

MARCH 2019

COMMANDER DIANNE BOLAND

VOL. 27 ISSUE 7

From Your Department Commander Dianne Boland

commander@floridalegion.org



Greetings,

What a month February turned out to be. It started with our National Commander Brett Reistad

being in-state for a visit as well as the Florida State Legion College taking place. We had a great group in attendance. They got a chance to hear from our National Commander as well as ask questions and get pictures taken. Thank you all who attended whether as a student or instructor. As always, Tom Gora did a great job.

Next came the Legion Riders Summit. There were many classes to choose from but unfortunately the Non-Rider classes were not very well attended. All in all, everyone I spoke with had a great time. One area of confusion I would like to address is PVR and Suicide Prevention. Department Chaplain Barry Roberts and Kurt Geis originally were part of PVR working on Suicide Prevention. This is no longer the case. They have their own charity (not a part of PVR or the Legion). I do not know the name. PVR does have a line item for Suicide Prevention but as of this moment, does

not have a write-up on what paths they will follow nor how the money will be spent. If you are doing a ride to raise money for Suicide Prevention within PVR, please advertise it properly and when writing the check, have it written to PVR/Suicide Prevention.

Another great charity to donate to is the National Commander's charity -The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. This supports Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) as well as training for our Service Officers. My charities are The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and Final Salute.

Following the Summit, I had my Homecoming at Post 117 in Palm Bay. Wow! Many thanks to Bruce Thurber and the Auxiliary for all their work making the dinner a big success. Thanks to Mike McDaniel who got the money rolling in for my charity, CWF. Over a thousand dollars was raised in about 10 minutes. Many thanks to all who attended. I will be sending out thank you notes to those who brought gifts but there is one bottle of wine I cannot identify. I apologize.

Membership is doing great but could continued on page 2 >>

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still be doing better. Congratulations to all the Posts, Districts, and Areas that made their 85% goal and especially to those who have already made their 90%. Great job. Thank you to all Posts who are already at 100%! Be sure and check out National's "Buddy Check" and see how it can help you reach your goals through retention.

Keep in mind your deadlines such as those for Post Elections - not elected before March 30th nor later than June 17th - nominations for awards, National and Department CPR's, etc. And don't forget our Department Oratorical Competition on March 9th at Department Headquarters. See you there.

Message from the 1st Vice Commander

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



Hello March and daylight savings time. Happy Birthday American Legion as you all look good for being 100 Years Old. Febuary was a busy month around the

state as our Legion College took place and had a great turnout and they had a great opportunity as the National Commander spoke to the class. Then we had the third annual Rider's Summit which had a great turnout and I was offered the opportunity to speak to the group at the opening ceremony on Thursday. The Riders to a lot for us and we need to keep on doing the same for them.

We had the Commanders homecoming at Post 117 and a great time had by all. A group of us from the state just got back from D.C. talking to our Senators and Congressman and woman regarding where the American Legion stands on certain bills and issues that will keep us moving forward for the following 100 years.

We have three balls this month Eastern, Northern and the Southwestern; check the flyers on the website. March 9th will be the Department Oratorical contest to see who will represent us at National. All six of these young adults deserve it but there will be only one. National vice Commander will be visiting the state March 27th till? We don't have the details yet where he will be visiting.

District Commanders, I checked at Department to see how many Post visitation reports have been submitted, with that being said just 30 out of 296 reports have been sent to Department. This is your oppurnity to assist the Post in their operations and to insure all of their paperwork is complete and updated. We are falling short and need to do a better job at this. I also have put on the website the applications for chairmanships for the upcoming year. Please fill out and send forward to Department. The cruise flyer is also up and cabins are already going fast. We had a great time last year and this year will be even better. Now is the time to really start working the membership even harder as the renewals will slow down so now is the time to 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 in all you do and continue to do.

	MARCH 2019				
1	Program Deadlines				
1	Employee Appreciation Day				
2	District 17 Parade				
2	Eastern Area Ball 🕏				
2	District 15 Meeting, Post 111				
2	Chili Cook-off, Car & Bike Show				
2	District 17 Picnic				
3	Navy Reserve Birthday				
5	Shrove Tuesday				
5	Mardi Gras				
6	Ash Wednesday				
6	95% Membership Goal				
6-9	Commander Visits District 6 🕏				
9	State Oratorical Contest 🕏				
9	District 5 100th Anniversary Ball				
9	District 12 Picnic and Birthday				
10	Daylight Savings Time Starts				
11	Post 115 Chili Cook-off				
12	End of Year Mailing				
13	K9 Veterans Day				
13-16	Commander Visits District 13 🕏				
15	100TH BIRTHDAY				
15	Legion Link Articles Due				
15	Baseball Rulebook Changes Due				
15	Re-dedication of NALCREST				
15	Post 323 Centennial Celebration				
16	ALR 100 Mile Centennial Ride				
16	Southwestern Area Ball 🕏				
16	District 3 Meeting				
16	Post 117 Centennial Celebration				
18	Boys State Registration Closes				
20	First Day of Spring				
21-23	District 4 Commander Visit 😂				
23	Northern Area Ball 🕏				
25	Medal of Honor Day				
29	Vietnam War Veterans Day				

🗘 - Commander Dianne Boland's Attendance Tentative.

Baseball - Legal Domicile

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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.



Message from the 2nd Vice Commander

Jerry Brandt, 2nd Vice Commander

2ndvice@legionmail.org



Comrades, We are getting close to the Race To The Top. We will see who wins at the end of March and in Zone 2 the race is getting hot. While District 6 and 12 are

leading, take a look at Zone 2; look at the following racers:

16th District, with Ray Perez at #3 with 88.82%, chased by

13th District, with Brian Gehling at #4 with 88.12%, pursued by 15th District, with Bruce Carl at #5 with 88.03%. Talk about a tight race. 8th District follows at #8 with Jerry Faught with 86.22% and 7th District is at #12 with David Tucker with 83.57%

Please keep up the good work, and let's

see who is ahead at the end of March.

In February, we celebrated the reopening of American Legion Post 71 in Lake Wales, attended by both the Mayor and Police Chief of the City of Lake Wales. I would like to thank Post 71 for their hospitability.

For Planning, we have the following:

- March 2nd, we have the Rededication Ceremony of James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, a place for the family of our veterans visiting the hospital.
- Department Commander will visit the 13th District from March 13th to 16th.
- Southwestern Ball will be at Post 110 on March 16th.
- Central Area Training will be at Post 72 in Mulberry, at 10AM (doors open at 9AM) on the 16th of March. If you are planning to be a new officer, this will help you within your Post.
- March 17th will be 13th District

Meeting at Post 110.

- March 30th, Post 125 will have the 16th District meeting.
- March 30th, Post 15 will be hosting the 7th District.

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 are the following:

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

Please look up Awards and Recognition under <u>www.legion.org</u> for more awards and details.

Message from the 3rd Vice Commander

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



Legionnaires, the month of March is filled with recognition of the 100-year Anniversary and celebration, membership by the

end of March, and Children and Youth activities. Let us adhere to and keep up the good work that you are doing. Special thanks to the Area, District, and Post Commanders of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Districts for your professionalism during the National Commander's visit. Thanks NEC Dennis Boland for choosing Zone 3 for the honor of

having the National Commander. To all PDCs who attended, it was an honor to have you. It was also an honor to have our Past National Commander Clarence Hill. Again, I thank all of you from the Posts, Districts, Areas, present Department officers and Past Department Commanders, and also members from other Posts.

