



# THE LEGION LINK

COMMUNICATION ★ DEDICATION ★ EDUCATION



APRIL 2019

COMMANDER DIANNE BOLAND

VOL. 27 ISSUE 8

## From Your Department Commander Dianne Boland

[commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:commander@floridalegion.org)



April showers bring May Flowers! Yes, summer is right around the corner and so is our Convention - June 27th through the

30th to be exact. Do you have your room reservation yet? Or gone to the web to look at the schedule? Did you think to ask a new member if they would be interested in attending? That's part of being a mentor.

With membership, it is not the passing of our WWII & Korean War veterans bringing our numbers down, it is the lack of retention of our current members. From 2014 until 2018, Florida had 53,950 members not renew their membership. Some of this could have been stopped if we had done a better job of mentoring, of showing support, and taking a personal interest.

You all should have heard of Buddy Check by now. It works! Offer to help. Make phone calls. Check on expired members either by phone or in person and ask how they are doing and if there is anything we can do to help them. Have a list of VA Service Officers nearby when

you call. Then follow up the next day. Ask if they got the help they needed, at least make sure they got ahold of someone.

If you get around to talking about rejoining, be prepared to answer the question "Why should I belong?" Maybe you can say "I can't tell you why you should join but I can tell you why I joined," then explain further about your reasons.

How are your 100 Year Birthday Celebrations doing? I have attended several and hope to attend a few more. I enjoyed myself everywhere I went. Try and get the entire community involved. Invite the Boy Scouts; let the Girl Scouts sell cookies; give the animal shelter a table; hold a blood drive; whatever community groups you can share the day with. Remember to have your own membership table manned by the entire Legion family. Have a Service Officer there to answer questions and have fliers and brochures on our programs available.

Our Centennial Coins came out March 14th. Have you ordered yours yet? They make great gifts.

*continued on page 2 >>*

### In This Edition....

#### Officers

- 1 Commander
- 2 1st Vice Commander
- 3 2nd Vice Commander
- 3 3rd Vice Commander
- 4 NEC
- 4 Chaplain

#### Area Commanders

- 4 Northern Area
- 5 Southwestern Area
- 5 Eastern Area

#### Membership

- 7 Membership Chair
- 16 Membership Report

#### Chairs

- 5 Social Media
- 6 American Legion Riders
- 6 Post Development
- 8 Blood Donation
- 8 Security
- 8 State Legislation
- 9 Children & Youth
- 9 VA Entitlements
- 10 Florida Legion College
- 10 National Legislative
- 11 Resolutions
- 12 Scouting
- 12 Immigration
- 13 Law & Order
- 14 Project: VetRelief
- 15 ROTC/JROTC/Shooting
- 15 Youth Law Cadet

#### Department

- 5 Tax Exemption Certificates
- 17 State Oratorical Winners
- 18 District Constitutional Conferences
- 21 Department Convention Information

<< *Commander - from page 1*

Well, I see a lot of balls, picnics, homecomings and birthday celebrations in the near future. We will also have elections soon as well as Constitutional Conferences. Stay informed. Get involved. Check your paperwork for the deadlines of the program awards. Our CPR and Addendum's are due by May 15th. Not sure how to fill it out? Check the

Department website and utilize your District and Area officers.

Last but not least, have you taken the Basic Training computer course found at [Legion.org/ALEI](http://Legion.org/ALEI)? It's free and has great information covering our four pillars as well as our history. I suggest it for everyone regardless of how many years they have in the Legion

*Message from the 1st Vice Commander*

**Rick Johnson, 1st Vice Commander**

[1stvice@legionmail.org](mailto:1stvice@legionmail.org)



April showers bring May flowers. Children and Youth month. A pillar near and dear to my heart. The picnic will be at Post 117 April 6th. It's a great community event and

brings awareness to the community. I hope we have a great turnout. The C&Y golf tournament will be held at Post 347 on April 27th; see attached flyers for that. We are doing a lot of great things within the state but brand awareness is a big issue for us.

Not being a well-kept secret out there is our mission. There are numerous tools to use to highlight our organization. Get with your community leaders and see if they will do a proclamation for our 100th birthday celebration. This will give us a better chance to be more involved in the community. Get the media involved and do a press release, and if you need any help please contact us and we will guide you through the process.

Membership is doing ok, but we can do a lot better. Congrats to the 12th District in being number one again and the Eastern Area being in first place again. You're doing a great job out there and keep up the great work. Posts need to start working on their CPR's and get them ready to submit before May 15th.

With that being said, remember the Link is to be used to praise people out there for doing a great job. We are a volunteer organization and that's the only way we can sustain on what our mission is. We can't please everyone but we can praise everyone. Use the Link for that and not singling out certain individuals. Let's keep moving forward and doing the great work that YOU do out there and have a great month.

Enclosed will also be a COTA letter for April as it is also Organ Donation Month. Remember our special kids out there and help the families in need of help. Remember Khloe that we helped years ago? Well she has took a turn for the worst and I'll keep you updated. That sweet kid got me so involved in COTA, which is a Legion program.

Have a great month and thank you family in all you do and continue to do.

APRIL 2019	
1-30	Children & Youth Month
1-30	ALR Round Robin
1	Medical Scholarships App Due
2	Pascua Florida Day
3	100% Membership Goal
4	Gold Star Spouses Day
5-7	National Oratorical Contest ★
6	Children & Youth Picnic
6	Det Cmdr Homecoming
8-13	In-State Unity Ride
13	District 17 Meeting
13	ALR State Rally
13	Det President's Homecoming
15	Teacher of Year Nominations Due
15	Tax Day
15	Legion Link Articles Due
15	Baseball Zone Map Deadline
19	Good Friday - Dept. Closed
20	Passover
21	Easter
22	Earth Day
23	Army Reserve Birthday
24	Administrative Professional Day
25	LEO & Firefighter Nom. Due
26	Arbor Day
27	15th District Past Cmdr, Pres, & Dir. Dinner
27	C&Y Golf Tournament

☼ - Commander Dianne Boland's Attendance Tentative.

★ - National Event

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.

**Don't forget your  
Convention Book Ads!**

**Deadline  
May 15, 2019**

**[floridalegion.org](http://floridalegion.org)**



*Message from the 2nd Vice Commander***Jerry Brandt, 2nd Vice Commander**[2ndvice@legionmail.org](mailto:2ndvice@legionmail.org)

I hope you had a great March. With the number of Balls that took place, 100 Year Celebrations of the American Legion Birthday, and the Race to the Top, March has been a busy month. Now we have April and tax season, and we find out we still have work to do, such as having a second reading of nominations, preparing Officers for their new Post positions, picking out new Chairmanships for the various programs, etc.

This is a time to start the training process for your teams. If you need help with

training, reach out to your District and Area Commanders to get this assistance. They have the knowledge of the Posts and the District behind them and can assist with these new Officers and Chairs at your local Posts.

In March I attended the Department Oratorical Contest where five young students gave great speeches on our government. I also attended the 7th, 8th, and 13th District meetings. We have completed a lot; the progress and the energy within the Central and South Western Area is showing, please keep this up.

Please note, as of March 8th, we have the following Department of Florida membership standings

- 13th District is #3
- 15th District is #4

- 16th District is #5
- 8th District is #8
- 7th District is #12

Please keep up the good work.

