



THE LEGION LINK

COMMUNICATION ★ DEDICATION ★ EDUCATION



FEBRUARY 2019

COMMANDER DIANNE BOLAND

VOL. 27 ISSUE 6

From Your Department Commander Dianne Boland

commander@floridalegion.org



Greetings.

My how the year is flying by! It's February already and that means we just celebrated our Department's 100 Year

Anniversary Celebration at Crystal River with Vets Invade the Canyon. This article is due before this happened, but I can still image all the fun that will be had by all. I hope you got a chance to attend. All the money raised will be donated to Project VetRelief.

Membership has been going pretty well but it could be better. Congratulations to the Posts, Districts, and Areas that made their goals. As far as National's goals, their 80% falls on January 17th. As of my writing, District 6, District 12, District 4, District 15, and District 16 have already exceeded this goal. The Districts that are just a hair away and should make it are District 13, District 11, and District 8. I'm hoping others can reach it also. Congratulations to all for their hard work but now the work gets a little harder. Let's hope you have a plan of action put together and start contacting people.

I know we can do it if we all work together.

My visitations are almost done. As of this article, I only have two in January, three in March, and one in April. I want to thank 1st District, 7th District, and 12th District for all the hospitality shown to me during my visits in December. Also, thank you to all those who participated in Wreaths Across America. What a sight looking at all those wreaths and head stones marking where our heroes lie. During my visitations, the Legion Riders escorted me part of the way and I actually got to ride with them in the 12th District when we went to visit a fellow Rider, one who is at home in Hospice Care. Thank you, Legion Riders, for all you do.

It's that time of year again when all the balls start taking place. They have good food, good fun, and they raise money for a good cause. I hope you check out our Department calendar for times and locations. Try to attend when possible. Also put March 9th on your calendar. This is the Department Oratorical Contest taking place at Department

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STATE COMMANDER
DIANNE BOLAND
HOMECOMING
February 9, 2019

<< *Commander - from page 1*

Headquarters. These young adults are outstanding. I hope you are supporting them at your Post, District and Area competitions as well.

February will be a busy month. The Department Legion College is taking place January 31 thru February 2nd. Then the National Commander will visit the Northern Area. The Riders Summit is happening this month, my Department Homecoming, the Central Area Ball, the Music Fest Marathon, as well as the Washington D.C. Conference when our

National Commander takes our goals before Congress. For more info on my Homecoming as well as the other events, check out Department's Calendar.

I want to mention the passing of our Department Judge Advocate, Larry Sheets. He was a great Legionnaire, a great person and friend. He will be sorely missed by all the people whose lives he touched, both at Department and at National.

Communication, Dedication, Education. Remember www.legion.org/Alej Basic Training

Message from the 1st Vice Commander

Rick Johnson, 1st Vice Commander
1stvice@legionmail.org



Here we are again. Another month has passed and membership is so-so, but we did make the 80% goal so way to go. Attended the Vets Invade the

Canyon and had such a great time; congrats to everyone who had a hand putting that together. I think we need to do something like that every year. The Dept. Commander's Homecoming is Feb 9th at Post 117. See the flyer on the website for details. The Riders Summit will also happen the 1st week of February and I will be there with the Riders to answer questions and to talk about Family issues.

District Commanders, I checked at Department to see how many Post visitation reports have been

submitted. With just 22 reports sent to Department, this is your opportunity to assist the Post in their operations and to insure all their paperwork is complete and updated. We are falling short and need to do a better job at this.

RIP to great Legionnaire Larry Sheets as he passed on New Year's Day. Larry, you will be missed at all levels within our organization. You will be hard to replace.

I put on the website the applications for Chairmanships for the upcoming year. Please fill out and forward to Department. Now is the time to really start working the membership even harder as the renewals will slow down, so start sending those letters out for renewal and get them back within the Post. As I keep on saying, we have to get more involved in the community and let them know who we are.

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

Congratulations, on meeting our 80% goal in January!

FEBRUARY 2019

1-28	Americanism Month ★
1-28	Black History Month ★
1	National Freedom Day
2	Groundhog Day
2	Special Olympics Poker Run
3	Four Chaplain Memorial Services
2-7	National Commander's Visit ☆ ★
4	USO Birthday
5	Fat Tuesday Post 275
6	Membership Goal 90%
6-10	ALR Summit
9	Commander's Homecoming ☆
10	District Oratorical Contests Due
13-16	District 17- Commander's Visit
14	Valentine's Day
14	Palm Sunday
15	Legion Link Articles Due
16-17	Coral Head Music Fest
16	District 2 Meeting
16	Car & Bike Show Post 274
18	President's Day
19	Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
21	Lincoln's Birthday
24	Area Oratorical Contests Due
24-27	Washington DC Conference ★

☆ - Commander Dianne Boland's Attendance Tentative.

★ - National Event

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



CELEBRATING



Message from the 2nd Vice Commander

Jerry Brandt, 2nd Vice Commander
2ndvice@legionmail.org



We are getting close to the Race to the Top. With only February and March to go, we need to start reaching out to members to get them in. Let us work on this. At this point, all District Commanders can make it to the Race to the Top.

I would like to congratulate the 15th District who held on to the Zone II traveling trophy by the skin of their teeth. How close was it as of the January 4th report?

This is what we have:

- 15th District at 80.99%
- 16th District at 80.50%
- 13th District at 79.92%
- 8th District at 79.02%
- 7th District at 75.03%

District 16 missed taking over 1st place by less than 60 renewals. You may think that is a lot, but 16th District is a strong one. With the 13th and 8th moving up to within less than 2%, and 7th District;

known for a strong finish; expected to jump up quickly in the next two months, the 15th District will need to work harder for 1st place. The next quarter will end at the Southwestern Ball on March 16th. Let us see who is leading then!

The Department Commander will make her final visit to the Districts in Zone II in March. It is 13th District's turn to host the Commander. The visitation ends on the 17th of March with the 13th District meeting at Post 110, Port Charlotte.

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

- Post Excellence Award
- 100% Post Award
- Employer of the Year
- Firefighter & Law Enforcement of the Year Award
- Color Guard Award
- Membership Awards (Gold and Silver Brigade)

Please look up Awards and Recognition under www.legion.org for more awards and details.

Message from the 3rd Vice Commander

Eunice Butts, 3rd Vice Commander
3rdvice@legionmail.org



Congratulations to The Department of Florida for making the 80% goal but we need to keep going. Now is the time to call members who have

not paid; have Post revitalization's and community and children and youth activities; put on a celebration for The American Legion 100th birthday; advertise in the newspaper, on TV, or the radio; pass out flyers, etc.

These are just a few suggestions along with whatever you can think up to obtain membership. I'm hoping that we can make the 90% goal by February.

I attended the 3rd District meeting and had a very nice Four Chaplain's program. By the time you read this article I attended Vets Invade the Canyon. The National Commander will be visiting the Northern Area February 1st thru 8th and later that month the Department Commander will be visiting the 17th District.

Thanks to the Northern and Western Area for all that you do toward the programs and membership goals. February is the month of love and also Black History month.

Remember, I believe in you and I know that you can do the best that you can toward membership. Have a very good month.

Gulf War Era Survey Begins

Dennis Boland, NEC
nec@legionmail.org



Nearly 700,000 men and women served in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the early 1990's. A prominent condition affecting these Gulf

War veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, skin problems, and memory impairment. The VA refers to these illnesses, collectively, as Gulf War Illness.