The following week, Feb. 13th to 16th, the 17th District had the honor of having Department Commander Boland visit. All Posts were very happy to have her and enjoyed her words of wisdom and updates on the American Legion. Especially, words of wisdom on leadership. Never assume someone knows something.

Assumptions can be positive and

negative. If negative and you are the leader, you lose respect. Before criticizing, be sure you have all the facts, have all angles of the situation, and know how performance can be improved by correct practice.

There are various levels of leadership; in the Florida Department there are Department Commander, three Vice Commanders, Area Commanders, District Commanders, and Post Commanders. At the beginning of the year, each Commander on each level has a meeting with the next level and tell that group what their plans, expectations, etc. are. Example: Department Commanders share their ideas and how we fit into the picture to accomplish membership, programs,

continued on page 4 >>



<< 3rd Vice Commander- from page 3

etc. for the Department of Florida. This way we will all be of one accord. Just remember, each Department Commander has his/her agenda. No one is a mind reader. Never, ever attack your peers in the hall or open spaces. Take them to the office and get the facts.

In my travels, I find that it was important for me to touch on this issue in order to have all of our people be the very best in the Department of Florida from Post to Department Commander. I wish everyone a very successful membership year. Happy 100th Year to the American Legion!

Coast Guard Help Through the TFA

Dennis Boland, NEC nec@legionmail.org



The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance Program (TFA) continues to provide for the basic needs of minor children of eligible veterans through cash

grants. As of January 31st of this year, TFA has assisted 3,160 minor children of 1,735 veterans throughout the United

States maintain shelter, utilities, food and clothing through \$1,030,163 in grants. Included in those total grant figures, there is \$1,000,500 that aided 3,120 children of 1,713 active duty United States Coast Guard service members who were financially affected by the recent government shutdown. Over forty staff members across multiple divisions at National Headquarters worked diligently during and after work hours throughout the government shutdown and over the three-day MLK holiday weekend to help process and expedite over 5,200 TFA

applications for USCG families as swiftly as possible.

The Department of Florida Coast Guard families received \$140,500 from TFA assisting 420 children of 247 Veterans from National Headquarters. 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 through Project Vet Relief.

Sergeant at Arms Training

Jeff Durden, Sgt-at-Arms

sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org



I would like to thank Post 90 for volunteering to host the color guard at the opening of the 101st Florida Convention. We had three training sessions

in Cocoa Beach at the ALR Summit in February. We have some dedicated

Sgt-At-Arms in the state. There will be a class at the convention in June, look for more details to follow. It will be a busy time for you Sgt-At-Arms in the coming months with the DCC's fast approaching. If you have any questions, please give me a shout and I will help you the best I can. Remember; train the young Sgt-At-Arms as if you were training them to take over your job. Be a mentor to them. Until next time, look at the manual and help us to update it for the Department.





www.floridalegion.org mail@floridalegion.org



Western Area Update

Chuck Olsen, Western Area

westernarea@legionmail.org



Greetings:
It is the middle of
February and this
information will be old
by the time you read
it in the Legion Link
-HOPEFULLY. Those
of you who receive
this from your Post

Commanders get it a little faster. Western Area has moved out of last place, but we are a far cry away from where we were at this time last year. Are we holding our own and everyone else doing better or are we just not doing well? It will not take much for us to move up.

At the time that I am writing this 1st District has four Posts above 100% (378, 33, 44, and 402) and four Posts that are at the 90% goal (382, 296, 75, and 340). Congratulations to these Posts and their Commanders and Adjutants. There are seven Posts that are within reach of 90% and there are four Posts way behind on membership (121, 240, 375, and 193). Post 375 is the only Post on that grouping that has a legitimate excuse – they lost their entire Post to the hurricane. District 2 membership is progressing. Three Posts are over 100% (84, 172, 51) and three Posts are at the 90% goal (100, 217 and 272). Congratulations and thank you to those Commanders and Adjutants who are getting their memberships in and processed. I know it has been very tough in District 2 as well as in the Panama City area because of the hurricane. There are three Posts within striking distance of that goal and there are five Posts that are behind the curve (302, 42, 241,114, and 106).

To all the Posts in the area, we have Western Area Membership Chairman John Everitt from Post 78 in Milton (850293-4957) who is ready to help. I will be glad to come to your Posts and help you make calls. Your District Commanders and Vice Commanders will be glad to come help you out. The quicker we get back up to 100% like last year, the better. Also, as you have heard me say for the last 3 or 4 years, the more membership you get done by December 31st, the more time you have to recruit for other programs.

I was a little disappointed to see that there were no competitors for Oratory from either the 1st or 2nd District. The last two Western Area champions did well at the state level and last year's champion went on to do well representing the Department of Florida in the National Competition. This is a good competition, it is a great Americanism Program, and there are valuable scholarships involved. I am also a little disappointed that our participation in Boys State is down this year. These two programs are in my opinion two of the very best things that the American Legion does for our Children and Youth. When I asked the Post Commanders about these facts at the District Meetings, I was told that many of the schools in Panama City and District 2 were devastated and currently rebuilding and it was difficult to get assistance from the schools to get participants.

February was District Meeting time. Both Districts had nominations for the District Officers for the upcoming year. Lamar Carroll (Post 392) was nominated for 1st District Commander; Red Viehweger (Post 375) for Vice-Commander along with Sonny Decker (Post 382); and Terry James (Post 235) was nominated for Finance Officer. In the 2nd District, Roger Hewitt (Post 13) was nominated for District Commander and Ray Weidner (Post 272) was nominated for District Vice-Commander. John Edens, the current District Commander announced his intentions

to see the high office of Western Area Commander. Nominations will be reopened at the District Constitutional Conventions in June if you are seeking a position for next year. If you wish to be a District Chairman or a Western Area Chairman, please contact those candidates and let them know you are interested in being a Chairman.

Finally, I want to thank you all for all of the well wishes while I was in the hospital with a heart attack, then overmedicated, then congestive heart failure. It was a rough last quarter of the year with three separate stays in the hospital and not being able to breath over Christmas. We still have March, April, May, and June to get some good programs completed. I will be holding a Western Area meeting later in April where our focus will be on CPRs. These reports are critical to the Legion and they are due in the beginning of May. They can be done electronically and there is no excuse not to do them. They not only help National when the Legion storms Capitol Hill at the end of February, but it helps you to list off all the things that you do for the community each and every year. If no one would miss you if you shut your doors, are you really doing all you can as an American Legion Post?





Northern Area Update

Mike Hutto, Northern Area

northernarea@legionmail.org



March is here and it is the month of an extra effort for membership. This is especially important because March 15 is the official 100th birthday of our

great American Legion. Let's give our veterans a birthday present with a stronger caucus in Congress.

If you want to know what is going on with your legislatures, check out the app "RallyWise". That site shows bill's being debated in Congress that are of interest to veterans. It's worth a look since it may concern you.

I personally want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of the Posts that the National Commander and the Department Commander visited in the Northern Area. You were all very impressive. Thank you.

Don't forget the Northern Area Ball on Saturday, March 23. If you need tickets, please contact me at 352-490-1756. A good time will be had by all. Tickets will also be on sale at the door.

PRE-ORDER MARCH 15



Don't Slow Down!

Michael Raymond, Southwestern Area swarea@legionmail.org



We're back from
Invading the Canyon,
the Riders Summit,
the Commander's
Homecoming, and
several Area Balls with
many more to come, but
now is not the time to

slow down. Membership is looking much better, but we really have to give that extra push to get us to the finish line. I've been very busy at my Post getting ready for our 100th Anniversary celebration, "Kickin' it at the Kanal" on March 2nd and 3rd. We will open with a 1-mile Challenge 22 walk at 10 am on the 2nd, followed by two days of rock and roll and country music, great food, and much more. All proceeds will benefit the Commander's charities.

