotc@legionmail.org)



The JROTC Program Accreditation serves as the "Capstone" event for any JROTC Program and the Cadets get the opportunity to showcase their Presentation to the School Principal, Community Officials, School Board

Members and other honored guests. These presentations are done on a Formal Level by the Army 6th Brigade for the Army Schools who come from their Headquarters Division. It is a very special occasion and is done on a rotation of schools basis every few years.

The Cadets practice for many months and are graded on the Continuous Improvement Brief given by the Cadet Battalion Commander and Staff. Followed by the Service Learning

Brief for their chosen project of the semester. This is followed by the Drill Team and Color Guard Review, Portfolio Inspection, Uniform Inspection and all the Records are reviewed. I had the honor of being invited to South Plantation H.S. for their "Formal Inspection" and was truly amazed as always by their performance. Their Service Learning Project was being conducted the same day in the evening for the "Virtual Honor Flight". This project has been performed by South Plantation in the past and has served as an alternative to the actual trip to Washington DC for the veterans not able to make the long trip.

The Cadets had a 97.25% overall score out of a possible 100% and remain an "Honor Unit with Distinction". The Accreditation Program was a deciding factor that got me involved many years ago when I was first introduced to the JROTC Program. It is something that is well worth attending, to give an overall experience of what our youth are capable of that focus on their motto: JROTC is designed to make better citizens.

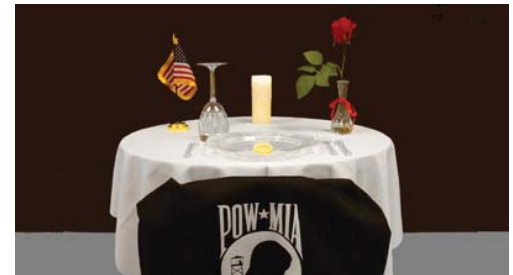
The next deadline for our JROTC Program is the Cadet of the Year Application. This is due March 01. The application is online on the Dept. website and can be downloaded by the school if they do not have a current copy for 2018. Please promote this program as it is our Scholarship Award of \$2,500 to the winner which is presented at the State Convention in Orlando. Thanks to all who have promoted our Youth Programs and give support to your schools in the community.



**Re-dedicating POW-MIA Table**

*Kathryn Boyer, POW-MIA Chair*  
[powmia@legionmail.org](mailto:powmia@legionmail.org)

It is easy to do and if you need help...e-mail me at [USAF0127@yahoo.com](mailto:USAF0127@yahoo.com). And the POW-MIA Manual, which was sent to all posts, has the script written for you. It is best to use your officers for placing each item on the table. That way they have a connection to the table. Thank you for not forgetting the POW-MIA's.





**Feedback**

Tom Gora, Legion College Chair  
 deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



Last month I wrote about the 2018 FALC Class and some of the discussions held by the group, and the work they accomplished. This month I am

providing the results of a participant survey completed by the class. The FALC Committee uses this feedback to evaluate the class and make changes if necessary to improve the quality of the next class. Here are the questions and a summary of comments the 27 participants returned.

1. On a scale of 1 (least satisfied) to 5 (most satisfied), this course will help me perform my duties. **This was rated a 5 by the class.**
2. Rate your accommodations on the same 1-5 scale. The overall class rating was 4.3 out of 5.
3. Rate the training facilities. **The class rated the training facility as a 5.**

**4. What did you like about the college?** (A sample of responses):

"Besides the learning experience, meeting fellow Legionnaires, as a first-time Commander hearing stories that mirror my own experiences gives me confidence because I am not alone in my experiences."

"It ran on time, the detail inner workings of the Legion."

"Networking and building on the knowledge I have to pass along to members."

"A great deal of good information, good networking."

"The broad areas of knowledge and overview of various programs and collective information delivered."

**5. What changes would you recommend to the college?** (A sample of responses):

"I would like to see a Past National Commander be a part of every college session moving forward."

"Would include a detailed explanation of the relationships and responsibilities of each level of the Legion (Post-District-Area-Department-National) and how they interact."

"I don't think there is a lot that needs to be changed."

"Some slide shows and talks out of order, student had to flip pages back and forth to keep up with instructors."

"I would like to see a team building exercise."

I thank the participants for their feedback which will be used to improve next year's college! Don't know just when that will be scheduled, that decision will be made by our next Department Commander. Based on participant survey results from this year, participants overwhelmingly opine that this college is providing good, useful information. Over the past two years, 54 participants have graduated from FALC, and several of them have, or will seek a higher office in their post, district, area or department. So, if you haven't already completed Legion College, we hope to see you at the next class! Attending FALC, and then putting into action what you learn is a huge investment in the Department of Florida's future!