In August 2018, the Million Veterans Program began mailing out the Gulf

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<< NEC - from page 3

War Era Survey to MVP partners who served during the Gulf War era, whether or not they were deployed to the Gulf region. The questionnaire is designed to collect more information from these enrollees in hopes of identifying genes that contribute to, or protect against,

developing Gulf War Illness. Eventually, researchers hope to identify and test new treatments for the condition. This is the first time the program has attempted to recontact MVP participants on a major level.

According to Stacey B. Whitbourne, Ph.D., about 50,000 invitations to complete the Gulf War Era Survey

have already been sent out to MVP partners who served during the Gulf War era. Within the next six months, an additional 60,000 will be sent. If you don't receive one and you would like to participate, contact the MVP Information Center toll-free at 866-441-6075 and they will do their best to get a Gulf War Era Survey to you!

News on the RallyWise App

Art Schwabe, NECA

neca@legionmail.org



A few of you have signed on to the RallyWise app. Thank you. If you haven't, please do so! Apple users can go to the App Store to search for RallyWise and Android

phone users need to go to Android/Google Play to look for it. Just fill in your information as required and Florida Association Code fllegion_pF4bc.

With the new legislative session beginning, information has begun to flow, legislatures have been assigned to committees and things have begun to happen. As upcoming legislation is put into bill form, it is being added to RallyWise. Based on the information you provided when you installed, RallyWise will allow you to see veteran relevant bills on an issue (there could be several on the same issues), and not only provides relevant contact info (phone and email) but allows you to press a single button from within the app and dial their phone number or generate and email. There are also options to review the bill status or click links to obtain

more information regarding the bills directly from the state website(s). In addition, the app automatically identifies your legislators by district and provides the same contact information. Please download the RallyWise app today to stay informed on Veteran issues for tomorrow.

Lastly, I would like to add that The March on Tallahassee will likely take place in mid-March and we will pass word just as soon as we can confirm the details. Thank you for your support. This does not happen without you! Get involved, it affects us all.

Centennial Events and Post Yearbooks

Gerald Kaufman, Historian

historian@legionmail.org



Our Centennial celebration is well underway throughout the Department and I want to thank all the Posts and Districts that sponsored our Vets Invade the Canyon celebration.

This was a year-long planning and logistical feat that could never have been

completed without the help, guidance, and leadership of PDC Larry White. Along with everyone behind the scenes and Post 237, Post 155 SAL, Post 155 Auxiliary, and Post 155 Riders thank you for all your help. Next month we will announce the total amount raised for Project: VetRelief.

For those of you who attended the event, I sincerely hope you enjoyed yourselves and all that Citrus County has to offer. The Department was well represented as were the Districts and individual Posts throughout the state.

For those who still have events planned, please send me an email detailing the dates and times.

Now is the time to start putting your yearbooks together for the Department Convention. If you need help let me know as I can walk you through the process. Your yearbooks need to be at Department Headquarters two weeks prior to Convention. Again, do not hesitate in contacting me at historian@legionmail.org and I will help as much as possible.



GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY MADE EASY

RallyWise is committed to helping our fellow citizens engage with their elected officials for change that matters.



Western Area Update

Chuck Olsen, Western Area

westernarea@legionmail.org



Let's start with membership. The Western Area is at the bottom of the Area list for membership. This is a far cry from where we were last year. District 1 is nearly at the bottom of the list and District 2 is in the middle. We need to focus harder on hitting membership goals and getting membership finished. This is the time of year when programs start to take up your time. Oratorical Contests, Boys State interviews, school medals, firemen and police officer awards, and fundraisers for the end of the fiscal year are going to be occupying your time. If you have not met your 85% goal yet, then you should be working on membership too. This makes life tough, especially if your Post suffers from STP (same ten people) syndrome.

Commander Boland came out to our Area, District 1, in December. It was a quick but very informative visit. She discussed her motto for the year: Communication, Dedication and Education. She encouraged every officer to take the American Legion Extension Basic Training course. It is free and gives all officers a basic starting point

of American Legion Education. She encouraged all ambitious new officers to sign up for the Legion College course that the Department of Florida offers. This year it happens that the National Commander will be in attendance on Friday. Communication is perhaps her most important element and she broke it down into several types: Communication within your Post family, like newsletters and social media; Communication within the District, Area, and Zone; Communication within your community (remember to ask yourself the question – If we shut our doors tomorrow would the community care?); and Communication between you and your members at the Post, at the meetings, etc.

She talked about important Resolutions passed by National this year with the purpose of opening up our dates to expand our membership base. She mentioned the Commemorative Coins that we were able to get Congress to approve last year. She spoke of the new tax breaks in Florida for veteran and veteran spouse owned businesses on city and county business taxes to go into effect July 1, 2019. She discussed the new membership processing system that allows the Adjutant to go online and enter all new members, renewals, and paid transfers directly online. Unpaid transfers must still be processed through Irene at Department. All in all, it was a

very informative visit for us. It was also very informative for her as she was able to travel through the Panama City area and see the damage to the community and to our Posts and she was able to participate in the Wreathes Across America event at Barrancas.

February is Americanism Month and there are a lot of events and deadlines coming up. Membership goals (90%), Oratorical District and Area events, Boys State interviews and selections. Americanism is one of the Four Pillars and the one that makes us most visible in the community. In addition, District 1 and District 2 have their District meetings and will be accepting nominations for next year's District Officers. If you are interested, I suggest that you take advantage of the free Legion training. Remember that District Commander and Area Commander require a Post Endorsement letter. Finally, as I write this, we are still in a government shutdown. I am hoping it is over as you read this, but it may not be. Remember that there are monies available to veterans with children through the National TFA program and the Department of Florida VetRelief program. I also heard of a program conducted by the USO that is providing food and necessities to those in need as a result of the shutdown.

Northern Area Update

Mike Hutto, Northern Area

northernarea@legionmail.org



A lot going on this month beginning with a visit from the National Commander to the Northern Area. I hope all Legionnaires come out and make

him feel welcome. Check with your Commander or Adjutant for the day and time.

The Northern Area Ball is scheduled for March 23rd, at Post 57 in Lake City. Come meet and greet, dine, dance, and have a good time. Contact Mike Hutto at 352-490-1756 or your District Commander for tickets. Arrangements have been made at the Days Inn in

Lake City located at 3144 West US Hwy 90 for those who want to stay overnight. Call 386-752-9350 to make a reservation and mention the American Legion Northern Area Ball to get 10% off. With the discount the rate is \$85.50 plus tax. A designated driver will be available, so come on out and PARTY.

*Make History in February***Bruce Thurber, Membership**membership@legionmail.org

On February 19, 1945, the United States invaded Iwo Jima as part of its strategy to defeat Japan. Let's make history again in February 2019 with the Department of Florida

hitting 100% in membership. When you joined the military, you learned that nothing was impossible if you put your mind to it. As a veteran of the United States Military you earned your right to join the American Legion.

I ask for your help as you continue to serve your country with honor as a member fighting for veterans' rights. Each year The American Legion National Commander addresses the United States Congress to fight for veterans' rights. Commander Reistad recently stated "The 115th Congress has been one of the most veteran-friendly sessions we have seen in two decades. This is not a statement about which party is responsible, but rather the ability of Republicans and Democrats to work together and improve the quality of life for the men and women who have defended our nation through military service." The reason this happens is because of our numbers.