Commanders, keep pushing awards. It is nice to be able to come up to the stage at the Convention to receive your awards. Some awards you should look for is the following:

- End of the Year Reports (Due by May 15th)
- 100% Post Award
- Firefighter, EMT and Policeman of the Year Awards (Due by April 25th)
- Color Guard Award
- Membership Awards, Gold and Silver Brigade (Due by May 31st)

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

*Message from the 3rd Vice Commander***Eunice Butts, 3rd Vice Commander**[3rdvice@legionmail.org](mailto:3rdvice@legionmail.org)

My, where has the year gone? Now is the time to do your Children and Youth programs, and also prepare and turn in your CPRs (National and Department). If your Post needs help

doing the CPRs, please contact your District Commander and I am sure they will be happy to help and go through the guidelines with you.

I would like to see more Posts participate in the Awards Programs. Children and Youth; Best Children and Youth Chairman, Americanism, Teacher of the Year, etc. You do the programs and do a good job in your communities; people deserve to be recognized for their work.

Let's keep getting memberships. This is a suggestion only, but have you ever thought about doing an analysis of your Post and where you stand in attracting veterans and the community? Hold a round table discussion with the officers and members and listen to everyone who contributes information for the good of the Post.

The evaluation is not necessarily to just rate your Post; although this could be a very valuable tool; but how your American Legion Post interacts with your community. The main purpose is to indicate whether your Post is A) fulfilling a useful function, B) whether it is an organization attracting veterans and, C) whether it is truly a community asset. Be honest in evaluating your Post and community.

The evaluation will indicate where improvements is most needed or where you might brag about what your Post is doing greatly in the community for

the veterans, children and youth, etc. When you do a round table discussion instead of addressing this in a meeting, everyone can contribute. When you have your next executive board and regular meeting their will not be room for arguments, etc.

The students participating in the Oratorical Contest were very good. We would like to see more Post, District, and Areas participate.

By the time you read this article I would have attended the Eastern Area, Southwest Area, and Northern Area Balls. District 4 Commander's visitation is March 20-23, 2019. On March 24, 2019, I was honored to be guest speaker at church, thanking and giving appreciation to female veterans in Hillsborough County.

Thanks to each of you for the hard work that you do.

*Impact Report*

**Dennis Boland, NEC**  
*nec@legionmail.org*



866 Informal Hearing Presentations prepared by The American Legion for veterans disputing their VA benefits decisions were handled in January.

Post 23, and Wyoming Post 96. \$1,030,163 was disbursed by American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance cash grants in January 2019; a single month record. Most were delivered to active-duty U.S. Coast Guard junior enlisted members with minor children who missed their mid-January paychecks due to the Federal government shutdown. TFA grants assisted 3,160 minor children in the month of January.

Rehabilitation Division staff about progress on February 7.

81 former American Legion Baseball players will be in the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, NY, following induction ceremonies on July 21. Four of the six newest honorees – Roy Halladay, Mike Mussina, Lee Smith, and Harold Baines – made it to the Majors after playing Legion Ball.

812 Board of Veteran Appeals cases were decided in January with assistance from American Legion veteran's disability claims specialists.

1,200 is the estimated number of disabled and homeless veterans who will receive housing, health care and other forms of assistance on the 387-acre West Los Angeles VA Medical Center campus after construction is completed, according to a master strategic plan for the facility. VA officials briefed Legionnaires and American Legion Veterans Affairs &

812 American Legion Junior Shooting Sports teams competed in the first-round postal match in January. The national championships are scheduled for July 23-28, 2019, at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

6 new American Legion Posts chartered in the month of January: Colorado Post 176, District of Columbia Post 3, Illinois Post 1944, Texas Post 313, Washington

It's not who we are it's what we do.

*Challenge 22*

**Barry Roberts, Chaplain**  
*chaplain@legionmail.org*



With the month of April upon us we are reminded that we have eternal hope in the gift that God has given us.

Many veterans struggling with trauma have given up hope but everything is not lost. Praise God there is hope! Kirk Guies, myself and many others have been working very hard to be proactive

in serving our veterans struggling with trauma. Everything we have done has been through The American Legion so that The American Legion can benefit from it.

The proactive Challenge 22 Outreach is also an initiative the younger Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) veterans are interested in getting involved with. I would like to encourage everyone to like The American Legion, Department of Florida Chaplain's Facebook page. You will see posts of hope and encouragement.

You will also see a recent YouTube video that American Legion Post 63 created at one of our Challenge 22 events in Winter Garden.

We have an upcoming Challenge 22 event at the Vietnam reunion in Wickham Park Sunday morning May 12th at 11:30. Come join us as we raise awareness and network resources to serve veterans!

[www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains](http://www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains) or @[floridalegionchaplains](https://www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains)

*Northern Area Update*

**Mike Hutto, Northern Area**  
*northernarea@legionmail.org*

Well, we have April coming up and it is a great month to do Post Revitalization.

Thank you also to all the Posts that have attained 100% and I understand the difficulties in attaining that. Sometimes it

might be programs.

Another thing all Posts should think of doing...Buddy Check. Call veterans that you haven't heard from in a while just to talk and check on their well-being. This is a program that is designed to get some of our less active veterans to come to the Post and participate and possibly bring

other veterans.

Our job is to REINSTATE, RENEW AND RECRUIT.



*Sales Tax Information*

**Michael Raymond, Southwestern Area**  
[swarea@legionmail.org](mailto:swarea@legionmail.org)



As you may already know, the State of Florida has exempted all 501C-19 veterans' organizations from paying sales tax on the retail sales of alcoholic beverages in our canteens. It has come to the attention of the Florida Dept. of Revenue, Sales Tax Division that almost 200 Amvet's, VFW, and American Legion Posts have inadvertently or intentionally cancelled their sales tax accounts. Recently, the Dept. of Revenue has trained its agents to recognize this issue, especially when applying for special use and three day open to the public permits. It is imperative that all Posts continue or reinstate their sales tax accounts immediately. Sales tax must be submitted on any liquor sales to guests or other sales including shirts, caps, rental property, etc.

Anyway, a great time was had by all at our 100th Anniversary Kickin it on the Kanal celebration. It was a huge success with over 1,000-1,200 people attending. Lehigh Post 323 is having their 100th celebration on the 15th, followed by the SW Area Ball on the 16th at Post 110. Thanks, and a big shout out to the 13th District for an outstanding job with membership. Keep up the great work!

*Thoughts on Membership*

**James Burk, Eastern Area**  
[easternarea@legionmail.org](mailto:easternarea@legionmail.org)



Eastern Area Ball was great. It was held at Post 117 and the members did an outstanding job in decorating, food prep, and service. Thank you 117.

12th and 6th Districts continue to run neck and neck in membership. Kudos all around. After talking to 12th District SAL Commander Randy Chilcot recently, he mentioned they were struggling. At the District meeting

I asked all veterans that were eligible to consider joining the SAL. It's a win-win situation.

Think outside the box. Many of us are members of other groups like the Moose, Elks, VFW. etc. Ask people we meet there to consider the Legion. Carry blank applications. Talk to local law enforcement since many are veterans. Make sure your Post has WIFI.

Two Posts in District 12 recently went nonsmoking. They are already reaping the benefits of that. Just make sure you consider the smokers and reserve a place for them.

*Certificate of Exemption Forms*

There are several Posts that have expired Certificate of Exemption on file at Department Headquarters and others whose Certificates will expire soon.

If you are one of these Posts, please send a copy of your renewed Certificate of Exemption to Department at P.O. Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854-7859.

Contact Department Headquarters in order to verify your Post's current status.

*A Quick Note of Thanks*

**Deborah Wheeler, Social Media**  
[socialmedia@legionmail.org](mailto:socialmedia@legionmail.org)



Hello fellow Legionnaires,

I am so blessed by the number of fellow comrades who acknowledged my

husband passing. I am sorry to say he was a veteran who committed suicide.