***"I fear the boredom that comes with not learning and not taking chances."***

- Quote by Robert Fulghum-

**Rules of Convention**

Mike Seidel, Resolutions Chair  
 resolutions@legionmail.org



Just a reminder, the Department Convention is approaching fast, (July 5 - 8) and if you are planning to submit a resolution it must be received by the Department Adjutant at least 40 days prior to the Convention and in the correct format.

I have included the three paragraphs from the Rules of Convention that apply to submission of Resolutions.

**Resolutions:**

9. A resolution shall not be considered by the Convention unless presented to the Department Adjutant at least forty (40) days prior to the Department Convention. This time limit may be waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present at the Department Convention.

10. Any resolution originating on the floor of the Convention, if permitted by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present, must be in writing, and will automatically, and without reading or discussion, be referred to the Resolution Committee for consideration and recommendation. Any resolution providing for the expenditure of Department funds, raising

or lowering Department Dues, raising funds in the name of the Department, shall be referred to the Department Finance Committee for study and recommendations, and, by that body, transmitted to the Resolution Committee. The report from both of these committees shall be presented to the Convention for action.

11. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the delegates shall be required for the consideration by the Convention of any resolution which has received an unfavorable report from a committee of the Convention.

Thank you for all you do.







**Plan Now**

*Troy Horsley, School Medals Chair*  
[schoolmedals@legionmail.org](mailto:schoolmedals@legionmail.org)



Now is the most important time in planning your support for the School Medal program. This is the time to reach out to the school principals/guidance counselors so they can plan and find candidates

to recognize the outstanding achievements of an outstanding girl and boy in their school. The recipients (one boy and one girl) are selected from the graduating class of elementary, junior high or middle schools, senior high schools and college.

Each of the district commanders has received a package to assist you with the program. If you need one or assistance with how to approach a school representative, contact your district school medal representative or you can contact me for

assistance. Your posts are going to need to get an idea of how many certificates/medals that are needed to be ordered so that for the May / June graduations, you will be able to present them to the well deserving students.

Keep track of your numbers so you can submit them on your CPR report.

**Do you love Scouting? We need you.**

*Rick Hewett, Scouting Chair*  
[scouting@legionmail.org](mailto:scouting@legionmail.org)



March is going to be great for Florida's Scouting program! We fortify the family! Our Cub Scout programs are completing rank advancement and preparing to graduate into Boy Scouts. This is the perfect time for outings for Boy Scout Troops, Sea Scout Ships, and Venturing Crews. Better yet, it is the perfect time for your Post Scouting Chairman to contact your local Boy Scout Council and ask them how you can start a new BSA Unit

during spring recruiting. Our Legion Scouting activities, especially those BSA Units that reflect the chartering Post numerals and carry their chartering Post's flags, extend the Post's influence into the community. Legion BSA units build rapport with the community. They incentivize potential new members to join your Post's total Legion Family. Take advantage of every Scouting event by submitting articles and capitalizing on social media posts about your Scouting units. One such event is the upcoming Eagle Scout of the Year. March 1st was the deadline for Posts to submit their nominees for Eagle Scout of the Year. I will have the privilege to lead a committee to rank our Department awards for Eagle Scout of the Year, but unfortunately I will not be able to see them awarded at convention this summer. I am unable to complete my duties as the Department

Scouting Chairman due to unforeseen training for DoD the remainder of the year. I am currently in Washington, D.C. as I write this article and will be out of state for most of the year. Therefore, I am putting a call out to any Legionnaire Scouters who love Scouting as much as I do and are willing to step up to the plate. Please contact Ms. Elizabeth Douglas, the Department Programs Director, if you are interested. I encourage all Posts to charter a Scouting Unit, recognize your Legion Family members who volunteer their time and talent to this mission essential program, and continue to weave Scouting into all your other Post activities. The results will be magnetic for your Post's membership numbers.

**Any Plans?**

*Bob Colbert, Social Media Chair*  
[socialmedia@legionmail.org](mailto:socialmedia@legionmail.org)



Happy Easter! Are you planning anything for your Post Family? How about your planning for Mother's Day and Memorial Day? I know that this is a strange place to read about such reminders BUT your (Social) Media people need to be on top of such things.

