



THE LEGION LINK

COMMUNICATION ★ DEDICATION ★ EDUCATION



MAY 2019

COMMANDER DIANNE BOLAND

VOL. 27 ISSUE 10

From Your Department Commander Dianne Boland

commander@floridalegion.org



Greetings.

My how the year has flown by. Next month is right around the corner and that means it's time for our

Department Convention, June 27 - 30. In my travels, I have been speaking on a Resolution to create a new program that will allow a Legionnaire's spouse who currently does not qualify for membership in our great organization to join. This wrong is finally being corrected. I hope when the resolution is read you will vote "Yes" to support it.

Congratulations to 12th District Commander Chris Hamrick and all the District staff and Post officers for reaching 100% in membership! They reached the goal prior to the cut-off date for Race to the Top. We'll soon see if their numbers are high enough. And they are!!!! Congratulations!! I just found out that Florida came in 1st Place in Category V with 100.47%. 2nd Place in our category went to Ohio with 100.27%. Thanks goes out to Chris Hamrick, District 12 Commander and Race to The Top winner!!! Great job.

This past month I had the pleasure to host National Vice Commander Jack Milburn during his travels throughout the Western Area. Besides visiting Posts, we also visited the National Cemetery for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War where he was a speaker, as well as the VA Clinic in Tallahassee. He and his wife enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all the Posts we visited for their hospitality.

Well, my visitations to the Districts are over. I had a wonderful time visiting all the Posts, big and small, with or without a canteen, as well as a few without a Post home. The hospitality has been outstanding. The dinners, parades, 100 Year Celebrations, programs, decorations, etc. have been great. I met a lot of dedicated Legionaries as well as other members of Legion Family.

The District Constitutional Conferences will start soon. A list of dates, times, and places is located on the Department website. I hope you can make the time to join in. I will try to attend as many as possible because it is the perfect time to thank everyone for all the hard work they did throughout the year.

Remember May 15th is the due date
continued on page 2 >>

In This Edition....

Officers

- 1 Commander
- 2 1st Vice Commander
- 3 2nd Vice Commander
- 3 3rd Vice Commander
- 4 NEC
- 4 Sargent at Arms

Area Commanders

- 4 Northern Area
- 5 Southwestern Area

Membership

- 6 Membership Chair
- 15 Membership Report

Chairs

- 5 Children & Youth
- 8 Law & Order
- 8 VA Entitlements
- 9 Blood Donation
- 9 Security
- 9 Youth Law Cadet
- 10 Resolutions
- 10 Post Development
- 11 Oratorical
- 12 ROTC/JROTC/Shooting
- 12 Legion Riders
- 14 Project: VetRelief

Department

- 6 Mobility Scooters
- 16 District Constitutional Conferences
- 17 Endorsements
- 18 Convention Voting Guide
- 19 Convention Rules of Procedure

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

<< *Commander - from page 1*

for your CPR and Addendum. I hope you had the time and initiative to nominate someone for one of the many awards we have. We all know we do a great job working on our projects but a terrible job letting other people know.

My charities this year are The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and

Finale Salute. The Auxiliary also has Finale Salute and they are doing outstanding in fundraising. It's CWF that needs some help. Please think about donating to this great charity.

Keep up the great work, keep working on membership, and remember why we get together on Memorial Day.

On the Road to Convention

Rick Johnson, 1st Vice Commander

1stvice@legionmail.org



Well it is already May. Time has gone by quick. First, let me say congratulations to Chris and the 12th District on 1st Place in Race to the Top. Such a great milestone for the District and

Department for sure. You can tell that the family did work together and you see the results. I also think by this time the Eastern Area will also be at 100%. Great job Jim Burk.

CPRs are due May 15th so if you need any help, please let someone know and we will assist you.