I want to make sure we do Buddy Checks and ensure our veterans in distress get our help. Suicide prevention is a real problem and the numbers are staggering! Let us try to help our brothers and sisters that need help.

As far as Social Media, we can always do a better job at connecting with our members and getting the word out about our Posts and Districts.

*Legion Rider Summit and Events***Jim Wineland, Legion Riders**[legionriders@legionmail.org](mailto:legionriders@legionmail.org)

Hope this finds you all well and ready to finish out this term with a Big Bang. If you are interested in filling any of the ALR Chairman positions and have the time to

fulfil the commitment, please forward your application to Department. We have a great team in place, but it's time to build a bench for the future.

Hope everyone has completed the Centennial Ride and registered for the run in March. We could see a lot of good things happening out there to support our Centennial and raise donation for Post 375.

There has been a lot of work done in recruiting new Chapters. Please take a minute and welcome ALR Chapter 152 in Tampa. Give Director Mike "The Grouch" Thorpe a call at 443-465-6439 and congratulate them on their new Chapter.

Talking about new Chapters, I was in Lady Lake attending a National Legacy Ride meeting and left with a renewed optimism in the program. It was the Chapter's first time in the kitchen, and everyone survived the experience. Great

group of individuals with "Can Do" attitudes. For those that don't know, American Legion Post 347 in Lady Lakes has the largest membership not just in Florida, but the world!

Speaking of the National Legacy Ride, it will start at Post 347 in Lady Lakes this year. Keep an eye out for registration on the National website. We will need a count of how many are interested in going from Florida, we could end up with our own Flight.

Stay focused on our next events, the In-State Unity Ride and Rally. Everything is on the Department website. Hope the donations for the PVR/SPI are doing well.

After the In-State Unity Ride and Rally we have the Convention to prepare for. As it stands now, we will have the Chairman's meeting on Thursday from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM and the ALR General Session Friday afternoon from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We will have more info to follow.

**Carried forward from last month's Article** In-State Unity Ride will begin in Tampa on Sunday, April 7th, with a Meet & Greet and the ride will start Monday morning and end on Friday, April 12th, at Post 110. We will be stopping at 20 Posts along the way, picking up donations for Project: VetRelief (PVR), Suicide Prevention Initiative. Remember, all dollars collected go toward the trophy

dash. Don't forget to check the website and utilize AAA to get those room reservations.

On Saturday April 13, we will be leaving Post 110 for the State Rally. Post 103 has a special event for us to participate in on our way to the State Rally at Post 111. Post 111 in Tampa will host the Rally and they are really working on making this an event to remember.

If you missed the Coral-Head Music-Festival be sure you head to their new concert this year in England Bros Park, Pinellas Park, November 2-3. Their events support Project: VetRelief. Make sure you get it on your calendar and if you want to volunteer, call Rich at 305-942-9862.

As I mentioned before, one of the advantages of doing these Department activities in the same month is that it frees up the Riders to support the local events at their Posts and Districts which is a big part of our mission statement. This was also brought up in the survey to try to minimize Department activities because of the out of pocket costs and time involved.

Once again, thank you for what you do, and I am proud to be the Chairman of such a great group!

"For the Cause not the applause"

*Getting to 100%***Bob Brewster, Post Development**[mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com](mailto:mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com)

Last month we talked about the Buddy Check program. Each Post should have a committee of 2 to 5 people getting together to call all members of their Post who have not renewed yet. Too many Posts sit at the bar

and wait for membership to come to them. I will be contacting all District Commanders this week to get them to visit or contact each Post in their District that is not close to 100%. I will talk to the District Commanders about setting up a Membership Day or two in order to work the phones calling members who have not renewed and get them renewed asap. All Posts should be contacting

Legion members in their area who are at large. If we all get busy and do this, our Department will go well beyond the 100% goal. As always, I am a phone call away: 904-272-1619. If we don't work together now, when will we?



*Still Time to Do A Buddy Check*

**Bruce Thurber, Membership**  
[membership@legionmail.org](mailto:membership@legionmail.org)



We are a short time away from Convention so it's time to ensure you have all your Membership Award information together and sent to Department as soon as possible so that those

who deserve it get the proper recognition. The following National Awards applications are on the Department website: Gold Brigade Recruiter, Silver Brigade Recruiter, Department Recruiter of the Year, National Recruiter of the Year, Pioneer Award, and 100% District Commander Pin. The Post and District Awards Applications are also available.

It's also time for one last revitalization effort in every District. The lists can be downloaded from myLegion.org with phone numbers and emails to contact the members.

Although National Buddy Check week has come and gone, it's not too late to do your own. Do it as a Post, District, or Area.

1. Gather up a team if possible, to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of ten calls just

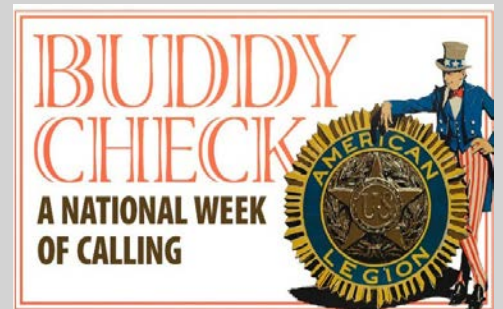
ten Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.

2. If you don't have a list of current and former members at your fingertips, visit myLegion.org and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.
3. Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. Print several copies of the lists.
4. Divide up the call list among your team members. Some may have personal connections with the member or former member and should make that particular buddy check.
5. Start calling – either from a quiet place inside the Post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help celebrate the Legion's 100th anniversary.
6. Use the spreadsheet to record your calls and identify those who haven't been members since 2014, 2015 or 2016. For each former member who rejoins from those years, your Post may receive a \$5 reward.

7. If you are making it a group effort where many members of your team are calling on a particular night or time, invite the local media to show The American Legion celebrating its 100th birthday the personal way: by checking in on their buddies in the community.
8. Make sure you thank the member or former member in the beginning and at the end of your call.
9. If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to have your Post's payment procedure at your fingertips, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).
10. Leave contact information in case the member or former member can't take the call or needs anything in the future.

You can get more information at:  
<https://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck>

RENEW-REINSTATE-RECRUIT



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
 DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA  
*Celebrating 100 Years!*  
 AVAILABLE ONLINE  
[floridalegionstore.org](http://floridalegionstore.org)

*Blood Donor Award Rules*

**Nancy Thomas, Blood Donor**

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

With the Consolidated Post Reports upon us here is the criteria for the Blood Donor Award:

**RULES:**

1. The National Consolidated Post Report and Department Addendum must be on file with the Department.
2. The report for judging must also contain a one-page narrative explaining what you did to have a successful Blood Drive, the number of donors, and

number of units of blood produced.

3. A Letter of Verification from your blood center on their stationery.
4. The report should be in a report folder and should include a copy of the Consolidated Post Report and Addendum.
5. The report must be on time based on the due date in the Post Administrative Manual.



**Department Convention**  
 Marriott Orlando World Center  
 Orlando, FL  
**June 27-30, 2019**

*National Security Brochures*

**Nancy Thomas, Security**

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



With the increasing urgency of National Security in our nation, the National Security Commission is dedicated to approaching our government to instill to our Congress and Representatives the

need for this country to be secure. Our troops are fighting not only overseas but in our own country to make sure this happens.

There are some great brochures to help you and your Post in this endeavor, they are: Access Granted, Blood Donor, and Disaster Preparedness.