One question is; Does your Post Family have a Social Media person AND a Media person? In so many Posts, they are the same person and other

Posts have several people involved in GETTING THE WORD OUT. But, back to Social Media - you can use your GROUP page to collect volunteers to help with the upcoming activity. Use your FAN page to let part of the world know that it is coming. And, while you are at it, get the Post Family Media person to write up a "Press Release" and send it out to the local "Public Service Directors" at your local TV and Radio station to get some more PR. Radio and TV stations like to have 45-30 days notice on events like this so that they can schedule a crew. Newspapers are still in use (Did you know that?) and they should also be copied on the Press Release. They may be able to send a reporter or "stringer" to get a couple of pictures and a short story. Any publicity is usually good publicity, so

take all that you can get.

Introducing the idea of newspapers is not something that is new, but could often be overlooked. Remember the WWII veterans? They don't understand Facebook, Twitter or even necessarily the Internet. But, they do read newspapers and if you can get something in there, you could actually get another new member with some real history to share!

Convention is coming in July and we will see you there.

Any questions? Be sure to email me here at [SocialMedia@legionmail.org](mailto:SocialMedia@legionmail.org).





**A few words...**

Taz Gehling, Security Commission Chair  
[security@legionmail.org](mailto:security@legionmail.org)



I would like to say a few words regarding the **Law & Order** program. One is that the date to have your packets for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year is April 25th. I would ask that packets be turned in earlier

if possible. Also, please ensure that ALL the required information is included in the packets sent to department. This includes the required photo and the letter from the post. Packets MAY be disqualified if any of the required items are missing. Also remember that you can request certificates, at no charge, from department for your post winners by contacting Ms. Elizabeth Douglas.

I would like to remind every post about the **Youth Law Cadet Academy program**. This is a relatively new program. Department of Florida has partnered with Florida Highway Patrol (F.H.P.) which provides young men and women, between the ages 16 and 18, a hands-on learning experience with insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies. This year's session will be **July 8 – July 13, 2018**.

**April 21st at Island Coast HS in Cape Coral** will be hosting the Florida State Army JROTC State Championship for Marksmanship. If you can take a little time to come watch these young men and women, I think you will be impressed. These young men and women put a lot of time and effort into this competition. The Department of Florida, The American Legion is sponsoring this event. Please come out and support them.

I would like to say **"THANK YOU"** to **Bill Hoppner**,

**Disaster Preparedness Chairman** for everything he did during very trying times here in Florida. His team was able to get disaster relief supplies to needy post and personnel in amazing times. This is a testament to his leadership and the dedication he has to this department and to you, the Legion Family.

I would also like to take a few moments to remind everyone that with the recent tragedy in Parkland, FL that we take a moment to remember the brave first responders, as well as the faculty and students, involved in this incident. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers as they go through a trying time.

If you have any questions and/or concerns about any of the afore mentioned programs, please contact the appropriate Department Chairperson or myself.

**Service Connected Disabilities**

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements Chair  
[veteransbenefits@legionmail.org](mailto:veteransbenefits@legionmail.org)



A lot of veterans do not understand what a Service Connected Disability is and is not.

All information from FDVA Training and Reference Guide Establishing Service Connection

1. There are five primary ways of establishing that a disability is service-connected:

a. DIRECT- Service medical records show

that the condition claimed was diagnosed during military service, and the condition continues to affect the individual's industrial capacity. (38CFR3.304)

b. AGGRAVATION- By demonstrating that a condition that existed prior to military service was aggravated beyond normal progression during military service. (38CFR3.306)

c. PRESUMPTIVE- Radiation claims, Agent Orange claims, Persian Gulf, certain disabilities, tropical diseases, and certain POW conditions. The Veteran must have served 90 continuous days or more during a war period or after December 31, 1946. (38CFR3.307)

d. SECONDARY- By demonstrating that a condition is approximately the result of, or linked

to, an existing service-connected condition. (38CFR3.310)

e. INJURY AS A RESULT OF TREATMENT (38USC Sec 1151)- Where disease, injury, death or the aggravation of an existing disease or injury occurs as a result of having submitted to an examination, medical or surgical treatment, hospitalization or the pursuit of a course of vocational rehabilitation under any law administered by the VA and not the result of his (or her) own willful misconduct, disability or death compensation, or dependency and indemnity compensation will be awarded for such disease, injury, aggravation, or death as if such condition were service connected. (38CFR3.800, 38USC Sec. 1151)

**NEW Florida Legion Emblem Sales - Online Store  
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**A Higher Level**

Alan Cohen, VA&R Chair  
[var@legionmail.org](mailto:var@legionmail.org)



Only 2 months into the new year and things continue to be in full swing. It's with a sense of pride that I can tell you that our Entitlements Chairman has taken his class to a higher level. He has shared valuable information at the Riders Summit, the Legion College and at several Posts throughout the state.