Elections are coming up and if you will not be running for re-election at your Posts, you should be mentoring your replacements. It is so important to pass on your experience to our upand-coming leaders. It is a good idea to contact past officers to assist you in the transition period. Don't ever forget that to operate a successful Post you need a good team. Remember to keep the morale high and the dram low. Our mission in the American Legion is to serve our veterans and their families, but most importantly you have to enjoy what you're doing. Make it fun for your members and yourself. And don't ever forget to reward your volunteers. A simple "thank you" or a certificate of appreciation goes a long way and I prey much guarantee they will come back. Now as Governor Scott used to tell us, "Let's get to work!" See you all on the 2nd.

Greetings from the 6th & 12th Districts

James Burk, Eastern Area easternarea@legionmail.org



Our two Districts continue to battle it out on membership. Both have exceeded their year-to-date goals and are only 0.25% apart. Great job Chris and Tim.

As usual, today I'm going to go off script. I am a history buff and fascinated by the Legion's history. In the 12th District there are two posts named after veterans.

Post 39 is named after Felix Poppell, a young Coast Guardsman. He was from the Vero Beach area and a crewman on the USS Tampa. Post 5 in Tampa is named for this troop transport ship. In 1918 during WWI, after making several

crossings of the Atlantic, she was stuck by torpedoes from a German U-boat and sank with all hands-on-board. Only two bodies were ever recovered.

Post 40 in Ft. Pierce is named after Stephen Gladwin. The Gladwin family were early settlers in St. Lucie County. Stephen enlisted when war broke out in 1917. He wanted to fight for his country; he was transferred to Texas and spent the next two years fighting Mexican bandits. Early in 1919 he contracted the flu which killed 50 million people worldwide and soon passed away. In fact, more American military died from the flu and related illnesses than died fighting.

Look at your Post. Be proud of it and share its history. Tell the community about it. It just might help grow your Post



Legion Rider Summit and Events

Jim Wineland, Legion Riders

legionriders@legionmail.org



The Summit is behind us now and it's time to move forward with our schedule for the balance of the year, but before we do, please take a minute and fill out the questions

on the Summit Survey Monkey. Your opinion means a lot to us in planning for next year. Oh, by the way, mark your calendars; the Summit contract has been signed for 2020. It's scheduled for Thursday, February 6th, through Saturday, February 8, 2020.

Just a quick overview of the 2019 Summit: we had 301 attendees over the three days in multiple classes; we totaled 715 participants; we had visitors from AL, OH, IL, VA, & DE; our National ALR Chairman Bob Sussan; Department officials Past/Present; 5/6 Area Chairs and 9/16 District Chairs. Chapters Represented by Area: Central 8, Southern 5, Western 7, Southwestern 10, Northern 13, & Eastern 12. Thank you to all who attended.

A special Thanks to Beverly Wooten for all her support and all the individuals that manned the tables! It goes without saying without the support of the Department Staff this would of never happen, so if you get a chance, send them a little note and tell them THANK YOU!

Something to think about. Elections and appointments are just around the corner. If you are interested in an appointed position within the ALR Committee or Area/District Chairs, please let it be known so the information can be shared.

The next activity on our agenda is planning for the Project Vet Relief, Suicide Prevention Initiative local and District fund raising. If you choose to participate, collections started on February 15th and every dollar raised will count toward the Round Robin in April.

Carried forward from last month's Article: 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. The only change is the day of the month since many areas already planned something on this date. We just ask that you please pick a date in the month and ride 100 miles. Thank you.

The In-State Unity Ride will begin in Tampa on Sunday, April 7, with a meet & greet, and the ride will start Monday morning and end on Friday, April 12, at Post 110. We will be stopping at Post 20 along the way, picking up donations for 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 the Tampa area will host the Rally and they are really working on making this an event to remember.

Don't miss it: The Coral-Head Music Festival has already passed but the new concert this year is in England Bros Park, Pinellas Park, November 2-3. Their events support Project Vet Relief. Make sure you get it on your calendar. If you want to volunteer, call Rich at 305-942-9862.

As I mentioned before, one of the advantages of doing these Department activities all 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 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!





GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY MADE EASY

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



Buddy Check Program

Bob Brewster, Post Development

postdevelopment@legionmail.org



Well, by now all Posts are working on the "Buddy Check" program. Under this program you will be calling or visiting all Post members who have not renewed their membership for 2019. If all Posts actually do this, we will grow membership this year by a large amount. Now I am out and about visiting Posts in the 5th District, working with them to get the membership in so that we will all be 100% this year.

If you want my help, my home number is 904-272-1619. Don't wait until it is

too late. I am more than willing to work with you, but you must ask. Don't ask for tomorrow, contact me as soon as possible. We must grow membership. Let's not be the Legion members who let our Department Commander down. I will be doing some District membership drives, and I will also do Post membership drives.

When is Blood Needed

Nancy Thomas, Blood Donor blooddonor@legionmail.org



Blood donations are needed daily in every community throughout the country. Every minute, more than 25 units of blood or specialized blood

components are transfused. That's nearly 37,000 units every day.

Over 95% of all Americans reaching 72 years old will need blood or one of the

products that can be derived from blood in their lifetimes. About 75% of all people over 30 know someone who has had a blood transfusion.

A fragile product, blood is a living tissue that must be used within 21-41 days (five days for blood platelets) after it's donated. While people often "tune in" and respond to emergency appeals, daily needs can only be met by volunteer donors on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

This Chairperson has witnessed such a vast emergency when her son was hospitalized after having three minor heart attacks and had a hemoglobin level of 1 when he arrived at hospital. From the time he was admitted until he was released, he had to have over 40 units of blood. A couple of years later with a hemoglobin level of 3, he needed another 22 units. Thank you to all of you who have donated, you saved my son's life.

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.



Security is an Issue

Nancy Thomas, Security

security@legionmail.org

With the situation going on within our country, security is a prime issue. We need to think about what kind of security we want for our families and for our friends and comrades.

A lot of people are like this Chairperson; I have alarms on my home. If it were to be broken into, I have cameras to record the

activity and local law enforcement has the information regarding my security system, so should they be called they will respond quickly.

I pause and think about the L.E.O.'s we have lost recently and feel we need to stop this from happening. Please take the time to thank our L.E.O.'s, firefighters, E. M. T.'s, and first responders for their service. They risk their lives daily for us.

Please read the Blood Donor, the JROTC/ Shooting, and the Law and Order Chairs' Link articles and we all hope you discover what we are all up to and you will continue to support these programs of The American Legion.

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.



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1919 TO

Resolution Checklist

Clarence Hill, Resolutions resolutions@legionmail.org



This month will provide you with a resolution writing checklist.