We also have within the Department of Florida our wonderful Department

Chairs who you may contact for the following programs that the Security Commission gives guidance to and they are: myself as the Blood Donor Chair, Loretta Young the JROTC/Shooting Sports Chair, and Taz Gehling the Law and Order Chair. We all can be reached through the Department email and look forward to assisting you should you need us.

*March on Tallahassee a Great Success*

**Art Schwabe, State Legislative**

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



The March on Tallahassee was a great success. Everything I heard was positive. We focused on four bills. Three have a good chance of passing and one needs to be rewritten - H-513. At the "Know Before

You Go" we added the Monument Bill H-0097 & S0288 which would protect all monuments. It's history, it should not be erased or destroyed.

So Now We Have the RALLYWISE App.

What do you do?

Each bill will come up for a vote at some point. On the app, this will be noted by a green bar on the left side of the bill. At that time, contact your House and Senate

Representative and tell them by phone, email, Twitter, or Facebook that you support or don't support this particular bill. That's it!!! Takes about two to three minutes for your voice to be heard.

I would like to thank those who came to the March on Tallahassee. It was a great success. Nothing but good comments from House and Senate members.

Good Job Legion Family! Thank You!



*April is Children & Youth Month*

**Vickie Van Buren, Children & Youth**

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



April is Children and Youth Month and we have two very important C&Y fundraising events this month...our annual C&Y Picnic at Post 117 on April 6th in Palm Bay and our Golf

Tournament at Harbor Hills Country Club on April 27th. I want to thank the Legion Family of Post 117 for all their hard work! This year we have doubled our sponsorships and look forward to all the raffle items. We also look forward to a great Rider run this year! Registration starts at 9 AM with KSU at 10 AM. Cost is \$10 and \$5 for a passenger. All Rider participants will receive a C&Y patch. The picnic starts at noon and is free with food and T-shirts available for purchase.

Our Golf Tournament is on track with many excellent opportunities to improve your game! This has been a great year for sponsorships. Now we need some more team registrations. The cutoff date is April 18th. If you want to practice the day before, the Country Club is offering a round of golf the day before for \$35 each to include a cart. Don't forget they are also having a pitching and putting golf clinic the morning of the tournament from 10-11 AM for \$25 each and includes a box lunch. You must call 352-753-7711 to make a reservation for either event. This year we have a surprise celebrity golfer that will play a hole with each team and give pointers. Lady Lake Post 347 will have an Italian Dinner after the tournament where prizes will be awarded.

Every year the Florida American Legion Teacher of the Year is presented a check for \$500.00 during the Department

Convention. Applications are due to Department NLT April 15th. The application is on the Department of Florida C&Y website or attached to this Legion Link.

Eligibility includes:

1. Teachers in grades K-12 in any public, private, or parochial school or academy certified in the State of Florida, recognized by the Florida Department of Education. Teachers selected will have taught an academic course in the classroom.
2. Be nominated by a local American Legion Post.
3. Be endorsed by the School Board Superintendent of their county, their principal through letters of recommendation to be attached to the nomination form.

Do you know of a non-profit (501c) activity that provides financial support to programs and projects that enhance the lives of children in the State of Florida? You can help get them up to \$5000 to support their programs by submitting a grant application to the Department of Florida NLT May 1st. They must be well established in contributing to the physical, mental, and emotional welfare of children throughout the community of which service is provided. The application instructions are on the Department of Florida C&Y webpage.

Your Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs) will be due shortly. Make sure you track all your Children and Youth activities and their costs to include on your CPR submissions. Thank you for supporting our Children and Youth Programs!



*59th Washington Conference*

**Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements**

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



I had the opportunity to represent veterans at the American Legion 59th Annual Washington Conference to talk to Senators and Congressman about veterans' issues. Some of the issues we talked about where I felt the discussions went really well and were very productive:

- Redefine "wartime service"
- Support VA's suicide-prevention efforts
- Improve health care for women veterans
- Expand Agent Orange benefits
- Fully fund superior national defense
- Programs to end veteran homelessness
- Re-employment rights for veterans
- Repeal unfair VA offsets
- Protect the American Flag
- Support for Gold Star Families

**Sign up** for  
**TEXT ALERTS.**

**Text FLCON to 74121**

*Student Feedback on the FALC Class of 2019*

**Tom Gora, Legion College**  
[deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org](mailto:deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org)



Last month I reported that the Florida American Legion College Class of 2019 recently graduated. As FALC Chairman, one of my responsibilities is to seek participant feedback so we can improve the program, making it better every year. This year we had 22 in class and received 21 program surveys. I have submitted my report on the class to the FALC Committee with a copy to the leading candidate for Department Commander 2019-20 in preparation for the next FALC class.

FALC participants gave high ratings to the accommodations at the hotel and the training site (Orlando HQ). Obviously, the training and lodging environment does impact such a class; comfort and rest has an impact on a participant's ability to learn. Congratulations to Jennifer Scowden, Events Coordinator, for managing student

needs at the hotel and the training room. Thank you, Jennifer!

Here is a snapshot of participant comments about the National Commander's appearance at FALC:

- Precise, informative, good speaker
- Presentation was excellent
- Very reasonable and what he said was informative
- Listening to him was an honor, he knows so much about Legion history which shows how much he cares about veterans
- His presentation afforded me a lot of knowledge and left me with the curiosity of doing more research to gain more knowledge.

Most suggestions to improve the FALC dealt with functional issues such as having a computer and printer available for students to work on their Resolutions, making copies of draft Resolutions written in class to give to all participants, improving the classroom sound system, and include a class on processing membership on [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org). The FALC Committee will consider the suggestions to improve the program.



*March to the Hill*

**Paul Martel, National Legislative**  
[pmartelco@bellsouth.net](mailto:pmartelco@bellsouth.net)



A few words to let you know what your legislative delegation did in Washington D.C. for our March to the Hill to meet with our Florida Congressional

Delegation.

On Monday, the first day, everyone went to their respective appointments to do the business of: Resolution Subcommittee, Veterans Affairs & Rehab Committee, Veterans Employment & Education Committee, Legislative Commission, Law & Order & Homeland Security Committee, National Security Council, Cemetery Committee. These appointments were set up by our National Executive Committeeman and lasted all day.

On Tuesday, we met at 8:00 AM to attend a "Before You Go" briefing which lasted until noon. The purpose was to inform us of what our Representatives in Washington are thinking and doing to help with our agenda to serve veterans. There were many members of Senate and Congress, and well-known individuals sharing information with us.

After this, we left for our appointments on the Hill and met with our Representatives; we had the knowledge and our handouts and tri-folds, ready to speak on thirteen major agendas that are paramount to the 116th Congress. We had seventeen delegates representing you, but there were approximately 800 Legion members from all parts of the world who went to the Hill.

*continued on page 11 >>*

<< *National Legislative- from page 10*

I would like to say that we, Florida, had representatives from all our Family - the Legion, Auxiliary, and our Sons of the American Legion. Some of these delegates got back to the hotel after 7:00 PM. A few paid their own way. On behalf of all of you, I would like to say thank you to all the Florida delegates who went.

On Wednesday, 8:30 AM, the delegates who had tickets attended the joint testimony before Congress to hear our National Commander Brett Reistad speak to our legislature and answer questions from them. The meeting was held at the Dirkson Building and as tickets were limited, I am guessing that 250 to 300 people out of the 800 there were

Legionnaires. Our National Commander did an outstanding job explaining our position on the legislative agenda.

This is a brief overview of what happens in Washington - it's a lot of work, time, and money, but it's all worth it if we accomplish our goal: to keep fighting for our veterans, they will not be forgot!