Feel free to contact me or him to arrange for him to visit and share valuable information to the Legion family at your post too.

I'm happy to inform you that the VA Hospital in Miami has begun construction to expand their women's clinic to over 4 times it's original size. This project is well underway and we look for a soon-to-come conclusion.

Special mention this month goes to Nancy Troxel, a 23 year Legion Auxiliary member at Unit 286. Not only Nancy, but her husband Richard, a long time member at the same post, volunteer

at the Domiciliary at the Lake Baldwin hospital where they work with our fellow veterans on their rehabilitation needs. Thank you, Nancy and Richard for your dedication and giving spirits. In closing, I would encourage all who are interested to think in terms of early registration for the Post Service Officer class to be given at the Department Convention. We're once again anticipating a very large class and the registration forms are online now on the Dep't website. Don't wait 'til the last minute! I look forward to seeing you all there.

**Programs Support**

Bob Brewster, Youth Law Cadet Chair  
[youthlawcadet@legionmail.org](mailto:youthlawcadet@legionmail.org)



Well, the school year is starting to run down. If you haven't found your recruits for the Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program, you better do it real soon. I have received some

complaints from the southern area of the state on the subject of transportation. All I can say is, for the last 25 years that I know of, these same Posts have sent boys and girls all the way to Tallahassee, Florida for Boy's State &

Girl's State. Our program is in Tallahassee at the Florida Highway Patrol Academy.

We have worked hard and very close with the Academy officials who suggested most of our rules. These are the same rules that we found in the 8 to 10 Departments that we received information from on their programs. As I mentioned many times, you will find the best kids in your area by contacting the Sheriff's Explorer groups because these kids have already expressed an interest in law enforcement.

Program runs from Sunday, July 8, 2018, through Friday, July 13, 2018. If you need any help from me on anything connected to this program, please

call me at: 904-272-1619. We have plenty of literature at Department and at my home. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

At this moment I know of 5 cadets who are submitting paperwork for this program. We would like to have coverage from all over the state. We have our counselors in place which will include 2 men and 1 woman. All required paperwork is available on line at Department, and you will find it under programs. Looking forward to our most successful year ever. (3rd Year)

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

## POST EVERLASTING



Roy R. Mahoney  
Past Department Commander

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past Department Commander, Roy R. Mahoney, of Delray Beach, FL on December 23, 2017 at the age of 86. Roy is survived by his wife, Marie, and two children, Stephen Mahoney and Lisa Mahoney Datz. There was a private family service held for him.

Roy is a Korean United States Air Force veteran and a member of Post 65, with 56 continuous years of membership. Roy entered the United States Air Force in May 1952. He received his honorable discharge in May 1956. His prior service included over 4 years duty with the New York National Guard as a communications technician. Roy was employed by the Federal Aviation Administration at the Air Route Traffic Control Center in Miami, Florida from June 1956 thru January 1988. He retired after completing 35 years of dedicated and meritorious service for the United States Government. Roy also served many roles during his impressive career in The American Legion. Roy was former Post Adjutant (1992-2010); Post Commander (1991-93 & 2006-10); Department School Medals Chairman (1977-79); 10th District Commander (1989-90); Department Historian (1980-82 & 1997-99); Vice Commander – Southern Area (1992-93); and Department Commander (1999-2000). On a National level, Roy served on the National Membership & Post Activities Committee (1964-66); National Distinguished Guests Committee (1966-67); National Security Council (1967-70); National Foreign Relations Council (1978-80 & 2001-07); National Legislative Council (1987-94 & 1999-2013); National Public Relations Commission (1980-2001); and National Historian (1984-85).

If you would like to send your condolences you may do so through his wife, Marie Mahoney, at 15193 E. Tranquility Lake Drive, Delray Beach, FL 33446. his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers in this time of grief. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Elaine, at 406 S. Cypress Rd., Apt. 324, Pompano Beach, FL 33060.