- Use Times New Roman or Arial font
 - Font size should

be 12 or greater

- Check the spelling-don't just rely on spellchecker
- Check the grammar
- Have a non-expert read it to see if they have issues understanding it
- Make no reference to specific congressional bill support
- Put the date of the meeting in the header
- Ensure the wording in the resolved

clause(s) is/are correct

- The entire resolution is only one sentence with a period (.) at the end of the resolution
- Ensure the resolution is relevant to The American Legion
- Check the archives to ensure a resolution doesn't already cover the issue
- One subject per resolution
- Signature(s) on each page of the resolution
- Resolved clause(s) in bold
- Authority noted before text of resolution begins
- Concisely title the resolution
- Documentation attached when appropriate
- Do not use 'partnership' in reference to other organizations, use 'relationship'



Membership News

Bruce Thurber, Membership membership@legionmail.org



As we enter March, our National goal is 90% by the 13th. Recruiting and retaining younger members needs to become a focus we must make a priority. Our Americanism Pillar is one

of the tools we can use to be successful in this endeavor. Letting your community know what The American Legion is doing can generate interest in becoming part of the Family. Here are some facts: American Legion Baseball had 54,788 youth playing for 3,486 teams. Junior Shooting Sports had 1,352 athletes on 204 teams. 18,241 participated in 50 Boys State Programs. There are

2,346 Scouting Units chartered by the Legion Family. Florida is one of the 21 states with Youth Law Cadet Programs. The Oratorical competition had 10,505 participants. 245 students were awarded \$1,200,936 in academic scholarships. TFA paid out \$228,975 in grants helping 376 children. With our younger veterans concerned about raising families, letting them know this information and then adding in what your Post does in the community can generate interest in your Post.

Recognizing our volunteers is important and we have not seen many of these sent in this year; please see your membership manual for information on how to recognize these people.

During the Fall Conference recognition for efforts in membership was very weak

please start putting together your recommendations for the Convention and get them submitted.

The new membership system is up and running, it saves time and money and gets us credit right away. I encourage those who have not signed up yet to do so immediately. I would especially like to thank our Department Assistant Adjutant Bruce Comer for leading the department headquarters team. Through their efforts we were able to get the program running.

At this year's Legion College, I met a great group of Team 100 members. These highly motivated family members are what we need to bring us into the second hundred years. Remember recruit for the family and the future of the American Legion.



Congratulations FALC Class of 2019!

Tom Gora, Legion College deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



The Florida American Legion College (FALC) was held January 31-February 2, 2019. The class of 2019 had 22 participants complete the course and graduate. This

FALC class consisted of 16 men and 6 women, representing Posts from Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 16, and 17! We were honored to have Department ALA 2nd Vice President Wanda Brandt also graduate in the class. Congratulations to these graduates of the Florida American Legion College! This was the first FALC class to receive the newly designed FALC Graduate Challenge Coin at graduation along with their FALC shirt, pin, and certificate. A huge thank you to Event Coordinator Jennifer Scowden for coordinating this event, including

the hotel arrangements, and for all the hospitality provided for the FALC Class of 2019!

This year FALC was honored by a visit from National Commander Brett Reistad who was greeted by the class doing the TEAM 100 Cheer for Florida. You can see us "perform" on the Department Facebook page. The National Commander made comments about the first 100 years of American Legion accomplishments, took questions, and posed for photos with the class. All the photos are posted on the Department website in the photo gallery.

Following the recommendation of class participants, Department Commander Dianne Boland presented him with a certificate as an Honorary Graduate, FALC Class of 2019. There will be more written about our experiences with this FALC class in the next edition of the Legion Link.



C & Y Awards and Picnics

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



Only one more month until April which is Children and Youth Month! I hope many of your Posts are planning Children and Youth activities. We have two very exciting

events in April...our picnic and our golf tournament. We are still looking for baskets to raffle off at the picnic as well as sponsors. Cut-off date for sponsorship is March 6, 2019 so we can get your name on the t-shirts. If you have a Legion Rider group, why not think about participating in our Children and Youth Poker Run.

We met with the Manager of the Harbor Hills Golf Course. He is offering us a few extra great activities. If you want to practice the day before the tournament, you can play a round of golf for \$35 including a cart. Please call them for a tee time at 352-753-7711. The day of the tournament, they are offering a golf clinic for chipping and putting from 10-11 AM for \$25 which also includes a box lunch. Again, please call to make a reservation. They are also going to give each player free range balls and yardage booklets. If you have never been to the Harbor Hills Golf Club, it is a very beautiful course with wonderful views of the lake. Anyone staying over night may take advantage of their Sunday Champagne Brunch from 11 AM to 2PM for only \$18.99 per adult.

We are still looking for sponsors and more teams to sign up. The cut-off date for team registration is April 18, 2019. Help Us Give Smiles!







SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM - Update

As many of you are aware, the PROJECT: VetRelief Board of Directors decided to expand our services and create a Suicide Prevention Initiative. Although suicide was already a part of our mission, the members of the Board felt it was time take more of an action towards ending the epidemic.

During the 2018 November meeting, the Board formed a Committee to put together a well-sound program and are scheduled to report back during the next meeting; which will be held in June 2019. At the present time, this initiative is not complete, and their goal is to take time in developing an effective and complete program with measurable results.

The committee had their first meeting on January 8th at the Florida Legion Department Headquarters. They decided that PROJECT: VetRelief should focus on three main areas of service: Raise Awareness, Provide Quality Referrals, and Fund Existing Programs. In the upcoming months, the committee will be meeting with mental health professionals and establishing a network of credible programs and services that are already supporting mental health for our service members and their families.

Even though the program isn't complete, the Legion Riders have chosen this initiative as their beneficiary for their In-State Unity Ride and Concert in April. The Legion Rider's Chairman, Jim Wineland, sits on the planning committee and is passionate about getting the right kind of help to our veterans and their families who are dealing with mental health issues.

Although we realize it will take a lot of work to put a stop to the 22 suicides that happen every single day, PROJECT: VetRelief is adamant about establishing a program that will help end this horrific statistic.

MISSION MOMENT: Community Impact

This was truly a breath of fresh air. To have people who help you in your time of need is getting so hard to find these days. I thank God for you being there [for me].

- USMC Veteran

EVENT SPOTLIGHT: Coral Head Music Fest

The Third Annual Coral Head Music Fest was held on February 16-17th at the Marathon City Park Amphitheater in Marathon, FL. The Department of Florida Assistant Adjutant, Bruce Comer, made the trip down with the PROEJCT: VetRelief trailer to support the two-day event.

We held our first social media contest and encouraged event attendees to stop by our booth and take a selfie with our trailer. Singer Jen was the winner of the contest and received a PVR Care Package.

The two-day line up consisted of Vince Neil, Jackyl, Mitch Perry, The Sweet, John Cafferty, Art Mulcahy, Lazy Bonez, Fiddle Rock, Caffeine Carl, John Bartus, and Singer Jen.

A special thank you goes out to Rich Anderson and Legion Riders Chapter 154 for putting on another spectacular event. We are so appreciative of all their hard work and dedication in supporting Florida's veterans!

The Coral Head Music Fest is heading to Pinellas Park in November, so be sure to mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss it!



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.

- 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





families helped

amount distributed

Cadets Show Their Colors at Events

Loretta Young, ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports

jrotc@legionmail.org

At the beginning of each year the JROTC Units have inspections that are now called JROTC Program Accreditation (JPA). Army Inspection Teams are sent from the 6th Brigade Headquarters to the schools, which are inspected every three years on a Tri-Annual rotating evaluation basis. The other Army Programs are inspected by local staff. The schedules include a Meet and Greet with school staff, the Inspection Teams, and other visitors. The process varies between the different Units, but all include the basic schedule: the Continuous Improvement Brief presented by the Battalion Staff; Color Guard and Platoon Drill Routine; and the Cadet and Instructor Portfolio Review

Each JROTC Unit also has a Service-Learning Brief that shows how they are working within the community to better improve and motivate the JROTC Program. These vary from school to school and clearly show the motto of the JROTC Cadet Program "to build better citizens." Blanche Ely JROTC Cadets chose "Gift of Life" as their brief. This is an organ donor program, which is an international, public bone marrow and blood stem cell registry program that partnered with the JROTC Unit.