**Resolution Checklist**

**Clarence Hill, Resolutions**  
[resolutions@legionmail.org](mailto:resolutions@legionmail.org)



If you are considering transmitting a proposed resolution beyond your Post, you should ensure that the subject matter is truly relevant to the principles of

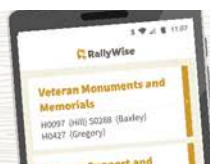
our organization. The Preamble to the Constitution can be used as a general guide as to the boundary within which subject matter should be kept. Posts should also be wary of becoming a channel through which non-Legion organizations seek to achieve their own goals.

- Is it relevant? A resolution that calls for saving the environment of the spotted woodpecker might make some people happy, but what does it have to do with the mission of The American Legion? The American Legion might support legislation that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain for oil exploration since it impacts on our national security and economic well-being as a nation.

- Does The American Legion already have a position on the subject? If so, the proposed resolution will be “received and recorded.”
- Can the subject matter be taken care of administratively without the need for a resolution? If so, there is no need for the proposed resolution.
- Does the resolution involve a local issue? If so, again, there is no need for the proposed resolution.
- What legislation is involved? Avoid quoting references to the numbers or titles used in proposed legislation, whether the bills proposed are at the local, county, state or national level. The text of these bills may change to such an extent that you end up appearing to support legislation that is not good for veterans or your particular cause. Always write directly about the subject, not a title or bill number.
- Is it reasonable that the intent of the resolution can be realistically attained? Calling for the elimination of terrorism sounds great, but why draft such a resolution if it cannot be realistically accomplished, unless there are sound ideas and suggestions

in the resolution as to how this can be done.

- Does the resolution deal with a politically sensitive issue? Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution states: “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.” The Corporate Charter, 36 USC Section 21706 states: “The corporation shall be nonpolitical and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office.”
- Should The American Legion be involved in the issue? Because we do not have research physicians on staff, we should not recommend and advocate for a specific medication. But you can certainly call upon the VA to use the most appropriate medication to treat the patients under their care, regardless of cost?
- Is it simple or complex? Remember to keep the resolution to one subject. Submit two separate resolutions in the case of two different objectives.



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CELEBRATING



### Managing Your Scout Units

**Chuck Weber, Scouting**

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



As a Post Commander or Post Scouting Chair you will want to make sure that your Post's chartered Scout units are delivering the best Scouting program that you are able to

provide. While the Scout unit leaders run the day-to-day operations, you will need to exercise oversight management just to ensure that some very important, but occasionally overlooked, issues are addressed.

The most important issue is the safety of our Scouts when they are in our care. BSA publishes a Safe Scouting Manual that gives specific guidance for keeping our Scouts safe in various activities and situations. In addition to these physical

safety matters, there is always the social safety requirement that two adults, over the age of 21, are present for ALL contacts with any youth member. This includes meetings, telephone, texting and internet contacts. If you have units that now have girls registered, there are new additional requirements for adult female presence.

Make sure that your Scout unit leaders are following these rules all the time. If something goes wrong and you did not follow the required rules, the BSA General Liability insurance and indemnification will not protect the Post or its officers.

Another large area of concern is the continuance of the Scout unit. You will want to make sure there is a successful plan to keep the Scouts you have and to recruit new ones. Currently, Scouting is experiencing a large loss in retention nationwide. Mostly this is due to untrained adult leaders,

insufficient numbers of adult leaders and poor programs. Make sure your Post's Scouting Chair/Charter Rep is continually monitoring the unit to address these issues if they arise. Help is available from many skilled volunteer Scouters in your local Scouting District.

In previous Legion Link articles we addressed financial issues of your unit. Be sure that you follow the BSA rules and that the unit is getting fundraising approval from you and is reporting its financial condition to the Post frequently. The Scout unit's finances are the Post's finances and you need to keep track of them just like the regular Post funds. The Post's non-profit status and tax exemption status relies on this.

Remember that your Scout units will need your involvement to help them succeed. Units that are ignored eventually wither away and may close.

### Assisting MANVI Veterans

**Omer Smith, Immigration**

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

Immigrants have been serving in the US Armed Forces since this Nation was born. Recent data indicated more than 65,000 immigrants are currently serving in the military. Of that number, 18,700 hold green cards and are legal residents. According to the Pentagon, about 5,000 such residents enlist each year.

Data indicates since late-2001, more than 109,300 immigrant US troops have been naturalized. An estimated 11,000 became naturalized in ceremonies held in war zones such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and other major hot spots throughout the world, i. e., Jordan, Libya, Bahrain, Guantanamo Bay, Djibouti, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Qatar, Turkey and the United

Arab Emirates.

The military obligation before an immigrant can apply for naturalization is to serve one year, obtain lawful permanent resident status, and file an application while still in the service or within six months of separation.

One program the military; used especially by the United States Army; created to encourage foreign-born, legal permanent residents (Green Card holders) to enlist was the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interests (MAVNI). For their needed skills, the military promised a fast track to citizenship. Thousands enlisted. Unfortunately, the program stalled and was suspended for some time when the US Army took exception to the screening process. Many enlistees were left in limbo after being a part of

delayed entry and then not being called to basic training. Eventually they were notified that their contract was null and void. Many who had started basic training or Advanced Individual Training were discharged immediately for various reasons to include family members still in a foreign country not on friendly terms with the United States. One story indicated more than 500 recruits were discharged over a 12-month period, leaving many in an uncertain status and subject to deportation.

Many of these cases are pending in the Immigration Court System which is currently operating at a snail's pace. This means it could be years before cases are heard. Legal resident status can change and subject the individual to deportation through no fault of his/her own. I reiterate again, these are not

*continued on page 13 >>*

<< *Immigration- from page 12*

the illegals that come here by crossing the border without documentation. These are individuals who are or were legal residents, entered the United States legally and raised their hand to serve their adopted country. It is not up to you and me to judge these individuals. That process is up to the Immigration Court. It is up to you and me to help these individuals who enlisted in the U. S. Military under the MAVNI program and were summarily discharged and not allowed to fulfill their military contract and dream of becoming a Naturalized US Citizen.

They need our help. If you should identify a foreign born, non-citizen US veteran, please forward the name and contact information to me at [Immigration@legionmail.org](mailto:Immigration@legionmail.org). I will forward the information to our partnered immigration attorneys, Rambana & Ricci, P. L. L. C. for review and action. Remember we are "Still serving America" and America's veterans—all veterans!

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### Four Legged Heros

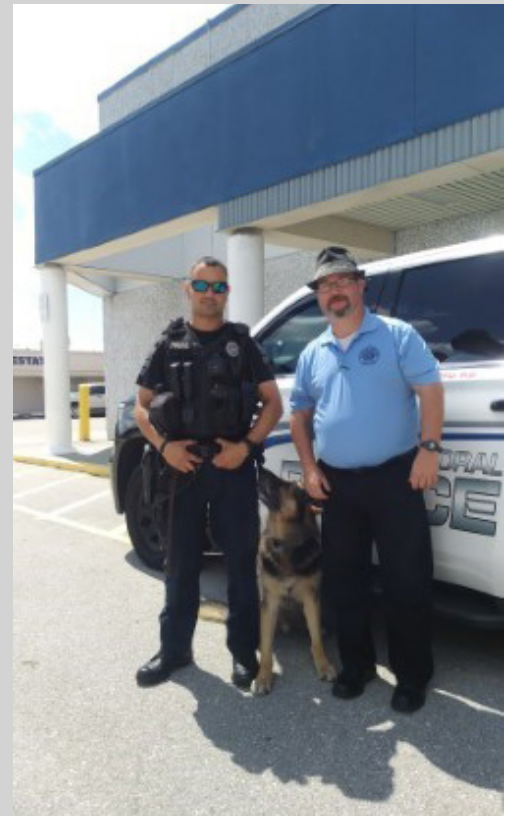
**Brian Taz Gehling, Law & Order**  
[laworder@legionmail.org](mailto:laworder@legionmail.org)

Hello my fellow Legionnaires and family,

First, I would like to reminder everyone that you should currently be working with your local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and private paramedic/EMT companies for award candidates.