Gerald "Jerry" Clark  
Past Central Area Commander

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past Central Area Commander, Gerald "Jerry" Clark, of Holiday, FL on Monday, February 26, 2018 at the age of 91. Jerry is survived by his wife, Doris, of Holiday, Florida; son, Philip (Marianne) Clark of Washington, Massachusetts; granddaughter, Rev. Linnea Clark of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; daughter, Marlene (Jerry) Ungerleider of Holiday, Florida; two grandsons, Eric Clark and Corey Ungerleider along with three great grandchildren, Tyler, Ashley and Kayla Clark. He is also survived by a second daughter, Virginia (Timothy) Leason of Chandler, Arizona; three grandsons, Adam, Joseph and Ryan Leason; and four great grandchildren, Blake, Autumn, Adaline and Skylar Leason.

Jerry Clark was a WWII Army Veteran and a member of Post 173, with 52 continuous years of membership. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers in this time of grief. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Doris, at 1839 Mary Ln., Holiday, FL 34690. Visitation will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2018 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm, with Military Services at 3:00pm at Thomas B. Dobies Funeral Home, 4910 Bartlett Road, Holiday, FL 34690. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Southeastern Guide Dogs for Veterans. <https://www.guidedogs.org/>  
See more at – <http://www.dobiesfuneralhome.com/obit.php>





| March 22, 2018<br>95% Target Report (Currently 90.46% ) |                   |        |
|---|-------------------|--------|
| 11  | Donna Artola      | 97.68% |
| 4   | Victoria VanBuren | 95.50% |
| 7   | David Tucker      | 94.33% |
| 16  | Raymond Perez     | 93.72% |
| 6   | Michael Seidel    | 93.35% |
| 15  | Richard Little    | 92.31% |
| 8   | Jerry Faught      | 91.51% |
| 5   | Troy Horsley      | 91.45% |
| 1   | Raymond Olsen     | 91.00% |
| 12  | Bruce Thurber     | 90.17% |
| 13  | Michael Raymond   | 89.97% |
| 17  | Michael Wolohan   | 89.11% |
| 9   | Donald Schwiesow  | 87.32% |
| 2   | John Folsom       | 86.70% |
| 3   | Frederick Hutto   | 83.11% |
| 14  | Gary Decker       | 79.19% |
| Central   | Jay Allen         | 93.48% |
| Eastern   | Daryl Bass        | 91.98% |
| Northern  | Jeffrey Durden    | 90.89% |
| Southwestern  | Dennis Walsh      | 90.67% |
| Western   | James Brennan     | 90.21% |
| Southern  | James Tewes       | 88.26% |
| Post 400  |                   | 90.85% |
| Post 208  |                   | 85.62% |



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## 2018 CONVENTION VOTING GUIDE

During the 2017 Department Convention, the membership voted to adopt a new method for voting for Department Officers. All voting for Department Officers will now take place via ballots and scanned with electronic tabulation machines. This will provide a private setting in which to cast secret ballots and expedite the voting process. This guide will provide some pertinent information for the voting process at your 2018 Department Convention.

The annual election of Department officers shall be by special order of business, the results of which should be announced at 1:00 P.M., or as soon as practical thereafter, on the day set for adjournment of the Convention or at the call of the Chair.

Voting for all elected Department Officers shall be by official ballot provided upon registration to any Posts so registered based on paid delegate strength. All official ballots are the responsibility of the acting chairman of each delegation and shall not be replaced for any reason under any circumstances.

How does Department come up with delegate strength? Each Post shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates and to one (1) additional delegate and alternate for each additional (100) one hundred members provided that the per capita tax is paid fifteen (15) days prior to the Department Convention.

Additionally, according to Section 6, Article 5 of the Department Constitution, a member of the Department Executive Committee shall be a delegate. Therefore, the Post that they are a member of will receive one additional vote.

Each Post will receive one (1) official ballot for every paid delegate at the time of registration with the exception of the Past Department Commander's ballot, which will be provided on the floor at the time of voting as detailed in Section 6, Article V of the Department Constitution. Ballots may either be voted collectively by the acting chairman of each delegation or individually by Post delegates to the Convention. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from the Post.

Those candidates having an endorsement on file at Department by May 30, 2018, will be pre-printed on the ballot. The ballots shall provide for a write-in candidate for each office, should one be nominated off the Convention floor without prior endorsement by their respective Post.

Nominations for Department Officers shall be from the floor of the Convention. Nominating speeches shall be limited to five (5) minutes each. No more than two (2) seconding speeches shall be made for each candidate, each of which shall not exceed two (2) minutes.

Immediately following nominations, ballot voting shall begin on electronic scanning equipment provided by the Orange County Supervisor of Elections. All ballot voting shall be completed by 1:00 p.m. except Posts still in line to vote at that time. Once all the votes have been scanned the election is closed and tally begins.