When he speaks about Florida veterans, they listen because he speaks on behalf of 105,251 members and their families (VOTERS); just think what would happen if we went back to 2008 when Florida had 144,066 members. You, the members of the Department of Florida, are the best of the best and I ask you to bring us to an all-time-high of 144,067 or more.

TO REACH THAT GOAL:

- Always be ready with a 2-3 minute 'elevator pitch' on the importance and benefits of Legion membership.
- Download the Legion app. You'll be ready to sign up members on the spot.
- Get some door hangers from Department and modify with your Post information. You're now ready to reach out to potential members even if you're not face-to-face.
- Keep a few membership applications handy.
- Have a supply of 'Why You Should Belong' and 'Troop Support' pamphlets, and 'This Is The American Legion' for informational/recruitment events.
- Work your Post's Expired Members listings that can be found under the Find Members in My Area section on www.mylegion.org.
- Build and maintain a relationship with military installations. Refer to the publication Access Granted for details on how or contact Past Commander Ramos.
- Build and maintain a relationship with the person in charge of veteran admissions and/or veteran student organizations that may be on college campuses.
- Network with first responders, civic and community organizations, as well as other veteran service organizations to expand your pool of potential members.
- Ensure that your Post is building its brand.
- Send a localized version of the Post's CPR to the media outlets in your area, and that this same information is published in the Post's newsletter.
- Make sure your Post is actively participating in at least one program, and that it is done well.

- Make sure your Post is an asset to the community; inform them of your Post's programs, participation in parades, service activities, etc.
- Be seen in your Legion apparel.
- Don't narrow your focus to veterans in only one or two war eras. Any veteran may be eligible, but you won't know if you don't ask!
- Don't let all your hard work go to waste - **RETAIN THE MEMBERS YOU HAVE.**

Each of our Zone Commanders are highly experienced recruiters; pick their brains - they have been there. You also have your Department Revitalization Chairman, Past Department Commanders, and Area and District Commanders to help. Another great resource we have is the American Legion Department of Florida Auxiliary, Detachment of Florida Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.

Another bit of February History: One of the First to Fight for Soldiers' Rights Emperor Claudius II banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret. When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death. There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February, he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine."



*Legion Rider Summit and Events***Jim Wineland, Legion Riders**legionriders@legionmail.org

We have a lot going on, but I think there's one thing that may have slipped through our fingers! Looking through our Fall Conference notes, a motion was made and passed to recognize

March 16, 2019, as our hundredth birthday. The second part of the motion was to ride 100 miles to acknowledge the 100-year anniversary and raise money for Hurricane Relief to be donated to Post 375. Just to refresh your memory Post 375's building was destroyed in the storm. See what you can accomplish and send the dollars their way.

We are double checking all the plans for the Summit. Our Meet & Greet will have a few appetizers for your enjoyment and beverages for purchase. We've worked hard with International Palms to stay competitive with their surrounding competitors and it appears they have taken it to heart to make sure this is a successful experience for all.

Florida Department Emblem Sales will be there Friday and Saturday. Bekki Tibbs and Jennifer Cooper from Department will be on hand with merchandise to sell in the same room as registration and our shirt sales. I believe Jennifer Cooper will work double duty as she will be part of the PVR presentation on Saturday.

We will be scheduling classes on an as needed basis for Saturday. Please let us know no later than Friday noon so we can notify the instructor.

As you have likely heard, we are going out to different locations each evening for dinner. We also plan on supplying a bus for a \$10 donation. This will give some of the non-riders an opportunity to participate and keep us out of the bad weather. We will take a head count every morning by 10AM to let the bus company know how many are riding and let the night cook know how many are coming.

One of the things we have tried to focus on is training for our future leadership. We have all the basic classes on our schedule to give each of you the opportunity to learn the ABCs of Post operation. We have Director's, Adjutant, Treasure's, Chaplain, and Sargent at Arms classes, which can crossover to positions in the Post leadership. Summit is open to all, not just the ALR.

After the Summit we change focus and move on to the In-State Unity Ride. It begins with a Meet & Greet in Tampa on Sunday, April 7th, and the ride will start Monday morning and end on Saturday, April 13th, around noon. The Rally will start later that day. Post 111 in Tampa will host the Rally and they are really working on making this an event to remember.

Remember how we really hit a home run working with AAA? Now they really stepped up. We have the In-State Unity

ride completed and all hotels selected. Now all you do is call one individual and she will make all your reservations; "one stop shopping" that will take some of the pain out of it for you.

All dollars collected starting February 15th will be donated to the Round Robin event and count toward the trophy dash in April. How you do that is entirely up to your Post or District. As always, the money collected will go to Project: VetRelief. It's for the "cause not the applause."

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

A couple of things that you shouldn't forget about: Coral-Head Music-Fest, February 16-17, 2019, at City Park Amphitheater in Marathon and their new concert this year in England Bros Park, Pinellas Park, November 2-3. These are great events and support Project: VetRelief and Suicide Prevention. Make sure you get it on your calendar. If you want to volunteer, call Rich at 305-942-9862.

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

Help Veterans Get Their Fair Share of Benefits

We are a lifeline for thousands of Veterans who aren't getting benefits.

Join us to fight for them! www.floridalegion.org/flveterans

February is Americanism Month

Chuck Olsen, Americanism

americanism@legionmail.org



February is American Legion Americanism Month. This is our moment to shine in the eyes of our Post and the eyes of our community. In my letter to the Post Americanism Chairmen, I challenged

each Post to participate in a new Americanism event that the Post has not done in the past. The Americanism Chairman's Manual contains all of the recognized programs. There is no excuse for not finding a program you can participate in. Several have already started like Oratorical, Boys State, and Scouting (Eagle Scout of the Year is due March 1st). Each Post should have some sort of 100th Anniversary Celebration in March to commemorate our 100th Anniversary and to let the community

know we are here, we are strong, and we will be here for another 100 years. Also, if you have an event that you would like to see Department Officers and Department Chairmen attend, let me know at Americanism@legionmail.org. Give me plenty of lead time as schedules are already in place. I want to thank all of you for what you do. I look forward to reading reports from each of the Post and District Chairmen about their events and their nominations for Americanism Program of the Year.

How is Voluntarily Donated Blood Used?

Nancy Thomas, Blood Donor

blooddonor@legionmail.org



Transfusion of Components: A single donation of blood can be separated into several components, each of which may be

used to treat a distinct illness or injury. In this way, individual patients receive the specific part of blood they require, extending the blood supply and leading to more efficient management of the overall national inventory.

Please consider holding a blood drive soon; you never know when blood supply may be in demand.

Do not forget to have your Year End Narrative into Department on time. The reporting period is from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019, along with your CPR and Addendum.



Quick Request to Support Programs

Nancy Thomas, National Security

security@legionmail.org

Please read the Blood Donor Chair and the JROTC/Shooting Chair articles to discover what we are up to, and we hope you will continue to support these The American Legion programs.

The programs listed under the Security Commission are vital to The American Legion and its members along with all veterans and their families, so please support these programs.