It is a continuous endeavor that will be conducted throughout the school semester and brings awareness to both the program and the school. It was very well presented by the cadets and representatives from the organization also attend. Each JPA is graded and the minimum standard is 95% to earn the Unit Star of Distinction pin to wear on their uniform. The other branches have similar inspections and are conducted by their respective representatives from the Air Force, Navy and Marines Headquarters and local staff.

I attended several programs and was overall very impressed by our cadets and how much they accomplish. The JROTC Unit at Monarch H.S. had a complete Battalion Pass and Review for the Inspectors and guests along with their Color Guard and Drill Routine and a special Award for the Team Captain who is a graduating senior. These events should be attended by our Legionnaires and it will certainly inspire you to see our youth at their best.

I would like to highlight and congratulate the Winter Springs JROTC Unit on their invitation to and participation in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony in Hawaii last December. They represented the State of Florida in the 77th Annual Commemorative Parade to honor the fallen victims of Pearl Harbor. They were also involved in the placing of a Wreath on the Memorial for the Fallen and participated in a small ceremony. It was a weeklong trip and they were also able to enjoy an excursion to the Polynesian Cultural Center and visit the other cultures and aspects of Hawaii.

I would like to thank all who help this very most worthwhile program that encourage our youth to be their best. Please let me know if I could be of any assistance.





Accepting Applications for Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program

Bob Brewster, FHP Yourth Law Cadet youthlawcadet@legionmail.org

We are already receiving applications and checks for this year's Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program. I have received numerous phone calls from Posts all over the state regarding this program.

We are definitely gaining traction. All information and applications are readily available online and at Department of Florida headquarters. Each year the Florida Highway Patrol personnel are getting more and more enthused about this program, and so are we.

If you want information from me, please contact me at 904-272-1619. A brochure

was sent out to every Post in the state. If you misplaced your brochure,

they are available at Department headquarters or through Tom Gora or me. Let's make this year the best year so far!





Updates Changes Tips & More

Chuck Weber, Scouting

scouting@legionmail.org



This month we're sending out bits and pieces on a variety of Scouting subjects.

Eagle Scout of the Year – The deadline for submission is March

1st. If you forgot and have a very worthy Eagle Scout for consideration, contact me quickly.

American Legion Scouter Square Knot Award – National HQ is updating the requirements to reflect the changes in Scouting since the last update years ago. This should not make the award any harder or easier to earn. In any event, the requirements you used to complete the award will be the ones used to validate it. Look for the final version to be released later this year.

Guide for Post Scouting Chairs – An

updated and abbreviated guide was mailed to each Post and is also available at the Department website under Scouting Resources. This is primarily focused at the new Scouting Chair.

New Guidance – Both the BSA and TAL national offices collaborated on several topics and issued new guidance on several matters relevant in Legion Scouting. These are available at the Department website under Scouting Resources.

Staying up to date – Do you receive "Scouting Wire"? It is the official online blog of the Scouting movement. It provides all the current updates on Scouting programs and more. You can sign up to receive it at: https://scoutingwire.org/. Also, do you receive "Bryan on Scouting"? It is an official blog for adult leaders published by Scouting magazine that is published five times a year. You can sign up to receive it at: https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/

Girls invade Scouts, BSA – The February first launch of the new Scouts, BSA

program has been an overwhelming success. We are still trying to calculate the numbers of female youth who have entered the program. The American Legion National HQ would like to know the impact in Legion chartered Scout units. Please let the Department Scouting Chair know how many new female units your Post has chartered and how many girls you have registered.

Questions? Problems? Lessons learned? If you have any of these, please Contact the Department Scouting Chair to share the wealth.

Are you running the best possible Scouting program imaginable on the face of the earth? If so, it is time to brag about yourself. Put it on paper and send it in for consideration for the Department's annual award for the Best Post Scouting Program. The award will be made at July's convention. Please get your nominations in soon.

As always, thank you for all that you do.

RallyWise Update Art Schwabe, State Legislative neca@legionmail.org



Rallywise is up and running. We are working to update information ASAP.

As of right now we have 321 signed up but 167 of those

haven't completed the settings portion of the app. If you have not completed the settings portion, then you are missing out on discovering who your representatives are. You need this information to contact your local representatives on these bills for veterans. In some cases, Florida districts have changed boundaries a couple of times. The data (computer) is having a problem selecting the representatives for the correct districts. If you have a problem, let me know so we can get it corrected.

Shortly, bills will be flagged with a green line. That means that bill is coming to the floor for a vote. This is when you contact your local representative to request that they support or not support that particular bill.

House bill H-513 (Camo Alert): what color is camo? Tan, green, blue? This all

started out in Wisconsin as a Green Alert. I suggest you (if you agree) contact your Senator or House of Representative to amend the color from camo to green to be consistent with other states. Let them know that if someone comes from a different state (which there are a lot), they will know the alert means the same thing - a veteran needs help and we will help.

Thank you for your support. We are making a difference for our veterans.

"The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be

continued on page 14 >>



<< State Legislative- from page 13

used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." This means that The American Legion does not endorse candidates. Article II, Section 2 means checking your Legion cap at the door of any political rallies, fundraisers, or conventions.

Special Alert: The March on Tallahassee will be March 14th, 2019. We will meet at Post 13 in Tallahassee at 8:00 AM for a "Know Before You Go." If you can't make it just contact your local reps, that's just as important. Any questions let me know! Know Before You Go will be on the Legion website March 7th.

NOTE: If you plan on coming to the March on Tallahassee, Post 13's address is 229 Lake Ella Drive. Please go to the floridalegion.org website to sign up! We need to know who is coming by the 13th of March. Donut Count!!!

Again, thanks for all you do! We do make a difference!!!!!

2019 Florida Veteran's Benefits Guide is Out

Alan Cohen, VA&R

var@legionmail.org



Greetings once again, fellow Legionnaires. This past month, just like the 3 preceding it brought us many challenges and events, all of which we've risen to accommodate, adapt to and in many

instances overcome. The Dep't of Florida continues to rise to whatever the occasion is, whether it be meeting the economic needs of fellow veterans and/or active duty service members, paying respects to those who have passed or being visible and having a voice in the care received by fellow veterans at VA hospitals. I've been fortunate to have sat at meetings of the VA Office of Inspector General Oversight Committee, a listening and participation meeting for the soon-to-take-effect of the VA's Mission Act and a site visit at the James A. Haley VA Hospital. Rest assured that in each instance you were well and vocally represented.

An ongoing issue and concern is the process by which veterans whose claims for compensation or benefits have been denied can initiate appeals without knowing they may have to wait as long as several years for a determination. By the time this article is published, the Rapid

Appeals Modernization Program will have become official. This means that veterans will now have 3 options which are designed to expedite this process drastically. I encourage all concerned to contact your Post Service Officers as well as our partners, the representatives from the Florida Dep't of Veteran's Affairs for more information.

For those who were not aware, we were saddened at the sudden loss of our VAVS Hospital Rep at the West Palm Beach VA hospital. In true Legion fashion though, and with no small amount of pride I'd like to announce that Johnny Castro, Post

Commander at Post 367 in Boynton Beach has stepped up to fill that vacancy. Welcome aboard, Johnny, and thank you in advance for all your contributions. Our Women's Veteran Chairperson has been busy in organizing at least 2 events for the benefit of this previously underserved segment of the veteran population in Florida

Our Benefits chairman continues his efforts with Challenge 22 walks as well as mini-seminars to groups in which he speaks about the process of filing claims with the VA. These are very informative and always well-received.