We are starting elections within the Districts. Please make sure when you raise your right hand and swear to do the job, make sure it is for the right reasons. People get burned out very quickly and it is time for more of us

to step up and take charge. We will be starting our 101st year and we want to keep going for the following 100 years but it can only be done with vision and the family out there working together. Post elections are already taking place so please let your voice be heard and stand for what is right. The members have all the power at the Post so get involved and attend meetings to make your Post the best it can be.

This will be my last article of the year. I want to thank everyone out there who has supported me and this great organization and for the hospitality I received in my travels. Hopefully I will be elected your next Commander at the convention. To our current Commander, great job this year with a lot of traveling and again congrats in being the first female Commander for Florida. Good luck to you in the future.

With that said, keep doing a great job out there and I will see you at some of the DCCs. Be safe and see you at Convention.

MAY 2019	
1	Membership Goal 100% + 1
1	Law Day
1	Loyalty Day
2	National Prayer Day
4	International Firefighters Day
4	District 6 DCC
5	Cinco de Mayo
6	National Nurses Day
6-9	Spring Meetings
8	V-E Day
8-12	Vietnam & All Veterans Reunion
10	Military Spouse Appreciation Day
11	District 5 DCC
11	District 17 DCC
12	Mother's Day
15	National CPRs Due
15	Department Addendums Due
15	End of Year Award Noms Due
15	Peace Officers Memorial Day
15	Legion Link Articles Due
18	Armed Forces Day
18	Safety Stand Down
18	Spring BBQ & Classic Car Show
18	District 2 DCC
18	District 7 DCC
18	District 15 DCC
19	District 8 DCC
19	District 13 DCC
22	Baseball Insurance Payment Due
22	Maritime Day
23	Baseball team apps, insurance, & registration due
25	Missing Children's Day
27	Memorial Day - Dept. Closed
27	Jefferson Davis Birthday

★ - 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.

10 CHANCES TO WIN \$15,000

PLUS BONUS DRAWING

*It's Time for Awards and Conferences***Jerry Brandt, 2nd Vice Commander**2ndvice@legionmail.org

Comrades,



The end of the year is coming up, please, keep in mind the following:

- **Year End Reports** (National Consolidated Post Reports and Department Addendums) are due by May 15th.
- **End of the Year Nominations** (Post of the Year, Commander of the Year, Best Boy Scout Program, ETC.) are due by May 15th.
- 100% Post Award.
- Color Guard Award.
- Membership Awards (Gold and Silver Brigade) due by May 31st.

Please look up Awards and Recognition under www.legion.org for more awards and details. If you have an outstanding

officer, program, color guard, etc., please nominate them/it for an award. The Department Chairmen DO NOT get enough nominations to pick from. Please ensure one of the nominations is from your Post.

Please note, as of April 12th, we have the following Department of Florida membership standings:

- 16th District is #3 at 97.18%, needing 334 renewals for 100%.
- 15th District is #5 at 96.74%, needing 161 renewals for 100%.
- 13th District is #7 at 95.04%, needing 430 renewals for 100%.
- 8th District is #8 at 93.59%, needing 465 renewals for 100%.
- 7th District is #13 at 90.38%, needing 345 renewals for 100%.

Commanders, we can still reach 100%. Please review your records and reach out to those members who have not renewed. We are almost there.

District Constitutional Conferences are here. Please ensure that your Post is represented. Why you ask? For the following reasons.

1. You elect the leadership of your District for the following year. This is important - you have a voice and a choice to make.
2. For the selection of the both Primary and Alternate candidates for the National Convention. We never have enough volunteers for the National Convention.
3. For the candidates for your Department. As a candidate, I will be attending as many of the DCC's as possible. You have to make a decision on how you will vote.

Please keep up the good work.

*A Productive Year but Don't Stop Yet!***Eunice Butts, 3rd Vice Commander**3rdvice@legionmail.org

This has been a very interesting and rewarding year. The Western Area was hit by the hurricane, 5th and 17th Districts lost Posts due to fires, and Zone 1 lost three sitting commanders.