Legion College in Session

January 31 - February 2

Tom Gora, Legion College

deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



The next FALC class will be in session January 31-February 2, 2019, as the February 2019 edition of this monthly publication is released. National Commander Brett Reistad's first order of

business during his Florida visit will be to address FALC and enjoy a social with students and faculty on Friday, February 1st. For those attending FALC, this will be quite a memorable experience as it is not every year that a sitting National

Commander makes an appearance at the Florida American Legion College! We are fortunate, however, to have a Past National Commander, several Past Department Commanders, and a number of program chairs that make FALC a success every year. Commander Reistad's appearance this year is a great bonus and I thank him for taking the time to visit and participate in FALC Class of 2019! I will provide details on this class in the next two issues of Legion Link (March and April).

Something new this year - 2019 FALC graduates will be the first to receive the official FALC Graduate Challenge Coin.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE CLASS OF 2019!

C & Y Awards and Picnics

Vickie Van Buren, Children & Youth
cy@legionmail.org



Happy New Year!! May this newsletter find everyone healthy and happy. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming 100th Anniversary Celebration of the

American Legion at the Crystal River Vets Invade the Canyon music event Jan 18th and 19th.

Time to start soliciting applications for the Teacher of the Year award. The deadline for applications is April 15, 2019. The award will be presented at our June Conference. In addition, all grant request for funding of programs and projects that enhance the lives of children in the State of Florida are due NLT May

1, 2019. The organization that is seeking funding must be well established in contributing to the physical, mental, and emotional welfare of children throughout the community of which service is provided. Both application requests can be found on the Department of Florida American Legion website under the Children and Youth Program tab.

April is Children and Youth Month. Our Annual Children and Youth Picnic is scheduled for April 6, 2019, at Post 117 in Palm Bay. We are still solicitating donations for baskets to be raffled off at the picnic. We are especially interested in getting more items for children this year. Our Children and Youth Golf tournament will be April 27, 2019 at the Harbor Hills Country Club at Lady Lake. We are still looking for sponsors and raffle items for the tournament. Both flyers and registration and sponsorship forms are on the Department of Florida

American Legion website under the Children and Youth Program tab.

We still have plenty of Children and Youth pins and Rider patches left. For patches, please contact your District Rider Director. If you need pins, you can order them at the Department Emblem Sales site or contact me direct. The pins are \$5.00 and the patches are \$10.00 each. All monies will go to Department to help fund our Children and Youth Programs. Help Us Give Smiles!



Fundamental Questions to Ask When Writing Resolutions

Clarence Hill, Resolutions
resolutions@legionmail.org



Should I write a resolution or not? Subjects for resolutions should be carefully considered.

What are the facts? Are you just angry at a situation and later the “mountain” becomes a “mole hill?” Or are others upset and wondering what to do to change the situation? Does the issue affect the whole community? Is the situation based on hearsay or fact?

There doesn't have to be a controversy for a resolution to be written. Before

rushing to write a resolution, a number of fundamental questions should be asked about the subject matter. The importance of good writing technique and proper attention to grammar and spelling is essential.

The preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion can be used as a guide as to the boundary within which subject matter should be kept. One should be wary of becoming a channel through which non-Legion organizations seek to achieve their own goals.

Some things to consider:

- Ensure that the subject matter is relevant to the principles of our organization before submitting them.

- Does The American Legion already have a current position on the subject?
- Can the subject matter be taken care of administratively without a resolution?
- Does the resolution involve a local issue?
- Is legislation involved?
- Is it reasonable that the intent of the resolution can be realistically attained?
- Does the resolution deal with a politically sensitive issue?
- Should The American Legion be involved in this issue?

Legal Assistance Available

Gene Smith, Immigration

immigration@legionmail.org



Our Nation's military benefits from the service of its foreign-born members. These members bring with them greater racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity within the ranks. As of 2016, there were over 500,000 foreign-born U. S. veterans residing in the United States. That totals about 3% of the veteran population. To serve, a foreign-born non-citizen must be a documented resident and meet other criteria as well. They may only serve as enlisted personnel and not in areas where high security clearances are required, plus additional restrictions.

One program the military created to encourage foreign-born documented citizens to enlist was the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI), which especially benefited the United States Army. They were promised a fast track to citizenship for their skills. Thousands enlisted. Unfortunately, a recent national news article states that the U.S. Army took exception to the screening process, and over the course of 12 months discharged more than 500 recruits for various reasons leaving many open to deportation and in limbo status. Many cases are in the Immigration Court system today or awaiting scheduling.

However, with the current partial shutdown of government, these cases are being further prolonged by rescheduling and longer waits for initial scheduling. With a system already congested, further delay could expose the immigrant veteran to deportation before the case is heard. The Immigration Court System is at a

virtual standstill as I write this article.

Area Commanders, District Commanders and Post Commanders, these fellow veterans need our help. They are not the "illegals" as some refer to those immigrants in the country illegally. These are foreign-born individuals who are here legally and documented, responded to our Nation's call for service and then, for whatever reason, the enlistment contract was considered null and void. It is not up to you and me to determine the reasons for the voided contracts. That is the responsibility of the Immigration Court. It is up to you and me to identify any foreign-born non-citizen U. S. veteran and assist them in obtaining legal representation.

You can do so by forwarding their name and contact information to me at Immigration@legionmail.org. I will forward the information to our partnered immigration attorneys Rambana & Ricci, P.L.L.C., for action. These service members raised their hand to serve just as you and I did back in the day. While we were able to serve out our contract, many of the foreign-born who enlisted under the MAVNI program were let go as recruits and were not able to fulfill theirs. Therefore, the fast track to citizenship is only a dream. Remember our slogan "Still Serving America" and America's veterans.

Legionnaires, I am conducting a survey to see how many read the Immigration column. If you read this column, please email me at Immigration@legionmail.org. The future of this committee depends on you for its existence. I need to know if I am reaching the desired and interested audience. Thank you for your service to country and support of our fellow veterans in need of legal assistance.

Public Relations-It's Who We Are & What We Do

Tom Gora, Public Relations

publicrelations@legionmail.org



I hope to make good use of the National Commander's visit to Florida during the centennial celebration of The American

Legion. We plan to have the National Commander tape a video message on how The American Legion has served Florida veterans and communities over the past 100 years and discuss our plan for the next 100 years. I hope we can do this so that the video can be made available to Posts around the state to help promote membership in The American Legion to local communities and for use on local media. Remember, it's "who we are, it's what we do" that sells membership and brings donations to our Posts to support American Legion programs.

Sign up for
TEXT ALERTS.

Text FLCON to 74121



Providing a Life Line for Coast Guard

In the wake of the government shutdown, The American Legion went public to assist active duty Coast Guard members through the Temporary Financial Assistance program. Even though the initial outreach was directed at families with minor children, Project: VetRelief immediately stepped up and began providing assistance to those that did not have qualifying children.

Through both programs, the Department Staff processed nearly 400 applications received from Coast Guard members.

The wave of US Coast Guard member applications has been overwhelming, but **all** cases in which there was not a minor child in the home have been provided with a \$250 gift card to Publix. To date, there have been 29 Coast Guard members funded for a total of \$7,250.

We realize that this immediate support does not quite cover their entire need and have waived the guideline of providing assistance once per year in the case of Coast Guard members. Assistance through the regular program is available by using the traditional form and application process.