Last but certainly not least, I will close out this month's article by once again reaching out to any and all of our fellow veterans with a call for some help. We are still in need of volunteers at the Lake Nona and Miami VA hospitals. I know that the spirit of volunteerism is strong amongst us, so don't hesitate to contact me if you have as little as one day per week to dedicate to helping fellow veterans.



Veteran Edward Beier, of the American Legion Post 115, salutes as the Matanzas High School JROTC presents the colors. Veterans were recognized at the city of Palm Coast's annual Veterans Day ceremony at Heroes Memorial Park on Monday, November 12.

Photo from: Palm Coast Observer



February 21, 2019 100% Target Report (Currently 88.57%)

Stephen Hamrick	93.53%
Timothy Tierney	92.81%
Raymond Perez	91.26%
Cherie Korn	90.76%
Brian Taz Gehling	90.56%
Bruce Carl	90.51%
Paul Bosco	89.50%
Jerry Faught	88.32%
Willie Branch	86.91%
Troy Horsley	86.68%
David Tucker	85.77%
John Edens	85.61%
James Brennan	84.22%
Gary Decker	83.92%
Stuart Scott	82.01%
Teddy Pomerantz	81.94%
James Burk	93.12%
Jay Allen	90.12%
Michael Raymond	89.54%
Frederick Hutto	87.11%
Raymond Olsen	85.36%
James Tewes	85.27%
	83.23%
	84.78%
	Timothy Tierney Raymond Perez Cherie Korn Brian Taz Gehling Bruce Carl Paul Bosco Jerry Faught Willie Branch Troy Horsley David Tucker John Edens James Brennan Gary Decker Stuart Scott Teddy Pomerantz James Burk Jay Allen Michael Raymond Frederick Hutto Raymond Olsen

95[%] 3/6/2019



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2019 District Constitutional Conferences

Date	District	Location	Time
11-May-19	5	Post 137	Registration: 8AM
		Jacksonville	Start: 9AM
11-May-19	17	Post 17	Registration: 12PM
		New Smyrna	Start: 12:30PM
16-May-19	2	Post 100	Registration: 8AM
		Marianna	Start: 9AM
18-May-19	7	TBD	Registration: 2PM
			Start: 3PM
18-May-19	15	Post 111	Registration: 9AM
		Tampa	Start: 10AM
19-May-19	8	Post 159	Registration: 8AM
		Venice	Start: 9AM
19-May-19	13	Post 103	Registration: 12PM
		Punta Gorda	Start: 1PM
1-Jun-19	14	Post 31	Registration: 9AM
		South Miami	Start: 10AM
8-Jun-19	4	Post 284	Registration: 9AM
		Belleview	Start: 10AM
8-Jun-19	3	Post 57	Registration: 12PM
		Lake City	Start: 1PM
8-Jun-19	12	Post 117	Registration: 1PM
		Palm Bay	Start: 2PM
8-Jun-19	16	Post 273	Registration: 9AM
		Madeira Beach	Start: 10AM
15-Jun-19	9	Post 222	Registration: 12PM
		Ft. Lauderdale	Start: 1PM
TBD	1	TBD	TBD
8-Jun-19	6	Post 347	Registration: 8AM
		Lady Lake	Start: 9AM
9-Jun-19	11	Post 64	Registration: 9AM
		Okeechobee	Start: 10AM





The American Legion, Department of Florida presents the 101st Annual Department Convention June 27th-30th, 2019

Orlando World Center Marriott

8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

\$141 per night plus tax

Call 407-239-4200 to make your reservations in advance.

Block will fill quickly!

Be sure to mention The American Legion!



For 2019 Convention Agenda Information, Please Visit www.floridalegion.org/News-events/Department-convention/Event-agendas

MEMO

Department Convention Parking

The Orlando World Center Marriott parking arrangements for June 27th-30th, 2019

Hotel guests may use their room key to gain access in and out of the parking lot at any time. Your final bill will reflect a zero parking charge.

Day guests are to have parking tickets validated at the Legion or Auxiliary Headquarter offices for a discounted parking rate of \$5.

Handicapped parking in the garage will be free of charge.

Must have the proper license plate or hang tag.

Discounted valet will be offered.

World Center Marriott Restaurants:

Latitude & Longitude

Latitude & Longitude menu features local ingredients. Enjoy our famous breakfast buffet or cagefree egg skillets, handcrafted sandwiches and salads from our on-site hydroponic garden or locally caught fish or premium steak for a delectable dinner.

Siro Urban Italian Kitchen:

Sample delicious and creative Italian cuisine at Siro Urban Italian Kitchen, the Orlando World Center Marriott's contemporary and casual Italian restaurant. You'll love the funky décor and our chef's innovative take on classic Italian dishes.

High Velocity:

Sports fans and casual observers alike will love High Velocity, the Orlando World Center Marriott's combination sports bar/restaurant. Watch the big game on one of 27 flat-screen HDTVs and enjoy a selection of the best beers and bar fare in town. *Domestic beer special - \$5 per beer*

Mikado Japanese Steakhouse:

Orlando, FL's best Japanese restaurant offers authentic Teppanyaki-style cuisine, including freshmade sushi; watch as expert chefs prepare it for you. It's the perfect location for both a romantic date or for celebrating a special occasion with family.

Falls Pool Bar & Grill:

Enjoy a refreshing drink and casual grilled favorites while you lounge by our sparkling outdoor pool.

Central Pantry:

Freshly prepared items and delicious products from local partners including bakery items, crisp salads, gourmet flatbreads, frozen yogurt, coffee, beer, wine and spirits by the glass and bottle and so much more.

Starbucks:

Enjoy perfectly prepared Starbucks® coffee beverages and pastries right here in our hotel lobby.

*There will be specially priced buffets and menus through out the restaurants.

A list will be provided upon check in.*



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

101ST CONVENTION AGENDA

June 27-30, 2019

Marriott Orlando World Center, Orlando, FL

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, June 27, 2019

7:30AM – 6:00PM Emblem Sales Crystal G2

7:45AM - 5:00PM Headquarters Office / Legion Registration Crystal G1

Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.) *Office will be closed from 10:30am-11:30am*

8:00AM - 4:00PM Service Officer School Canary 3-4

This is a two-day, informative VA&R class that covers all veteran benefits. Certificate and card provided upon completion. Call Elizabeth Douglas at 407.295.2631 ext. 235 for more information. Attendance required both days. Pre-Registration required. *Limited seating*

1:00PM - 2:00PM Department Finance Committee Meeting Crystal H

Open to all Legionnaires. This meeting will provide a review of the Department's finances during the past year and address financial issues as needed.

1:30PM - 3:30PM Membership Crystal N-Q

This course will cover details pertaining to membership development Nationally and Statewide. It is highly recommended that all Area and District Commanders attend this course.

2:15PM - 3:30PM Internal Affairs Commission Crystal H

This meeting will cover reports from Constitution & By-Laws, Credentials, Disaster Preparedness, POW-MIA, Resolutions, Time & Place, and Special Rules committees. Each Post can send <u>one</u> delegate to this meeting to vote on the matters that will be decided. All voting members must have a ribbon, which can be picked up at registration.

2:45PM - 4:00PM Sgt-at-Arms Training Atlanta/Boston

This course will cover in detail the expected duties of a Post Sqt-at Arms.

3:30PM - 4:30PM Chaplain's Training Anaheim

All Chaplains welcome. Meet other Chaplains; review the Chaplains Handbook, take part in an open forum for questions and concerns.