But through it all you made it. Special thanks to the Northern and Western Area Commanders for working together as a team. You truly did a very good job.

To the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 17th District Commanders, thank you for your great team work. The hospitality that you and your Posts showed to the National Commander, National Vice Commander, Department Commander, NEC and NECA was overwhelming.

Congratulations to those Posts who made 100% plus. I am very proud of each Post that did the very best you could do in membership. Seeing the many programs each Post does was very impressive and encouraging. Keep up the good work and continue to get the membership.

Now is the time to fill out the National and Department CPRs and Department Addendum. Also, put in for some of the various awards. You do the volunteering and deserve the recognition.

Let us remember Memorial Day, 27 May 2019.

It has been an honor and privilege to work for you and with you. I hope to see you at the Department Convention. Hopefully I will be elected as your 2nd Vice Commander for the Department of Florida.



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CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

Female Veterans and VA Healthcare

Dennis Boland, NEC
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Women veterans are the fastest growing demographic population serving in the U.S. military. Since FY03, women veterans receiving healthcare from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has nearly doubled. These numbers will continue to grow due to the increasing number of women serving in the military that will be eligible for VA healthcare after transition from the Department of Defense (DOD) to VA.

Women veterans face remarkably different experiences than their male counterparts while in the military, during their transition, and as a veteran. Focused VA effort shaped significant advancements in women veterans' VA healthcare with the establishment of awareness training programs, but there is still room for improvements. The American Legion wants every veteran who walks through the doors of a VA medical facility to feel welcome and receive quality healthcare regardless of their gender.

As women make up nearly 11.6 percent of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/Operation New Dawn (OND) veterans, The American Legion System Worth Saving (SWS) Task Force has

focused attention on women veterans' healthcare during nationwide site visits. The American Legion works with VA to address the needs of the current and future women veteran populations.

The American Legion has identified many challenges women veterans face when receiving VA health care, which includes:

- Many women veterans do not identify themselves as veterans;
- Many women veterans do not know or understand what benefits they are entitled to receive;
- VA medical facilities across the system do not have adequate baseline plans to close the gender gaps and improve use of facilities and services for women;
- Additional research is needed to determine the purpose, goals, and effectiveness of VA women models of care on overall outreach, communication and coordination of women veterans' health services;
- Many VA facilities do not offer inpatient/residential mental health care program for women veterans;
- Many VA facilities do not offer child care services for veterans seeking health care appointments, which disproportionately impacts women veterans.

As these challenges still exist for our nation's female veterans, The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation to support the healthcare needs of women veterans at all VA medical facilities.

Sargent at Arms Classes

Jeff Durden, Sgt.-at-Arms
sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org



Well, another year is coming to an end. The Department Convention starts on the 27th of June and runs thru the 30th. There will be a Sgt-At-Arms class on Thursday the 27th at 2:45pm in Crystal K-L. There were a lot of good questions brought up at the ALR Summit that will be answered at the class. We will be finalizing the Sgt-At-Arms manual for the coming year. If you have any questions just email me or bring them up at the class.

Keep doing the great jobs that you are doing and I will see you at the convention.

Consolidated Post Reports Due Soon

Mike Hutto, Northern Area
northernarea@legionmail.org



May is here and CPR's are due this month by the 15th. Please ensure that your report is in. Remember it is a two-parter: the report for National and the addendum for the

Department.

Summer Convention is just around the corner. If you haven't made your reservations, time is short. Also, check out the Agenda to see what classes you might want to attend. Some classes require preregistration. See you at the Northern Area caucus scheduled for 1:45 - 2:30 Friday afternoon, June 28, in the Anaheim-Boston room.

Sign up for TEXT ALERTS.  TEXT to **FAL 74121**

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YEARS OF SERVICE

Keep on Running

Michael Raymond, Southwestern Area
swarea@legionmail.org



Seems like a hundred years ago when I ran for my first office in The American Legion. It was probably the most stressful time of my life. I ended up winning the position and after the election I

acknowledged the fact that, hey, it wasn't so bad!