The Department Staff would like to keep providing support for as long as there is a need; however, funds for both programs are limited. We ask that you along with the members of your Post take a minute to realize the impact a donation from your Post can have on someone defending your coastline and not receiving a paycheck.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO BOTH PROGRAMS:

PROJECT: VetRelief

www.projectvetrelief.org/donate

Temporary Financial Assistance

<http://bit.ly/TFAdonations>

MISSION MOMENT: *Community Impact*

"This project and their people was a relief! It helped give us a peace of mind. A great burden was lifted and now we will be able to see the light ahead."

- Female Veteran

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: *Vets Invade the Canyon*

On January 18th and 19th, the PROJECT: VetRelief Team went to Crystal River to attend the Vets Invade the Canyon Event. Each evening started by celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion and continued with an evening filled with great music, food, and camaraderie. Musical guests included Letters from Home, Scooter Brown Band, Buddy Brown, Sister Hazel, and Aaron Tippin.

Thank you to all Legion Posts and sponsors who supported the two-day event! We are so appreciative of all the time and hard work it took into planning and executing such a wonderful event. Kudos to the membership of Post 155 and all volunteers who made it all happen!



Coral Head Music Fest Marathon, FL

VIP tickets, 2 Day and 1 Day passes are still available for the Coral Head Music Fest that will be held on February 16-17th. VIP includes preferred parking, FREE beer/wine, FREE food, preferred seating & more.

There are 10 Bands over the two-day event. Music includes: Vince Neil (voice of Motley Crue), Jackyl, The Sweet, John Cafferty & the Beaver Brown Band, Mitch Perry and MORE!!

For more information visit:

<https://www.coralheadmusicfest.com/tickets>

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.

- Coral Head Music Fest - Feb 16-17, 2019
Marathon, FL
- Legion Riders In-State Unity Ride / Concert - Apr 2019
Tampa or Daytona, FL
- 6th Annual Golf Tournament - Sept 2019
Bella Collina, FL
- Coral Head Music Fest - Nov 2019
Pinellas Park, FL



SUPPORT CASES
JULY - DEC 2018 STATS

families helped

amount distributed

60

\$70,980.88

*Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY

The Importance of Continuity

Deb Wheeler, Social Media
socialmedia@legionmail.org



As nominations at the Post level are coming soon it is imperative to assure your identity continues as leadership changes. Please make sure your administrators on the

Post and District level have continuous coverage so your Facebook and webpages do not suffer. Especially on the Post level.

Remember your admin person does not have to be a Legion member, it can be any Legion family member with the time, patience, and the ability to keep things up to date and flowing. District pages are important to inform all Posts of the new officers and installations. A lapse in continuity is a serious issue because a

delay leaves Posts lacking information.

Again, keep updating your pages and remember an increase in followers on Facebook shows you are reaching more new and potential members and putting more butts in your lounge seats, which is great thing!



Cadets Show Their Colors at Events

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

I was extremely busy this December with the JROTC Program and numerous events going on throughout the state. There is a Flight 19 Missing Squadron Ceremony held annually at the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station (FLNAS) on the anniversary of the Missing Squadron that took off on a training mission and was lost over the "Bermuda Triangle" on Dec. 5, 1945. South Broward AJROTC Color Guard provided the Presentation of Colors for the Opening Ceremony and the Placement of the Wreath for the Closing Ceremony. They did an excellent job for the standing room only crowd. The ceremony was also a dedication and tribute to the recent passing of our 41st President, George H. W. Bush, who was stationed at FLNAS, which is now a museum and has a room dedicated to his memory.

I also attended the Broward County Regimental Ball held at the Signature Grand with all 29 JROTC Units and the Entrepreneur Leadership Military Academy in attendance

along with community supporters and educators. The cadets coordinated and conducted the program under the leadership of the Broward County DAI and staff. This is an excellent way to view the cadets at their best, in full dress uniform and representing a program that is proud to boast of a 99+% graduation rate with many cadets receiving scholarships and going on to higher education.

Another annual event that I attended was the Wreaths Across America National Remembrance Ceremony at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth. Despite the bad weather with threatening morning rain, the Ceremony was well attended with adults and more youth than in any prior years. There were many ROTC and JROTC Cadets to handle and assist in the placement of the 1,000+ wreaths to cover all the graves in the Lake Worth Cemetery.

Cadet Color Guard Units assisted in the ceremonial wreath laying. This was just one of the many ceremonies conducted throughout Florida and the rest of the nation.

Our JROTC Program's next focus should be on the Department of Florida Cadet of the Year Application which is due by March 01. The application and all instructions are on the Department website. The recipient must be selected by the Senior Instructor and only one graduating student from each High School JROTC Unit is accepted. This scholarship will be awarded to the first-place winner and presented at the Department Convention in Orlando. Please get with the schools you support and emphasize the importance of this program. I want to thank all our supporters of this amazing Youth Program and please keep up the good work.



Financial Matters for Scout Units

Chuck Weber, Scouting

scouting@legionmail.org



Questions come up from time to time regarding the handling of monies by Scout units chartered by Legion Posts. The matter can become quite involved, but we'll give an overview here.

EINs are identifying numbers issued by the IRS to various organizations. Every Post has one. When Scout units start up, they will want to open a checking account and the banks require an EIN in order to that. The question becomes whether the Scout unit uses the Post's EIN or if it should apply for one on its own. Either way is allowed, but experience shows that the recommended way is for the Scout unit to use the Post's EIN. It will simplify Post 990 tax reporting and the transfer of the Post's sales tax-exempt status to the Scout unit.

An issue that often causes controversy

is who owns the Scout unit's assets. The simple answer is the Post does. The Scout unit is not recognized as a legal entity, but the Post is because it is a corporation. The Scout unit is a program subdivision of the Post. That said, the Scout unit can raise funds (provided they are for Scouting purposes only), manage them and related bank accounts, but needs to be very careful about using individual Scout accounts. The IRS in recent years has taken an adverse stance on Scout unit funds that yield financial benefit to individual persons.

Tangible assets of a Scout unit may need to be insured. Either the Post or the Scout unit can obtain the insurance, but usually the Post's general liability insurance will cover it.

In the event of a Scout unit's demise, the debts of the unit are to be paid and the remainder of cash and all tangible assets turned over to the Post. Nothing is to be paid or given to any individual, nor is anything to be transferred to another Scout unit without the Post's written approval. The Post may hold these residual assets for the start of new Scout

units later or arrange with the local BSA Council for other disposition.

Scout units may raise funds to operate their program provided they meet the parameters approved by the BSA. Ensure that all fundraising activities are approved at least two weeks in advance by both the Post and the local BSA Council.

Remember that Scouts may never solicit gifts for their units. The only direct solicitation of funds is for the Council through the Friends of Scouting Program.

As in all well managed financial matters, reporting and oversight should be maintained for all Scout unit funds. Scout units should make periodic reports to the Post Commander and Finance Officer as directed.

References: *Fiscal Policies and Procedures for BSA Units, March 2015 and BSA Product Sales Guide, August 2014.* Given the age of these authoritative references, updates are expected in the near future. These documents can be accessed for details at www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/scouting/resources/.

2019 Florida Veteran's Benefits Guide is Out

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements

veteransbenefits@legionmail.org



This benefit guide shows what a veteran is entitled to in the state of Florida. Some examples are Property Tax exemptions, G.I. Bill, Florida State Parks

discounts, job preference, medical care, and much more. The benefit guide is now available online at www.FloridaVets.org or call 1-850-488-4181/4182 to request a copy. It is highly recommended that every veteran or family member should have at least one of these guides on hand!