3:30PM - 5:30PM Legion Riders Chairman Meeting Chicago

This will cover Area and District reports, By Laws, Charters, EOY Report, Awards, and 2019-2020 Goals.

3:45PM - 5:00PM Department Executive Committee Meeting Crystal H

This meeting will cover current Post matters, budget approval and general Department announcements. *Only Executive Committee Members can address the Committee*

4:00PM - 5:30PM Post Commander Class Crystal N-Q

This course will cover details pertaining to the duties of Commander at Post level.

7:00PM - 8:30PM 2019 Convention Kick-Off Event Canary Ballroom

American Legion Family Event. Come celebrate! Complimentary refreshment while supplies last.



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

101ST CONVENTION AGENDA

June 27-30, 2019

Marriott Orlando World Center, Orlando, FL

Tentative Schedule

Friday, June 28, 2019

7:30AM - 6:00PM Emblem Sales Crystal G2
7:45AM - 5:00PM Headquarters Office / Legion Registration Crystal G1
Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.) *Office will be closed from 10:30am-11:30am*

8:00AM - 1:00PM Service Officer School (Day 2)

Canary 3-4

This is the second day of the two-day informative VA&R class that covers all veteran benefits. Certificate and card provided upon completion. **Attendance required both days. Pre-Registration required.** Call Elizabeth Douglas at 407.295.2631 ext. 235 for more information. *Limited seating*

8:00AM - 12:30PM Legion General Session

Royal Ballroom

1:45PM - 2:30PM Caucuses

*Mandatory for District and Area Commanders. Meeting is held by the current Area Commander. This meeting will cover end of the year reports and the election of new Area Commanders.

1:45pm - 2:30pm	Central Area	Crystal K-L
1:45pm - 2:30pm	Eastern Area	Crystal M-N
1:45pm - 2:30pm	Northern Area	Anaheim-Boston
1:45pm - 2:30pm	Southern Area	Chicago/Denver
1:45pm - 2:30pm	Southwestern Area	Miami
1:45pm - 2:30pm	Western Area	Crystal P-Q

2:45pm – 4:45pm

PVR - Advanced Advocate Training

Canary 3-4

Attendees can expect a closer look into the VetRelief Advocate roll, and not just an overview of the program. Be sure to sign up as space is limited.

3:00PM - 4:30PM

Post Operations Class

Chicago/Denver

This course will cover details pertaining to general instruction on how to run a successful Post.

3:00PM - 5:00PM

Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) Overview

Anaheim-Boston

Taught by Capt. Bryan Brummett of the Bureau of Law Enforcement Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

4:00PM - 5:30PM

Post Adjutant Class

Crystal M-N

Adjutants are urged to attend. Learn the duties and role the Adjutant plays at the Post.

4:00PM - 6:00PM

American Legion Riders General Session

Royal Ballroom

6:00PM - 7:00PM

Cocktail Hour

Canary Ballroom

Foyer

7:00PM - 10:00PM Com

Commander & President's Banquet

Canary Ballroom

Enjoy a fun filled evening with your Department Commander and Auxiliary President. Attendees will enjoy delicious food and great entertainment. <u>Tickets will not be sold on site and must be paid for before Convention</u>. 200 tickets available.



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

101ST CONVENTION AGENDA

June 27-30, 2019

Marriott Orlando World Center, Orlando, FL

Tentative Schedule

Saturday,	Iune	29.	2019
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7:30AM - 3:00PM Emblem Sales Crystal G2

7:45AM - 3:00PM Headquarters Office / Legion Registration Crystal G1

Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. Each post most register their delegates in order to vote. *Registration closes at 9:45am*, last and final time to register. *Office will be closed from 10:30am-11:30am*

8:00AM - 12:00PM Legion General Session Royal Ballroom

12:00PM - 1:00PM Electronic Voting Crystal N-Q

1:30PM Voting Results Royal Ballroom

4:00PM - 6:00PM 20/4 Bivouac Echelon 30 Anaheim

Honor society of female members of The American Legion.

4:00PM - 6:00PM 20/4 Bivouac Echelon 5 Atlanta

Honor society of female members of The American Legion.

5:00PM - 5:30PM FALPA Exec Board Only Boston

5:30PM - 6:30PM FALPA General Meeting Boston

Florida American Legion Press Association meeting. Officers and members expected to attend; open to all Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members. Become a member and gain your membership card/press pass. This meeting will review tips/advice on creating and updating Post bulletins and newsletters.

6:30PM - 7:30PM Installation of Officers Royal Ballroom

Sunday, June 30, 2019

Legion Headquarters Office Closed

8:30am - 9:00am Religious Service - Presented by Auxiliary Grand Ballroom 7A

9:15AM - 10:30AM Department Executive Committee Meeting Grand Ballroom 7B

First official Department Executive Committee meeting after the installation of officers. All newly elected and existing Executive Committee Officers are required to attend. This meeting will cover important dates and upcoming Department of Florida events throughout the year.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2019

Thursday, June 27, 2019 – Sunday, June 30, 2019

In order to avoid the confusion that surrounds dates and deadlines at this time of year we are providing you with the correct information and the section of the Constitution and By-Laws that governs the situation.

■ <u>DELEGATE CUT-OFF</u> – Department Convention – Article V, Section 4

"The Annual Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each chartered Post ...

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

Therefore, the delegate cut-off date for Department Convention is June 13, 2019.

■ <u>DISTRICT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCES</u> – National Convention (District Constitutional Conferences) – Article IX, Section 8 and 9

"... there shall be held in each District a Constitutional Conference *not more than sixty (60) nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Department Convention*, at a time and place to be designated by the District Commander." Section 9 "... there shall be one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate to the National Convention for each one thousand (1000) members or major fraction thereof in said District."

Therefore, the District Constitutional Conferences will be held between April 29, 2019 and June 18, 2019.

RESOLUTIONS – By-Laws Article I, Section 4 (c)
"All resolutions shall be presented to the Department Adjutant at least (40) days prior to the Department Convention. This time limit may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at the Department Convention."

Therefore, all resolutions are due by May 19, 2019.

• <u>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS</u> – Article XVI, Section 1
"… a copy of such proposed amendments shall be typewritten, prepared in triplicate on forms supplied by Department Headquarters, and be submitted to the Department Adjutant at least forty (40) days prior to the date of the Annual Department Convention … (the Adjutant) shall send a copy thereof to each Post … at least thirty (30) days prior to such Annual Convention."

Therefore, Constitutional Amendments are due by May 19, 2019 and copies will be sent to each Post by May 29, 2019.

■ <u>CALL TO CONVENTION</u> – By-Laws Article I, Section 1

"The call shall be issued by the Department Commander to each Post and to each Department and District Officer and to each member of the Department Executive Committee *not more than forty-five*(45) days nor less than fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the convention."

Therefore, the Call to Convention may not be issued before May 14, 2019 nor later than June 13, 2019.

POST ELECTIONS – Article X, Section 13
"All officers of Posts, except the Post Adjutant, Post Service Officer and Post Judge Advocate, shall be elected and certified to the Department Adjutant not more than ninety (90) days, not less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Convention."

Therefore, Post officers may not be elected before March 30, 2019 nor later than June 18, 2019.



100th Anniversary Celebration of the American Legion



Gospel and Country music, Vender, Bounce House & much more..

Great time for the Family!