A team of election officials will oversee the election process. These officials shall consist of an employee of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, the Assistant Department Adjutant, and the Department Assistant Judge Advocate or a representative appointed by the Department Commander in his/her absence.

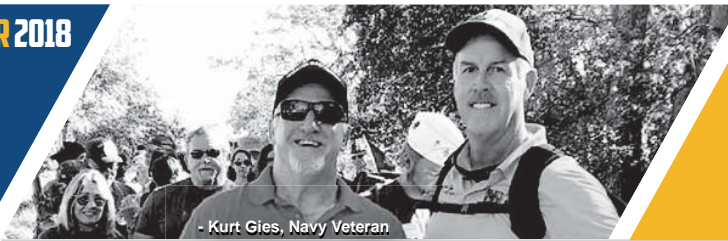
The election officials will examine any ballot rejections to determine the intent of the ballot. If a ballot reflects votes for two (2) candidates for the same office that ballot will have that one (1) office's vote cancelled and the balance of the ballot cast as presented. Should duplicate ballots be presented, the scanners will reject the votes from both ballots.

The election officials will supervise the vote tally collected by the scanners. The candidate for each office that receives the most votes shall be declared the winner. The results will be placed in an envelope which will be presented to the Secretary of the Convention (Department Adjutant) on the Convention stage to be announced.

In cases of a tie vote, a roll call of Posts for the purpose of casting their votes for the tied candidates shall continue until one candidate receives the majority of votes cast, the roll call is complete or until there shall be only one candidate for a particular Department office.

All official ballots will be retained as permanent record of the Department for a period of two (2) years.





- Kurt Gies, Navy Veteran

"By providing financial aid to desperate vets who are on their 'last bit of rope', PVR clearly has a role in suicide prevention."  
 - Kurt Gies, Navy Veteran (pictured above)

# PROJECT: VETRELIEF

## Spotlight: Michael & Jeremy

Michael Beaven has recovered from his recent surgery and is now back in the office as of Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. With having him back, this means PROJECT: VetRelief will now have *two* people processing financial assistance cases; which is something our program has never had before. We are really thrilled to have two folks on the PVR Team doing their best to help our service members and their families!

As you probably already know, both Michael and Jeremy are veterans themselves. They have a different skill set and background that they bring to our organization. However, both are passionate about supporting their fellow comrades in whatever capacity they can. Having both of them working closely together will create a balance in our processes that will ultimately provide a higher quality service to those who need us.

Both gentlemen will be working on a part time basis, but their schedules are balanced so that a case worker will be in the office every work day. Below is their contact information and hours they will be in the office:



**Michael Beaven**  
 mbeaven@floridalegion.org  
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
 8:00am - 4:00pm



**Jeremy Gottschalk**  
 jgottschalk@floridalegion.org  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
 8:00am - 4:00pm

## ADVOCATE Corner: "How to Build a Board Ready Case"

We have put together a list of items that will help "speed up" the application process. Our goal is to help our veterans and their families in a promptly manner. However, the process can be delayed when we are waiting on supporting documentation or an Advocate to do an interview on our behalf. There have been situations where a completed case has been submitted to the Board for Approval **that same day** because the Advocate followed these steps below.

**1. Be sure application is filled out correctly.** Ensure that the applicant, veteran or family member, has completed the **entire** financial assistance application.

One major thing to verify with the applicant is the Financial Information, or Section 4 on Page 3 of the form. It's important that the applicant fill in the information for reoccurring monthly income and expenses; do not include one-time revenue or expense items.

Another thing that gets overlooked is the signature on the bottom of Page 3. We will not be able to process a case without a signature.

**2. Include all supporting documents.** All required documents are necessary to complete a case: DD-214, Military ID Card or VA Card, Marriage and/or Birth Certificants (if applicable), Copy of Bills needing paid, Letter of Hardship, Pay Stubs, Social Security or Disability Award Letters. Additional documents *may* be necessary for completion, such as: adoption papers, employment offer letter, bank statements, etc.

The letter of hardship should explain how the applicant has fallen onto hard times and does not need to be a lengthy document of their entire life story. It should also state what type of funding they are seeking. (EX: *one month's rent, electric and gas bill, etc.*)

One of the guidelines for funding is sustainability. To prove that an applicant is sustainable, proof of income is required.

**3. Fill out Follow Up Report (PVR) or Investigator's Report (TFA).** Since you are already working with the applicant, go ahead and fill out the appropriate Follow Up or Investigator's Report and send in with the veteran's application.