Department Judge Advocate

Curtis McNeil has been appointed the new Department Judge Advocate.

Department Commander, Dianne Boland, is accepting resume's for the position of Department Assistant Judge Advocate. Anyone interested in this position can submit his/her resume to:

Department Headquarters
Attn: Department Commander
P.O. Box 547859
Orlando, FL 32810

Find us on: **facebook**  **floridalegion**

Creating Mobility for Veterans

Jennifer Cooper, Dept Fundraising
jcooper@floridalegion.org

13 Scooters Donated for Florida Veterans

Orlando, January 2, 2019 – Jack Kump (Port Orange, FL) and his wife, Joan Wheeler, continue to impact the Florida veteran community and having recently donated twelve (12) brand new mobility scooters to The American Legion, Department of Florida. Inspired by their commitment to our veterans, SpinLife has also added an additional scooter, free of charge, for a total of thirteen (13) brand new mobility scooters to be given away to Florida veterans.

This marks the third year Jack and Joan have generously donated mobility scooters to Florida’s veterans. We asked Jack and Joan what prompted such a noble act. According to Jack, “Without the military influence, discipline, Espirit de Corps, and direction, my life would have probably taken a much less productive path.” Jack and Joan believe that all vets are very special people and

should be recognized, shown compassion, and never overlooked or forgotten. “The scooters are being donated in memory of two WWII vets very special in our lives, Joan’s late father, Robert I. Wheeler, and Jack’s late mentor, Leonard F. Wedge.” On Friday, January 4th, Jack and Joan arrived at The American

Legion, Department of Florida’s State Headquarters office. David Miller, Purple Heart recipient and long-time member of the American Legion, was also in attendance to show his appreciation. David will distribute three (3) scooters within the Tampa area to deserving veterans who are affiliated with the Wounded Warriors Abilities Ranch in Pinellas Park.

Florida is home to more than 1.6 million veterans; 22% of those veterans have claimed some level of disability. Jack



and Joan have asked that these mobility scooters be distributed to disabled veterans who are in need and lack the funds or insurance to cover the costs on their own. They have entrusted The American Legion, Department of Florida with the distribution of this remarkable act of kindness.

The American Legion, Department of Florida would like to extend a debt of gratitude to Jack and Joan, on behalf of all Florida Veterans. It is this type of compassion and kindness that we wish for all of our veterans.

Opportunity for Mortgage-Free Home

Glenda Probst, Service Source
glendaprobst@servicesource.org



Homes for Independence and Abilities of Florida, a part of ServiceSource, have an initiative that is being developed to give a qualified person or persons with

a disability or active-military, veterans, and surviving spouses, an opportunity for homeownership.

Crestview Villas Mortgage-Free Property Donation Program Eligibility
 Property Address: 800 North Fiske Blvd
 Cocoa, FL.

Veterans with a service related disability will be given preference, wounded warrior, veteran, surviving spouse, surviving parent, qualified active-military or a qualified person or persons with a disability

- Must provide a copy of your DD214 or

a verification of a disability

- Must have been honorably discharged or active military
- Must complete application and the home must be primary residence
- All participants must have current verifiable income for utilities, property taxes, homeowner’s insurance, Homeowner Association fees, living expenses, and savings account contribution
- Excellent rental history; paying rent on time and taking care of your unit
- Must consent to a current credit and criminal background check

continued on page 15 >>

<< *Service Source- from page 14*

- Must provide two (2) letters of recommendation
- New owner will be responsible for taxes and insurance after time of transfer and condo association fees 1 year after time of transfer. Condo fees are \$327 annually.
- A three-year deed restriction from the

date of recordation will be placed on title to ensure successful completion of financial mentorship program, successful home ownership, and restricts a title transfer or rental of the property to a third party

Participation is required on the ceremony day of giveaway and a dress code policy will be enforced.

Giveaway November 6, 2019

For application information or questions, please contact Glenda Probst at 321-632-4542 glendaprobst@servicesource.org or Lisa Ciccolelli at 727-600-8922 lisa.ciccolelli@servicesource.org.

National Commander to Visit

Itinerary provided by Dennis Boland

National Commander Brett Reistad is set to visit Florida February 2 – 7, 2019.

He will be accompanied by his aide,

Ken Knight. Let's give them both a warm welcome. Please remember to invite the Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion to attend.

See pg 17-18 for complete itinerary.



Veterans in Florida Might Lose Food Stamps

Danielle Prieur, 90.7 WMFE

<https://www.wmfe.org/author/dprieur>

Department's Bruce Comer featured in radio and article for 90.7WMFE.

"The government shutdown is causing anxiety for people who rely on SNAP benefits. But the Florida American Legion's Bruce Comer says veteran food insecurity has been a longstanding problem in the state. Comer says veterans have been moving to Florida for years because of the weather without taking into account the high cost of living.

"And then they just find themselves living in areas that are more expensive to live in and the dollar just doesn't

stretch as far as it does in other places." The Legion's 292 posts throughout the state already offer food assistance to veterans. Comer says if food stamps are cut off, they'll ramp up these efforts. "But a lot of them will start doing breakfasts at least a couple times a week and they'll have some kind of food programs. I've already gotten a call from two posts about setting up food banks in their area to try and assist."

Full article and audio here:

<https://www.wmfe.org/120000-veterans-in-florida-might-lose-food-stamps-if-a-government-shutdown-continues-past-next-month/96062>



Membership Renewal Post Cards Available

Irene Graham, Membership Director

igraham@floridalegion.org

ATTENTION POSTS:

Past Due – Membership Renewals post cards are now available.

Please email Irene Graham, Membership Director at igraham@floridalegion.org and let her know how many you need.



January 18, 2019 90% Target Report (Currently 82.01%)		
6	Timothy Tierney	86.99%
12	Stephen Hamrick	86.49%
4	Cherie Korn	84.20%
13	Brian Taz Gehling	83.98%
16	Raymond Perez	83.97%
15	Bruce Carl	83.94%
8	Jerry Faught	82.58%
11	Paul Bosco	82.14%
17	Willie Branch	82.07%
5	Troy Horsley	79.52%
2	James Brennan	78.89%
1	John Edens	78.28%
7	David Tucker	77.55%
14	Gary Decker	76.83%
3	Stuart Scott	76.05%
9	Teddy Pomerantz	74.66%
Eastern	James Burk	86.78%
Southwestern	Michael Raymond	83.34%
Central	Jay Allen	82.83%
Northern	Frederick Hutto	80.69%
Western	Raymond Olsen	78.39%
Southern	James Tewes	78.01%
Post 400		77.59%
Post 208		78.56%



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

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From Your American Legion Department

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



Emergency and Accident

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



Insurance Coverage

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



No Cost Protection

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

Cancer Care Insurance Plan

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

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

MEMBERSHIP GOAL
90% 2/6/2019

www.thelit.com



NATIONAL COMMANDER BRETT REISTAD ITINERARY

Please invite the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion to attend.