March 16th Saturday

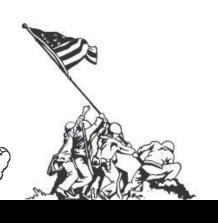
11am - 9:30pm

Opening Ceremony at 11am

Location: Starke Square Downtown



Post 56 of Starke Florida



WWI & WWII era
Military Static
Displays including
many different
weapons, uniforms
and much more





Department of

Mail: Department of Florida

PO Box 547859

Florida Family Recruiter

Certification

Mail, FAX or EMAIL to Department

Fax: (407) 299-0901

Email: igraham@floridalegion.org

	Orlando FL 32854	Ct.			
	Post # Da	te:			
	Recruiter's Name:				
	Membership ID #:				
	Address:				
	City:		ZIP:	_	
	Family Member Recruited	Legion 20 Or SAI		Riders 5	Total
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Certi	fied:				



NATIONAL COMMANDER BRETT P. REISTAD 2019 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PIN

Certification Form





Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address provided is for the recruiter and not the post.

Date:
Recruiter's Name:
Membership ID Number:
Street Address or PO Box:
City, State, Zip:
Email Address:
Daytime Phone Number:
Mail to Recruiter Mail to Post
TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION OR RENEW (6) MEMBERS. (A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE PERSON JOINING FOR THE 2019 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2018 MEMBERSHIP YEAR). PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW SAL MEMBERS OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR SQUADRON OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BEFORE SUBMISSION. PINS
WILL NOT BE MAILED UNTIL THEY ARE VERIFIED ON THE NATIONAL DATABASE. (2) NEW MEMBERS.
(3) NEW MEMBERS: (Include full name, department, post)
(Include full name, department, post)
(Include full name, department, post) 1.
(Include full name, department, post) 1. 2. 3. (6) RENEWALS: (renewals received prior to 1/14/2019 do not count towards this incentive.) (Include ID number, full name, post)
(Include full name, department, post) 1. 2. 3. (6) RENEWALS: (renewals received prior to 1/14/2019 do not count towards this incentive.) (Include ID number, full name, post) 1.
(Include full name, department, post) 1. 2. 3. (6) RENEWALS: (renewals received prior to 1/14/2019 do not count towards this incentive.) (Include ID number, full name, post) 1. 2.
(Include full name, department, post) 1. 2. 3. (6) RENEWALS: (renewals received prior to 1/14/2019 do not count towards this incentive.) (Include ID number, full name, post) 1.
(Include full name, department, post) 1. 2. 3. (6) RENEWALS: (renewals received prior to 1/14/2019 do not count towards this incentive.) (Include ID number, full name, post) 1. 2.
(Include full name, department, post) 1

Return completed forms to: The American Legion National Internal Affairs & Membership Division PO Box 1055 Indianapolis, IN 46206 Fax: 317-630-1413

Email: ksingleton@legion.org



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

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 – N outh Shirts with nai	•		•		
March 6, 201	9*			_		
	Gold \$100 – Name	on Sponso	orship Bo	oard, two n	neal tic	kets and two
Children & Yo	outh Shirts with nai	me on it *	Cut-off	date for Go	old Spor	nsorship is March
6, 2019*						
	Silver \$50 – Name Bronze \$25 – Name	e on Spons	orship B		meal ti	ickets
	Basket Donation fo	or Chinese	Auction			
Shirt Size (ple	ease 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

Please send checks and basket donations to:

PAYMENT

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



It is important for the protection of your Post that each of the following are filed:

It is important for the protection of your Post that each of the following are filed:

- Incorporation Papers filed with the state, copy to Department Headquarters
 An Annual Report must be filed yearly to maintain "active" status. The report must be filed electronically online between
 January 1st and May 1st to avoid \$400 late fee. To file, go to www.sunbiz.com.
- Annual 990 Filing Requirement filed with IRS

 Forms 990, 990-EZ and 990-N must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the Post's annual accounting period. For example, if a Posts tax period ends on December 31, the form is due May 15 of the following year. A Post that fails to file the required informational return (Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-N) for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date for the third return. To file, go to www.irs.gov. If your tax-exempt status has been revoked, please contact Department for specific guidelines on how to get reinstated.
- Change of Address or Responsible Party IRS FORM 8822-B filed with IRS IRS Form 8822-B must be completed when a change in identity of the Post "Responsible Party" or change of address occurs. The "Responsible Party" could be the Post Commander, or Adjutant, or Finance Officer, or whoever has level of control over the funds. After elections or a change of Officers, Form 8822-B must be filed within 60 days of the change. To file go to www.irs.gov.
- Tax Exempt filed with the state, Certificate to Department Headquarters
 Application for Consumer's Certificate of Exemption form (DR-5) must be filed with Florida Department of Revenue to receive tax exempt purchases and leases, when used in carrying on Post activities. Tax Exempt application must be filed with Florida Department of Revenue, and a copy of the certificate must be sent to Department.
- Employer Identification Number (EIN)
 All newly chartered Posts receive an SS-4 form in their new Post kit, prepared and sent by national. The instructions should be closely followed in completing and submitting IRS Form SS-4. When you receive the Post EIN, send a copy of the number and the Inclusion Letter (also in the packet) to national headquarters so the post may be listed as a tax-exempt charter of The American Legion. A listing of all new posts, plus updates, is sent to the IRS each September 30th.
- Post Constitution and By-Laws updated every three (3) years
 Posts must forward an original copy of the entire Constitution and By-Laws with a cover letter signed by the Post Commander/Post Adjutant to Department Headquarters. The letter must state the changed Article(s)/Section(s), and date approved by membership.
- Restriction of Post Property form filed with Department Headquarters Contact Rachel (contact info at bottom of form) to verify that your post has a form on file. Contact Rachel if your post acquires a new property.

LIVE PIANO ENTERTAINMENT -

incha runc

EVERY SUNDAY | 11 AM - 2 P

ALL YOU CARE TO EAT BUFFET

EGGS & OMELETS MADE TO ORDER EGGS BENEDICT | BELGIAN WAFFLES & PASTRIES FRESH SALADS | FRUITS & CHEESES CARVING STATION | VARIETY OF POULTRY | SEAFOOD ASSORTED VEGETABLES & POTATOES | DESSERTS FLAMING CREPES | JUICES | COFFEE | TEA

BOTTOMLESS CHAMPAGNE OR MIMOSAS AVAILABLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$5

CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE ARE FREE PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE TAX OR SERVICE CHARGE



◆ COUNTRY CLUB ◆







COMMANDER & PRESIDENT BANGUET 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!

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



2019 CRUISE SEPTEMBER 16-21



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 rickitank@hotmail.com

DO YOU

HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

2019



BECOME A DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN!

2020

YEARS IN I	YEARS IN LEGION DISTRICT						RICT		
POS	ST	-					_	AR	EA
EXPLAIN YOUR QUALIF	NAME POSITION INTERESTED IN (PLAIN YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN								
LEGION SCHOOLS ATTE	NDED:) ALEI	◯ Florida Legio	n College	National Legion Colle	ae	◯ Sgt-at-Arm	1S	○ Chaplain
	YEARS AT	National LEAD Class YEARS AT	-		1	-	0		
POSITIONS HELD	POST LEVEL	<u>DISTRICT</u> LEVEL	AREA LEVEL	<u>DEPT</u> LEVEL	POSITIONS HELD	POST LEVEL	YEARS AT <u>DISTRICT</u> LEVEL	YEARS AT AREA LEVEL	YEARS AT DEPT LEVEL
Commander					Boys State				
Vice Commander					Children & Youth				
Adjutant					JROTC				
Sgt-at-Arms					Shooting Sports				
Historian					Law & Order				
Chaplain					Oratorical				
Membership					POW/MIA				
Americanism					School Medals				
Baseball					Women Veterans Advocate				
Blood Donor					Youth Law Cadet				
Boy Scouts					Other				