## LEADERBOARD: Results from Commander's Charity and Challenge

We'd like to thank the following Posts, Units, Squadrons and Chapters who have already submitted their donations (order is listed by date received, not by amount given):

Commander's Charity Donations = **\$34,768.00**

|     |     |       |        |     |     |    |
|-----|-----|-------|--------|-----|-----|----|
| 328 | 378 | 270   | 172    | 107 | 58  | 74 |
| 66  | 16  | 155   | SQ 183 | 119 | 389 | 69 |
| 252 | 230 | 129   | 243    | 157 | 222 | 79 |
| 366 | 6   | CH 43 | 267    | 325 | 103 |    |

PVR Challenge Donations = **\$17,540.00**

|     |        |     |    |        |     |       |
|-----|--------|-----|----|--------|-----|-------|
| 283 | 67     | 309 | 63 | AUX 72 | 158 | CH 28 |
| 6   | SQ 112 | 152 |    |        |     |       |

**SUPPORT CASES**  
 JULY 2017-JAN 2018 TOTALS

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| families helped | amount distributed |
| <b>78</b>       | <b>\$73,636.95</b> |

\*Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY



**DO YOU  
HAVE WHAT  
IT TAKES?**

**BECOME A  
DEPARTMENT  
CHAIRMAN!**

**MAKE  
AN  
IMPACT**

**2018**

**2019**



\_\_\_\_\_  
YEARS IN LEGION

\_\_\_\_\_  
DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
POST

\_\_\_\_\_  
AREA

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
POSITION INTERESTED IN

EXPLAIN YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

LEGION SCHOOLS ATTENDED:     ALEI             Florida Legion College             National Legion College             Sgt-at-Arms             Chaplain  
 National LEAD Classes             \_\_\_\_\_             \_\_\_\_\_

| POSITIONS HELD | YEARS AT POST LEVEL | YEARS AT DISTRICT LEVEL | YEARS AT AREA LEVEL | YEARS AT DEPT LEVEL |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Commander      |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Vice Commander |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Adjutant       |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Sgt-at-Arms    |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Historian      |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Chaplain       |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Membership     |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Americanism    |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Baseball       |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Blood Donor    |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Boy Scouts     |                     |                         |                     |                     |

| POSITIONS HELD          | YEARS AT POST LEVEL | YEARS AT DISTRICT LEVEL | YEARS AT AREA LEVEL | YEARS AT DEPT LEVEL |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Boys State              |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Children & Youth        |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| JROTC                   |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Shooting Sports         |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Law & Order             |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Oratorical              |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| POW/MIA                 |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| School Medals           |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Women Veterans Advocate |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Youth Law Cadet         |                     |                         |                     |                     |
| Other                   |                     |                         |                     |                     |

PLEASE RETURN TO: The American Legion, Dept of Florida, Attention: Dianne Boland, P.O. Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854

*American Legion*  
*Central Area Family Sunset Celebration Ball*  
*(Change of Venue)*

Hosted by *Central Area Commander*  
*Jay Allen*

**2017-2018**



Honoring Active Military and Veterans along  
with the American Legion Family

**Dress: Dressy/Casual (Shorts & Sandals—no Flip Flops)**

**Date: 10th of March 2018**

**Place: American Legion Post 252**  
**11433 Park Blvd N, Seminole, FL 33772**

**Time: 5:30 p.m. is registration , 6:30 p.m. reception**

**7:00 p.m. dinner with dancing afterwards**

**Recommended dinner donations will be \$30.00 each or two for \$50.00**

**(Limit of 150 tickets).**

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**Hotels will be available**

**Sent out Separately before the 27<sup>th</sup> of February**



# *Central Area Family Sunset Celebration Ball*

## *Menu*

*Meal ticket you get your choice of meals:*

*(1 selection)*

*Prime Rib\_\_\_\_\_*

*Chicken Breast\_\_\_\_\_*

*Jumbo Fried Shrimp\_\_\_\_\_*

*With your choice of Potato and Chefs choice dessert.*

*Send your selection to [rlallen262@gmail.com](mailto:rlallen262@gmail.com) or mail along with your check.*

**CUT OFF DATE FOR DINNER SELECTION IS: March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**All Checks made payable to:**