Secondly, I would like to talk about some unsung heroes that are just as important as their human counterparts. Many of us forget about the animals that assist law enforcement, firefighters, and the military. I recently attended an event that helped remind me of the importance of these animals as well as what they mean to their partners.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact at 239-785-8282 or [LawOrder@legionmail.org](mailto:LawOrder@legionmail.org).



CELEBRATING





## EVENT SPOTLIGHT - *Rides and Rallies*

### WEST VOLUSIA CHAMBER CHARITY RIDE

**When:** Sunday, April 7th, 2019

**Starting Location:** Foxhead Lounge (Osteen, FL)

**Host:** West Volusia Regional Chamber of Commerce

**Cost:** \$20 / person | \$10 for second Rider

**All vehicles are welcome:** bikes, cars, trucks, buses, etc.

Join us for Live Music provided by R & G Duo, auction, door prizes, raffles and 50/50. Participants also receive a free sloppy joe meal. Additional playing cards are \$1.00 each for poker players.

#### Ride stops:

- The No Name Saloon (Edgewater)
- American Legion Adam Quinn Post No. 6 (DeLand)
- Critter's Pub (Deltona)
- Dales Ales (Orange City)
- Blackie Saloon (DeBary)

**Pre-register** at [www.westvolusiaregionalchamber.org](http://www.westvolusiaregionalchamber.org)

### LEGION RIDERS UNITY RIDE / STATE RALLY

The Florida American Legion Riders are proud to advocate for Veterans and Veterans' issues. This year's State Rally will support the PROJECT: VetRelief Suicide Prevention Initiative.

The Florida American Legion Riders and PROJECT: VetRelief are teaming up to bring awareness to prevention, action and treatment in an effort to stop Veteran suicide. We need your support, please join us!

**When:** Saturday, April 13th, 2019

**Time:** 1:00PM – 8:00PM

**Where:** American Legion Seminole Post 111 (Tampa)  
Food, Raffles, Silent Auction, Live Entertainment and much more!

**Pre-register** at <http://bit.ly/ALRrally>

### MISSION MOMENT: *Community Impact*

*"When I first contacted you, I was so amazed at how you were dedicated to your duty to help veterans. You helped my family. Thank you for ALL your support."*

- Army Veteran

## WE SALUTE: *Florida Veterans Foundation*

PROJECT: VetRelief gratefully received a grant from the Florida Veterans Foundation (FVF) for the support of the Emergency Assistance program. This makes the second grant our program has received from the Tallahassee based organization.

As a part of this opportunity, we provide a quarterly report to FVF that is used to influence decisions made within our state capital. Our figures show the support that service members depend on during their difficult times; which could potentially open the door for future funding down the road.

We are so grateful for our partnership and having the ability to impact the lives of our veterans is something we are extremely proud of. The Florida Veterans Foundation, and this funding, gives us the opportunity to reach more families who need our support.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: *Upcoming Events*

All of PROJECT: VetRelief's financial support comes from the generosity of individuals and corporations who believe in what we do. Join us at one of our next events, or hold your own fundraiser.

If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Cooper at 407-295-2631 or [jcooper@floridalegion.org](mailto:jcooper@floridalegion.org).

- Legion Riders Unity Ride / Concert - Apr 7-13, 2019  
Tampa, FL
- West Volusia Chamber Ride - Apr 7, 2019  
Volusia County, FL
- Chapter 10 Armed Forces Day Event - May 18, 2019  
Kissimmee, FL
- 6th Annual Golf Tournament - Sept 23, 2019  
Bella Collina, FL
- Coral Head Music Fest - Nov 2-3, 2019  
Pinellas Park, FL



**SUPPORT CASES**  
JULY 2018 - FEB 2019 STATS

\*Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY

families helped

**110**

amount distributed

**\$101,757.81**

*Cadets Show Their Colors at Events*

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

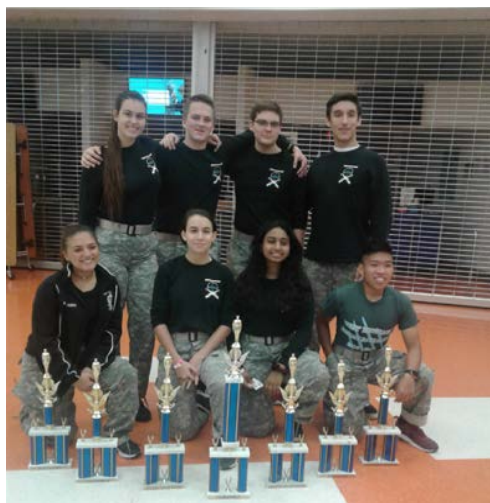
The season has been very busy for the JROTC Program and that means so have I since I try to attend some of the County events. In February there was the Broward County Marksmanship Meet held at Coral Glades HS. It was a 3 - Position, 3x20 Match and had a very good turnout for teams in the all-day event. Trophies were given at the conclusion of the Match for individual and team shooters. The West Broward Team was the overall winners and left with the majority of the trophies.

There will be another Match in Broward in March that will conclude their events. The 12th District will be holding a 3 - Position Sporter Match at Sebastian River HS on March 30th which is still in the planning stages. Also, there is the upcoming 3 - Position Match to be held in the 13th District at Island Coast HS in Cape Coral on April 26th, leading up to



the Army States 3 - Position, 3x20 Meet scheduled the following day, April 27th, with all the state qualifiers.

The final results are online for the National Postal Match with the State of Florida having 73 Targets for the Sporter Category and 19 Targets for the Precision Category. The Second Round Targets have been sent out for the qualifiers and will be due back to National by the end of March. There were several qualifiers from Florida in the top 25 shooters who went to the Second Round. There were two shooters for the Sporter Category from Summerlin Academy, Sarah Maggard and Kye Patsue. There was one Precision Shooter that qualified from Sarasota Military Academy, Trinity Gomez. Congratulations for these winners and we wish them continued success.



I also attended the JROTC Broward County Drill Meet held at Boyd Anderson HS with many of the Units attending. There was also one Middle School Program that was brought by Master Chief Pierre from JP Taravella JROTC to participate in the Knock Out Drill at the end of the competition. Congratulations to the young cadet that was able to make it to the final 20 cadets standing. This demonstrates commitment and training that will certainly produce an outstanding future JROTC cadet.

We received the Cadet of the Year Applications and had a much lower turnout than last year with only 22 returns for the state. This was less than half the amount as last year. The key to the success for this program is follow up with the schools directly by the Post and District Chairmen. This is not being done as I'm sure there are more qualified candidates in the JROTC Program if they were only contacted by the sponsoring Post. I would hope that our Legionnaires are taking an interest in the schools in your area and that every program will receive the Military and Scholastic Medals at the Year End Award Ceremonies. These will be conducted over the next two months before the end of the school year. Please let me know if you're having any problems. Thanks to the Legionnaires who are supporting our youth.

*Still Seeking Cadet Candidates*

**Bob Brewster, FHP Yourth Law Cadet**  
[youthlawcadet@legionmail.org](mailto:youthlawcadet@legionmail.org)

We have already received checks and applications for half a dozen candidates for this year's program. I have also received numerous phone calls from Posts all over the state this year. We would definitely like to get candidates

from all over the state of Florida.