DATE	POST	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
Friday 2/1 <i>Red Legion Shirt.</i>		ARRIVAL	
	Dept Headquarters (407) 295-2631 <i>COMMENTS: National Commander visits Florida Legion College.</i>	3:30PM	7:00PM
Saturday 2/2 <i>Legion shirt.</i>	Post 77 <i>COMMENTS: Invite Post 225 to Post 77. Post 237 Riders to escort to Post 237.</i>	10:45AM	11:25AM
	Post 237 <i>COMMENTS: Light Lunch.</i>	11:50AM	1:15PM
	Post 284	2:05PM	2:50PM
	Post 347 <i>COMMENTS: Dinner. (352) 750-2099</i>	5:00PM	-
Sunday 2/3 <i>National Commander Shirt.</i>	Post 155	9:50 AM	10:35AM
	Post 236 <i>COMMENTS: Lunch.</i>	11:35AM	12:45PM
	Post 91	1:15PM	1:55PM
	Post 383	2:20PM	3:05PM
	Post 291	3:40PM	4:20PM
	Post 96 <i>COMMENTS: Dinner.</i>	6:00PM	-
Monday 2/4 <i>Yellow Legion Shirt.</i>	Post 49 <i>COMMENTS: Donuts and coffee.</i>	9:00AM	9:40AM
	Post 224 <i>COMMENTS: Donuts and coffee.</i>	10:25AM	11:10AM
	Post 107	12:10PM	1:00PM
	Post 57 <i>COMMENTS: Lunch.</i>	1:40PM	2:50PM
	Post 16 <i>COMMENTS: 4th District</i>	3:35PM	4:15PM
	Post 6	7:05PM	-
Tuesday 2/5 <i>Legion Shirt</i>	Post 187	8:45AM	9:20AM
	Post 259	9:45AM	10:20AM
	Post 127	10:40AM	11:15AM
	Post 17 <i>COMMENTS: Lunch.</i>	11:45AM	1:15PM
	Post 270	1:30PM	2:10PM
	Post 361	2:20PM	3:00PM
	Post 120	3:20PM	4:00PM
	Post 115 <i>COMMENTS: Flagler County Government Services Building, Bunnell, FL</i>	4:30PM	5:10PM
	Post 267 <i>COMMENTS: Dinner.</i>	6:30PM	8:00PM

NATIONAL COMMANDER BRETT REISTAD - ITINERARY

Wednesday 2/6

Legion Shirt

Post 194	9:30AM	10:05AM
Post 233	10:45AM	11:20AM
Post 129	11:35AM	12:15PM
Post 316	12:30PM	1:45PM
<i>COMMENTS: Lunch.</i>		
Post 88	3:20PM	4:00PM
Post 244	4:05PM	4:45PM
Post 197	5:10PM	5:45PM
Post 137	6:10PM	7:45PM
<i>COMMENTS: Dinner.</i>		
Post 54	9:30AM	10:10AM
Post 401	11:00AM	11:45AM
Post 9	12:20PM	1:30PM
<i>COMMENTS: Lunch.</i>		
Post 202	2:40PM	3:20PM
Post 250	3:50PM	4:35PM
<i>COMMENTS: Invite Post 56, 4th District.</i>		
Post 283	5:35PM	-
<i>COMMENTS: Dimmer.</i>		
		DEPARTURE

Friday 2/8

Personal Preferences for National Commander Reistad

Beverages: Diet Coke or Sparkling Water
Main Course: Anything (loves shellfish)
Medical Restrictions: Penicillin Allergy
Sizes: Polo shirt XXL
National Commander's Charity: American Legion Charities

Aide to National Commander Ken Knight (317) 954-4443

Beverages: Soft drinks, Iced Tea or Coffee
Main Course: Anything
Sizes: Polo shirt XL



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

POST EVERLASTING



Larry D. Sheets

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Department Judge Advocate, Larry D. Sheets, of Miami, FL on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at the age of 72. Larry is survived by his sister, Nancy Carroll, of Hampton, Georgia, and brother, John Sheets, of Plymouth, Indiana.

Larry was a U.S. Air Force Vietnam War Era Veteran and a member of Sullivan-Babcock Post 32, with 51 continuous years of membership. Larry served as an aircraft mechanic while in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He worked for Eastern Airlines for 21 years and retired from Executive Airlines (American Eagle) in Miami.

Larry joined The American Legion in 1968 at Nappanee, Indiana Post 154, and transferred to Hialeah, Florida Post 32 in 1972. He served in many elected and appointed positions during his impressive career in The American Legion including 14 terms as Post Commander. On a Department level, Larry, served as Department Internal Affairs Chairman (1994-2002 & 2006-15); 10th District Commander (1980-81); Department Sgt-at-Arms (1987-89); Vice Commander – Southern Area (1985-86); and Department Commander (1989-90). On a National level, Larry, served on the National Internal Affairs Committee (1987-19); National Legislative Council (1993-94 & 1999-19); and was elected National Vice Commander (2011-12).

If you would like to send your condolences you may do so through Post 32 Commander, Sly Fowler.

Family of PDC Larry Sheets
C/O Sly Fowler
6720 Crooked Palm Ter.
Miami Lakes, FL 33014-2918

Urn Committal Service with Military Honors took place on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at South Florida National Cemetery, 6501 South SR 7, Lake Worth, FL.

In lieu of flowers, the family of Larry Sheets, request memorial contributions be sent to Florida American Legion Boys State, PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854. Checks should be made payable to Florida American Legion Boys State.

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

**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



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

★ CHILDREN & YOUTH ★ HELP US GIVE SMILES ★

PICNIC

SATURDAY
APRIL 6, 2019

12:00pm – 6:00pm

AMERICAN LEGION
POST 117

189 Veterans Dr.
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Admission: Free

Activities

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

Food

Cotton Candy
Candy Apples
BBQ Chicken
Hot Dogs
Hamburgers

Poker Run

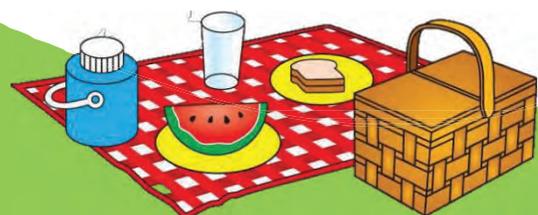
Registration starts at 9 AM
Kick stands up at 10 AM
\$10 per Rider
\$5 per Passenger



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

★ CHILDREN & YOUTH ★ HELP US GIVE SMILES ★

PICNIC SPONSORSHIP

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

_____ Platinum \$200 – Name on Sponsorship Board, four meal tickets and four Children & Youth Shirts with name on it **Cut-off date for Platinum Sponsorship is March 6, 2019**

_____ Gold \$100 – Name on Sponsorship Board, two meal tickets and two Children & Youth Shirts with name on it **Cut-off date for Gold Sponsorship is March 6, 2019**

_____ Silver \$50 – Name on Sponsorship Board & Two meal tickets

_____ Bronze \$25 – Name on Sponsorship Board

_____ Basket Donation for Chinese Auction

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

POKER RUN REGISTRATION

Post Number: _____ Number of Riders: _____

POC for group: _____

POC Phone #: _____

HOTEL OPTIONS:

**Holiday Inn Express &
Suites**

**1206 Malabar Rd SE
Palm Bay FL 32907
Ph: 321-220-2003**

QUESTIONS?