**Jay Allen**

**Mail all checks to: Becky Allen**

**5340 Clover Mist Dr.**

**Apollo Beach, FL 33572**

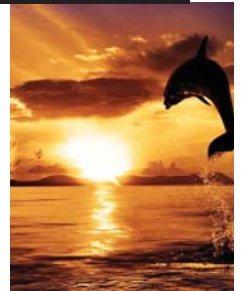
**CUT OFF DATE FOR ADS IS: February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Full page ad: \$50.00    Half page ad: \$25.00**

**Send camera ready ads, pictures or PDF and comments by E-mail to:**

**[7thdistrict@legionmail.org](mailto:7thdistrict@legionmail.org)**

**Any questions Please feel Free to contact Central Area Commander  
at (813) 633-1591**





# THE AMERICAN LEGION

*For God and Country*

Greetings Legion Family,

The American Legion Department of Florida will be hosting its **100<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Convention** July 5-8, 2018 at the Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821.

We wanted to give each Post the unique opportunity to be recognized by advertising in our Convention Program Book. This is your chance to send well wishes for a successful convention; announce outstanding membership goals; inform of special projects; thank your officers for a great year; announce new officers or pay tribute to a special member of your post!

This year's Convention Program Book will be a ***special full color edition***, in celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> Convention and the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of The American Legion. It is sure to be a keepsake that any Legion Family member will be proud to have for years to come.

There are three different advertisement layouts to choose from: full page, half page or quarter page. The following rates are exclusive to our Legion Family Members, Posts, Units and Squadrons:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <u>Full Page Color Advertisement (7.5" x 10")</u>    | <del>\$400</del> Legion Member Discount: \$200 |
| <u>Half Page Color Advertisement (7.5" x 5")</u>     | <del>\$250</del> Legion Member Discount: \$125 |
| <u>Quarter Page Color Advertisement (3.75" x 5")</u> | <del>\$150</del> Legion Member Discount: \$75  |
| <u>Custom Design Fee (Any Size)</u>                  | <i>Only offered to Legion Family:</i> \$25     |

**ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2018**

***No late submissions will be accepted.***

The American Legion appreciates your support of our veterans that have served and continue to serve our great country. We extend our ever-lasting gratitude to our men and women in uniform. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Scowden, Event Coordinator at 407-295-2631 ext. 232 or via email at [events@floridalegion.org](mailto:events@floridalegion.org).

Sincerely,

Michael McDaniel  
Department Adjutant

P.S. Submit and pay for your ad online, with a credit card, at [www.floridalegion.org/book](http://www.floridalegion.org/book)!



**100<sup>TH</sup> Annual Department Convention, July 5-8, 2018**

The Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name of Member, Post, Unit or Squadron

Contact Person

Title

Phone

Email

**PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT FOR LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS, POSTS, UNITS, AND SQUADRONS ONLY**

|  |
|--|
| <p>FULL PAGE<br/>ADVERTISEMENT<br/>\$200</p> <p>7.5" X 10"</p> |
|--|

|  |
|--|
| <p>HALFPAGE<br/>ADVERTISEMENT<br/>\$125</p> <p>7.5" X 5"</p> |
| <p>HALFPAGE<br/>ADVERTISEMENT<br/>\$125</p> <p>7.5" X 5"</p> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>QUARTER<br/>PAGE<br/>\$75</p> <p>3.75" X 5"</p> | <p>QUARTER<br/>PAGE<br/>\$75</p> <p>3.75" X 5"</p> |
| <p>QUARTER<br/>PAGE<br/>\$75</p> <p>3.75" X 5"</p> | <p>QUARTER<br/>PAGE<br/>\$75</p> <p>3.75" X 5"</p> |

Full Page Ad (7.5"x10") - **\$200**

Half Page Ad (7.5"x5") - **\$125**

Quarter Page Ad (3.75"x5") - **\$75**

Custom Design Fee - **\$25**

**Advertisements must be submitted no later than May 13, 2018 to be included in the program.** 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. All advertisements will be full color. All imagery must be legally licensed. The American Legion, Department of Florida reserves the right to redesign any advertisement due to required formatting or licensing issues.

**Please email artwork to:** [events@floridalegion.org](mailto:events@floridalegion.org)

**PAYMENT METHOD**

Credit Card     Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to American Legion, Department of Florida

**CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**

Visa     MasterCard     American Express     Discover    Total to Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #

Cardholder Name

Expiration Date

CVV Code

I authorize The American Legion, Department of Florida to charge the amount listed above to the credit card provided herein. I agree to pay for this purchase in accordance with the issuing bank cardholder agreement.

Signature

Date

**Submit to:** The American Legion, Dept of Florida, Attn: Event Coordinator; PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854-7859