Also, each Post who sends participants to the program should have these kids come back to their Post afterward for a meeting or special event and talk about the program to your members.

Everything seems to be lining up really

well this year, and Tom Gora and I will be available to help anyone with any information that they may need for this program.



March 28, 2019 100% Target Report (Currently 93.17%)		
12	Stephen Hamrick	100.47%
6	Timothy Tierney	96.19%
16	Raymond Perez	96.05%
4	Cherie Korn	95.76%
15	Bruce Carl	95.56%
11	Paul Bosco	95.30%
13	Brian Taz Gehling	94.42%
1	John Edens	92.34%
8	Jerry Faught	92.11%
17	Willie Branch	91.75%
5	Troy Horsley	90.41%
7	David Tucker	89.21%
2	James Brennan	89.18%
14	Gary Decker	88.85%
3	Stuart Scott	88.37%
9	Teddy Pomerantz	88.23%
Eastern	James Burk	98.03%
Central	Jay Allen	94.75%
Southwestern	Michael Raymond	93.37%
Western	Raymond Olsen	91.78%
Northern	Frederick Hutto	91.62%
Southern	James Tewes	90.99%
Post 400		87.66%
Post 208		87.27%



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# 2019 STATE ORATORICAL WINNERS

March 9, 2019

## Congratulations to all of our State Oratorical Contestants!

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$2,500**

*Represents Florida at National Oratorical Contest*

**Chad Stephens**

Central Area, Post 8

**\$500 Winners:**

**Kennedi Ray**

Northern Area, Post 283

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$1,500**

**Jacqueline Fake**

Southern Area, Post 269

**Gabriella Estevez**

Eastern Area, Post 243

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$1,000**

**Luke Evangelista**

Southwestern Area, Post 24

## Special Thank You To:

All the Posts, Districts,  
and Area Chairmen that  
helped support these  
students with their  
journey to the State  
Contest.

Department  
Oratorical Chairman,  
Meri West, for her  
dedication and  
support for the  
Oratorical Program.

The Judges,  
Tabulators, Time  
Keepers and staff for  
your help and  
support at the State  
Contest.

### 2019 District Constitutional Conferences

Date	District	Location	Time
04-May-19	6	Post 347 Lady Lake	Registration: 8AM Start: 9AM
11-May-19	5	Post 137 Jacksonville	Registration: 8AM Start: 9AM
11-May-19	17	Post 17 New Smyrna	Registration: 12PM Start: 12:30PM
18-May-19	2	Post 100 Marianna	Registration: 8AM Start: 9AM
18-May-19	7	TBD	Registration: 2PM Start: 3PM
18-May-19	15	Post 11 Tampa	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
19-May-19	8	Post 159 Venice	Registration: 8AM Start: 9AM
19-May-19	13	Post 103 Punta Gorda	Registration: 12PM Start: 1PM
1-June-19	14	Post 13 South Miami	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
8-June-19	4	Post 284 Bellevue	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
8-June-19	3	Post 57 Lake City	Registration: 12PM Start: 1PM
8-June-19	12	Post 117 Palm Bay	Registration: 1PM Start: 2PM
8-June-19	16	Post 273 Madeira Beach	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
9-June-19	11	Post 64 Okeechobee	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
15-June-19	9	Post 222 Ft. Lauderdale	Registration: 12PM Start: 1PM
TBD	1	TBD	TBD

# Children's Organ Transplant Association®

The Trusted Leader Supporting Families ... For a Lifetime

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR APRIL IS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

March 2019

Dear Editor:

The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) was founded in April 1986 when residents of Bloomington, Indiana, rallied around a toddler who needed a life-saving liver transplant. In only a few weeks, the community raised \$100,000 to place the boy on the organ waiting list. But the child died before an organ was found. Those community volunteers, along with his parents, turned tragedy into triumph by using the funds they raised to help other transplant families. That was the beginning of COTA, and those volunteers were our first Miracle Makers.

With the help of the men and women of The American Legion Family, COTA has assisted thousands of children and young adults by helping to raise funds for a lifetime of transplant-related expenses. Extensive volunteer networks across the nation are working to ensure that no child or young adult needing an organ or tissue transplant is excluded from a transplant waiting list due to lack of funds.

Sadly, 20 people in the United States die each day waiting for an organ transplant. One American dies nearly every hour waiting for a transplant. One organ donor can save eight lives. April is National Donate Life Month and COTA is asking everyone within The American Legion Family to go to [www.RegisterMe.org](http://www.RegisterMe.org) and register to be a designated organ and/or tissue donor.

**You can become a COTA Miracle Maker.** Find out how your Post, Unit, Squadron or Legion Riders can help a COTA transplant family near you by visiting [COTA.org](http://COTA.org) and clicking on Find a COTA Family link at the top of the page.

Thank you,

Rod Porter  
COTA Executive Director of External Relationships  
[rod@cota.org](mailto:rod@cota.org) 800.366.2682

*The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) is a national charity dedicated to guiding communities in raising funds for transplant-related expenses. COTA's priority is to assure that no child or young adult is denied a transplant or excluded from a waiting list due to lack of funds. 100% of all funds raised in honor of patients assist with transplant-related expenses for a patient's lifetime.*

2501 West COTA Drive • Bloomington, Indiana 47403  
800.366.2682 • [rod@cota.org](mailto:rod@cota.org) • [COTA.org](http://COTA.org)

### *New Benefit for Veterans Canteen Service (VCS)*

Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) is excited to announce a new benefit. On November 13, 2018, VCS launched [ShopVCS.com](http://ShopVCS.com), an online shopping site exclusively available to veterans and their families.

Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare are able to shop VCS online at [ShopVCS.com](http://ShopVCS.com). This new exclusive shopping experience offers deals on thousands of products from hundreds of top brands with the ability to easily and securely shop from any device.

The site features an expanded catalog of products to include: Veteran-Owned brands, Made-in-USA items, military items, sportswear, jewelry, health and beauty, home goods, electronics, outdoor gear, travel options, event tickets, and much more.

Registration is free and veterans enrolled in VA and their family members eligible to register at [ShopVCS.com](http://ShopVCS.com) as authorized customers. Proceeds from your purchases are given back to the Veteran community in support of VA programs such as: National Rehabilitation Adaptive Sports Games, Vets Crisis Suicide Prevention, Fisher House, Women Veteran Programs, National Disaster Relief, Homeless Veterans programs, and much more.



The American Legion, Department of Florida  
presents the  
**101<sup>st</sup> Annual Department Convention**  
**June 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Orlando World Center Marriott**  
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***Do Not Delay....Book Your Room Today!***  
***Reservation Cut Off Date: June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

For 2019 Convention Agenda Information, Please Visit  
[www.floridalegion.org/News-events/Department-convention/Event-agendas](http://www.floridalegion.org/News-events/Department-convention/Event-agendas)

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FLORIDA LEGION  
PRESENTS

# COMMANDER & PRESIDENT BANQUET

## GERMAN DINNER BUFFET

ASSORTED ROLLS

LOCAL GREENS

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Creme Fraiche Vinaigrette

Bratwurst & Caraway Cabbage, | Pork Schnitzel  
Brussel Sprouts | Red Bliss Mashed Potatoes

Apple Strudel | Black Forest Glass | German Chocolate Cake

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Join us, June 28, 2019, Department Convention at the World Marriott Center.