Gene Baker

ERBaker1957@gmail.com
Ph: 321-693-5178

Department C&Y Chairman:

Vickie Van Buren

Vickie.vanburen@yahoo.com
Ph: 352-562-9963

PAYMENT

Please send checks and
basket donations to:

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Dr.
Palm Bay, FL 32909
Attn: C&Y Picnic



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

(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 TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Teacher who best meets the qualifications of the Nomination Form will be selected, by a committee of the Americanism Commission, as the FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

The Florida American Legion TEACHER of the Year will be invited to participate in the Annual Department Convention held in June.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

The applicant and sponsoring American Legion Post should **type or print clearly** all information. Each section should be completed with as much information as possible. IF more space is needed the applicant and sponsoring Post may add additional pages.

Section A—A brief outline of the educational career of the nominee.

Section B—A list all educational honors, awards, and recognitions received by the nominee.

Section C—To be completed by the nominating American Legion Post.

Section D—A list of the nominees leadership skills and/or acts of patriotism.

ATTACHMENTS—TWO REQUIRED LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

American Legion Post

School Principal

NOTE: Additional letters of recommendation may be attached.

DEADLINE: April 15 of the current year

MAIL TO: Florida American Legion
ATTN: Programs Director
P O Box 547859
Orlando, FL 32854-7859

Every Post may make a nomination of an exceptional TEACHER.



THE AMERICAN LEGION TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Eligibility Requirements

THE NOMINEE MUST:

1. Be a TEACHER 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 this nomination form.

Award

The Florida American Legion Teacher of the Year award will be presented a check for \$500.00 at the Florida American Legion Department Convention.

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

Name of School _____

School Phone # _____ Email _____

Principal's Name _____

AUTHORIZATION

Certification by TEACHER

I certify to the accuracy of the foregoing facts. If selected I will be free to travel to the Florida American Legion Department Convention and participate as the "TEACHER of the Year", representing the Florida American Legion and my school.

DATE _____

SIGNATURE OF TEACHER _____

ENDORSEMENTS

School Principal

The above named applicant is qualified in every respect to represent the Florida American Legion and our school and has my recommendation.

DATE _____

Principal _____

American Legion Post

The above named applicant is approved by Post Number _____ as qualified for nomination of the Florida American Legion "TEACHER of the Year".

DATE _____

POST CHAIRMAN _____

Section C

(This section to be completed by the nominating American Legion Post)

WHAT MAKES THIS TEACHER AN EXCEPTIONAL INSTRUCTOR?

Section D

(For American Legion Post)

PLEASE LIST ANY OTHER EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NOMINEE WHICH SHOULD WARRANT CONSIDERATION BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE. (What acts of leadership and/or patriotism he/she has performed?)

ATTACHMENTS—TWO REQUIRED LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

American Legion Post School Principal

NOTE: Additional letters of recommendation may be attached.

THE WATERFRONT INN

American Legion *Special Hotel Rate*



Available now until 03.26.2019

\$164.00 Standard Room

\$174.00 Waterview Room

\$184.00 Waterview with Balcony

Via Telephone Direct: (352) 753-7535 (24 hours)

Via Telephone Toll Free: (800) 592-0774 (24 hours)

****Ask for the American Legionspecial Rate***

GUEST ROOM AMENITIES

- Pillow top King and Queen beds with luxury linens
- Flat Screen TV's with Premium cable channels
- Complimentary High speed Internet
- Refrigerator, microwave, and Keurig coffee makers with K-Cups
- Iron, ironing board, hair dryer
- Our Amelia's Full service restaurant and bar serving Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

1105 Lakeshore Drive The Villages, Florida 32162

Southwestern Area Ball

American Legion Post 110

3152 Harbor Blvd

Port Charlotte, Florida

Theme: Wild Wild West

Dress: Western Casual

Cocktails: 5pm

Dinner: 6pm *Shepherds Pie*

Fish & Chips

\$15.00 per person

HOTEL INFO

Make checks payable to:

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham

American Legion Post 110

2 Queens \$206.00 per night

941-787-3348 mention Mike Raymond

Southwestern Area Ball

March 16th, 2019

Program Ads

Business Card Ads \$10.00 \$____.____

½ Page \$20.00 \$____.____

Full Page \$30.00 \$____.____

Send Ads to: post110commander@aol.com

Make checks payable to and send to:

American Legion Post 110

3152 Harbor Blvd

Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Attn: SWA program Ads

Ph: 618-616-2753

FLORIDA LEGION

PRESENTS



COMMANDER & PRESIDENT
BANQUET

ENTERTAINMENT BY BEATLES COVER BAND

NOT QUITE FAB

.....
CANARY BALLROOM
.....

FRI/JUN 28/7PM

COCKTAIL HOUR STARTS AT 6:00PM

.....
— WWW.FLORIDALEGION.ORG —
.....



DEPARTMENT
OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA LEGION

PRESENTS

COMMANDER & PRESIDENT BANQUET

GERMAN DINNER BUFFET

ASSORTED ROLLS

LOCAL GREENS

Sweet Green Peas | Corn | Tomatoes | Shredded Carrots | Radish
Creme Fraiche Vinaigrette

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

Apple Strudel | Black Forest Glass | German Chocolate Cake

PURCHASE ONLINE
www.floridalegion.org

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

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

of Tickets _____ X \$40 each = Total Due \$ _____

Payment Type: Check Money Order Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Yes, I authorize my card to be charged for the total amount above. *****Order now! Price goes up to \$50 each after June 1, 2019.**

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



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	Fund 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

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



Commanders Homecoming

American Legion Post 117

189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay

February 9th, 2019

Cocktails at 5pm

Dinner at 6pm

\$20



On the Menu

Bratwurst

Kartoffelsalat

Sauerkraut

Krautsalat

Pomme Frites

Boulette

**Wear Your Favorite
Red-White & Blue**

Hotel Information: 321-220-2003

Holiday Inn Express , 1206 Malabar Rd, Palm Bay

King Room \$119 Two Queens \$129

Block Name: Homecoming

Information: Suzie Pilot or Bruce Thurber Post 117 321-729-8089 EMAIL: membership@legion.org

Tickets: Mail to: Post 117, 189 Veterans Drive Palm Bay, FL 32908 Attn: Homecoming

2018 Florida American Legion Funds

PATIENT

AGE	City	AMOUNT
9	Hialeah	\$1,000.00
7	Tallahassee	\$500.00
16	Miami	\$1,000.00
11	Center Hill	\$7,400.00
5	Pensacola	\$1,500.00
14	Gainesville	\$500.00
	Total	\$11,900.00

15	Naples	\$1,000.00
16	Miami	\$1,500.00
9	Hialeah	\$1,500.00
5	Pensacola	\$858.26
11	Miramar	\$2,500.00
7	Tallahassee	\$2,000.00
17	Orlando	\$1,000.00
21	Crestview	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
	Total	\$11,858.26

15	Naples	\$100.00
15	Deltona	\$1,500.00
21	Port St. Lucie	\$1,500.00
7	Panama City	\$1,000.00
9	Hialeah	\$2,000.00
8	Tallahassee	\$1,050.00
12	Center Hill	\$3,850.00
5	Pensacola	<u>\$2,400.00</u>
	Total	\$13,400.00

12	Center Hill	\$1,950.00
3	Jacksonville	\$750.00
13	Cooper City	\$7,150.00
8	Tallahassee	\$600.00
7	Orlando	\$500.00
15	Oak Hill	\$100.00
22	Crestview	<u>\$3,700.00</u>
		\$14,750.00

2018 Grand Total	\$51,908.26
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