**Yes, I would like to attend the Commander's & President's Banquet!**

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Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**All tickets must be purchased in advance, quantities are limited. Tickets will be available for pickup during Convention located in the Headquarters Office.  
Please mail to: The American Legion, Department of Florida, Attention: Event Coordinator, P.O. Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854**



# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

## Family

CHILDREN & YOUTH  
★ HELP US GIVE SMILES ★



# GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are excited to announce we will be hosting a golf tournament at:

**Harbor Hills Country Club**  
6538 Lake Griffin Rd. Lady Lake, FL  
32159 on **Saturday, April 27, 2019**

To raise money for our Department's  
Children & Youth Programs

Shotgun – 1:00pm  
Longest Drive Contest  
Hole-in-one Contest  
Closest to Pin Contest  
Prizes & Raffle!

We encourage you to tell friends and family to join us!

- Cost - \$75.00 per golfer
- Silver Hole Sponsor - \$100.00
- Gold Hole Sponsor - \$250.00  
*\*Includes sign on hole\**
- Donate a gift to be a raffle prize

**Cut-off date for sponsorships and gift submissions is April 18, 2019**

Send all checks to Sons of The American  
Legion Squadron 347  
PO Box 1534 Lady Lake, FL 32158  
Attn: Children & Youth Golf Tournament

**After the Tournament, Join us for an Italian dinner, raffles, 50/50 and family fun at American Legion Post 347!**

(699 W. Lady Lake Blvd. Lady Lake, FL 32159)

**Hotel: The Waterfront Inn**  
1105 Lakeshore Drive, The Villages, FL 32162  
To make a reservation call the hotel directly at 800-592-0774  
Ask for the American Legion Group Rate!





# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

## CHILDREN & YOUTH ★ HELP US GIVE SMILES GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM

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(Cut-off Date is April 18, 2019)

Golfer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Silver Hole Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Gold Hole Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

POC for the Team \_\_\_\_\_

POC Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# of additional guests for dinner \_\_\_\_\_

*\*additional guests are \$10.00 each\**

Please make checks out to  
Sons of The American Legion  
**Squadron 347:**

PO Box 1534  
Lady Lake, FL 32158  
Attn: Children & Youth Golf

### Questions?

Department C&Y Chairman:  
Vickie Van Buren; 352-562-9963

SAL C&Y Chairman:  
Tom Soeder; 410-707-2331



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA  
**FAMILY**



# 2019 CRUISE

SEPTEMBER  
16-21

## THE ELATION



Maureen Williams PVP  
1-800-819-3902 EXT 85931

GROUP CODE  
**5DSL69**

### Elation - Exotic Eastern Caribbean

DATE	DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
09/16/19	MON	Port Canaveral (Orlando, FL)		4:00 PM
09/17/19	TUE	Fun Day at Sea		
09/18/19	WED	Amber Cove, Dominican Republic	10:30 AM	6:30 PM
09/19/19	THU	Grand Turk	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
09/20/19	FRI	Fun Day at Sea		
09/21/19	SAT	Port Canaveral (Orlando, FL)	8:00 AM	

*\*Please call for ticket costs. Earlier you book, the better the savings.*

### Questions?

Maureen Williams, Vacation Planner  
Carnival Cruise Line  
800-819-3902 EXT 85931 OFFICE  
305-406-6183 FAX  
MON - THU 11:00 AM - 8:00PM EST  
FRI 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
[mwilliams2@carnival.com](mailto:mwilliams2@carnival.com)

### Welcome from 1st Vice Commander

Last years cruise was a great success. We had 22 cabins booked and everyone had a great time.

This will be first come first serve, so make your reservations ASAP as cabin space might fill up quickly. Please call to reserve your room as prices change all the time.

It's time to do it again. This will be first come first serve, so make your reservations ASAP as cabin space might fill up quickly. My wife works for Carnival, so we will be taken care of.

At least put your deposit down quickly and she will try to have us as close together as possible. Remember, this will be a FUN cruise and time to enjoy each other's company and to recharge for the year. I will

have hotel information as we get closer for the night before the cruise.

**Everyone have a great time and will see you aboard.**



**William R Johnson**  
1st Vice Commander  
American Legion  
Department Of Florida  
954-242-4496  
[rickjtank@hotmail.com](mailto:rickjtank@hotmail.com)

**DO YOU  
HAVE WHAT  
IT TAKES?**

**BECOME A  
DEPARTMENT  
CHAIRMAN!**

**2019**



**MAKE  
AN  
IMPACT**

**2020**

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

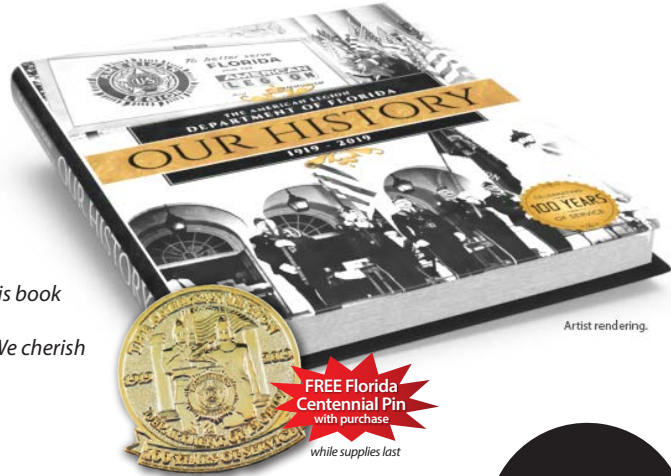
POSITIONS HELD	YEARS AT POST LEVEL	YEARS AT DISTRICT LEVEL	YEARS AT AREA LEVEL	YEARS AT DEPT LEVEL
Commander				
Vice Commander				
Adjutant				
Sgt-at-Arms				
Historian				
Chaplain				
Membership				
Americanism				
Baseball				
Blood Donor				
Boy Scouts				

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: Rick Johnson, P.O. Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854

## 1919-2019 BOOK ORDER FORM

Starting at  
**\$18**  
+ Tax and Shipping



Artist rendering.

Also available in hardcover for \$40  
Celebrate 100 years of The American Legion, Department of Florida. This book examines the Department of Florida history over the last ten decades, highlighting our accomplishments and milestones through the years. We cherish our Veterans and volunteers who have made this rich history possible.

- Limited edition, one time run only, with limited quantities
- In order to offer the hardcover edition, we must reach a minimum order of 100 books. If we do not reach this minimum, you will be issued a paperback version, with a refund of the difference. You may also choose a full refund if preferred.

**PRE-ORDER**  
ETA JUNE 2019

**PURCHASE ONLINE**  
[www.floridalegionstore.org](http://www.floridalegionstore.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Paperback Books \_\_\_\_\_ X \$18 each = Item Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Hardcover Books \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40 each = Item Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING FEES	Order Cost	Packing & Shipping Cost	Order Cost	Packing & Shipping Cost
	\$18.00	\$5.95	\$200.01 - \$300.00	\$21.95
	\$30.01 - \$50.00	\$8.95	\$300.01 - \$400.00	\$24.95
	\$50.01 - \$100.00	\$9.95	\$400.01 - \$500.00	\$33.95
	\$100.01 - \$200.00	\$15.95	\$500.01 & Over	\$39.95

Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax (6.5%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Multiply Sub Total X 1.065) for total. If tax exempt, include form.

Shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
See shipping chart. No charge for pickup at HQ or event.

Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Florida. Include "Emblem Sales" in the memo.

Payment Type:  Check  Money Order  Visa  Mastercard  Discover  American Express

Yes, I authorize my card to be charged for the total amount above.

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Florida Legion Emblem Sales; P.O. Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854