Through the years I've ran for many other positions in The American Legion and

other smaller organizations, but never did I feel the agony of losing an election until I ran for 1st Vice Commander in 2011 after moving here. I was shocked! How can people be so ignorant? How could I lose?

I swore I would never offer my services to anyone anymore. I was very upset. After a few weeks of thinking about the loss, I realized finally that maybe it just wasn't my time. And then I remembered something I had read not long before that - count my blessings, practice kindness, let go of what you can't control, listen to your heart, be productive yet calm and most importantly, just breathe!

The elections this year will be no different. Some will win and some will lose. But that doesn't mean you quit. There are hundreds of positions in The American Legion that are begging for your attention. Everyone is good at something. Your dedication and hard work will eventually pay dividends. People will notice. And I promise you, you will be rewarded in the end.

As I travel around this great state of ours it never ceases to amaze me the kindness that is shown at each and every Post I visit. That's what keeps me going. We are family!

A Great Month for Children & Youth

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



What a great April 2019 Children and Youth Month! We had a fabulous Children and Youth picnic hosted by American Legion Post 117 in Palm Bay! Also had a

great Rider turnout for the poker run to support our C&Y programs. We had over 40 baskets to raffle off this year and many more sponsors than years past.

Many thanks to Post 117 Commander Gene Baker, the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and the Riders for making this event a success! I also want to thank our Department Children and Youth Chairmen from the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, Jane Hardacre and Tom Soeder. Jane even volunteered to be in the dunk tank and raised \$200.

Our Annual Children and Youth Golf

Tournament is on schedule to be a great event this year with more than one sponsor for each hole.

May will be a busy month as we review applications for Children and Youth grants and Teacher of the Year submissions. I look forward to presenting these awards at our upcoming Department Convention in June.

I want to gather pictures and stories from each Post, District, or Area that held a Children and Youth event. Please email your photos and stories to Vickie.Vanburen@yahoo.com to be included in our year end video.

"Help Us Give Smiles!"



CELEBRATING



Membership Retention Tips

Bruce Thurber, Membership
membership@legionmail.org



As we come to the end of the membership year, we find we still have a long way to go. Just because we are not in the targeted time, membership and recruiting do not stop. Work our

DMS and Buddy Check. However, the most important thing in membership is retention.

Here are some retention tips:

1. Have a program, not a campaign. Retention is a year-round priority and needs to be planned. Any Post that is or wants to be successful at retention must be able to identify the specific steps it takes to increase its retention rate. In addition to having a series of activities that make up a retention program, your Post should be able to identify resources that can be allocated to help implement the program.
2. Recognize members who reach milestone membership anniversaries. If members stay in The American Legion for five, ten, twenty or more years, they are probably not among those who are likely to drop out. When members reach one of these milestones, it provides two retention opportunities for your Post. First, it is an opportunity to recognize a member or group of members for their continuing support. Doing that solidifies their membership even more. Second, by publicly recognizing these membership milestones, you inspire other members to strive to earn the same recognition by maintaining their membership, too.
3. Start a regular column in your newsletter to thank members for their involvement. One organization featured a column in their monthly called "Tip of the Hat." This column's sole purpose was to say thank you to those members who had helped the organization in some way since the previous newsletter. The member's name and the specific service they performed were all mentioned. It became the most popular feature in the newsletter because every month members saw their name or the name of someone they knew.
4. Provide and encourage the use of The American Legion Emblem. There are good reasons for members to want to display the Legion emblem or other Legion artwork. The emblem can be an effective membership and marketing tool.
5. When important issues come up, call some inactive members for their opinions. It's natural for Posts to contact their leadership people when an issue of importance arises, such as a legislative crisis, a local election, or the setting of a new standard. These issues and events are also opportunities to involve some of the Post's least active members simply by asking their opinion. When the opportunity comes up, have a list of inactive members ready to call, fax, or write and ask their opinion on how the Post should react. The fact that the Post cared enough to contact them might make the difference at renewal time.
6. Accept credit and debit cards for dues payments. Credit and debit card payments have become the norm for almost all purchasing transactions. If your Post does not already accept them, you should consider doing so. Credit and debit card acceptance is especially useful to Posts during difficult economic times because it allows members to renew and still be able to make installment payments (if a credit card company). Your Post would also be able to accept dues payments online, which is a very popular method of payment for younger veterans. Your finance officer must take the fee paid to the credit card company into consideration.
7. Create an annual slogan or theme for membership each year. It's often easier to get someone's attention if they have an image of the Post's goals. Having an annual theme or slogan can rally the existing members around a specific program or set of objectives and create an image in the minds of those thinking about dropping. If your Post is celebrating a milestone year, that entire year can be dedicated to an anniversary theme.
8. Recognize your members as often as possible. Thank him or her for their participation in each and every program or function. Whether you do it formally or informally, it pays to express appreciation to members whenever possible. It's never too late to show gratitude to hard workers!
9. Get members involved at SOME level. Involved members don't drop. Your Post needs to try to find ways to get members involved in a meaningful way without taking up too much of their time. This is especially true with newer members.
10. Publish an annual report in the local media. Thank the community for their support and send a copy to members. Publishing an annual report (Consolidated Post Report) allows your Post to summarize all the accomplishments from the previous year. It shows the

continued on page 7 >>

<< *Membership - from page 6*

community that your Post is an asset to that community, and it shows your members that the Post is run in a business-like manner and will remind any members thinking about dropping out that they would be giving up all of the benefits listed in the report.

11. Set up car pools to get people to meetings, especially new members. Car pools help raise the attendance at meetings therefore increasing the involvement of those who may not have shown up if it weren't for the car pool. Some of the drivers may have even found excuses not to attend had it not been for their assigned driving duties.
12. Be sure non-members pay a higher fee than members for programs and functions. There are two ways to make this idea support your retention efforts. First, be sure that your Post charges more for non-members to participate in any of your Post functions or to purchase any of your goods or services. Second, be sure to remind your current members about this additional fee that nonmembers pay. This serves to remind members of the money they save each time they take advantage of your Post's services.
13. Remind members how much money they have saved by participating in programs and functions at the member rate. Remind your members of the money they may save by participating in the National member benefits program and the discounts for Post functions.
14. If you ask a member to do a volunteer job, make sure it's a WORTHWHILE job! Even the smallest volunteer jobs need to provide some sense of

accomplishment for the members assigned to do them. Although there is a lot of pressure to get members involved in the Post's leadership structure, just having a title is not enough to justify the valuable time members give up in order to participate. Be able to pinpoint the contribution each member makes to your Post's success and be certain to mention that contribution when thanking the member.

15. Call your annual dues an investment rather than dues. Referring to your dues as an investment will create an image that your Post isn't spending the members' dues but rather investing it in programs and services that bring value to the members, to the Post, and to the community.
16. Assign an officer to contact a certain number of inactive members each month – just a little “saying hi!” call. Some members believe the only time we contact them is when we need money, information, or support. This impression is strongest among the less active members. To alleviate some of these feelings, ask officers and E-board members to make some random calls each month to your inactive members. These courtesy calls will remind these members that the Post knows they're still out there and that their opinion is valued. Be sure to give the callers something substantial to talk about, such as getting input on an upcoming legislative issue or proposed Post policy changes.
17. Get spouses active – it assures renewal. When you have multiple family members simultaneously belonging to the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion, your chances of having them renew is much greater

than the renewal rates of individual members.

18. Hold leadership-training programs. Give your members the tools to be successful volunteers. It is important for members who get involved to have a good experience during their involvement. Leadership training is becoming one of the best services that organizations can give their members. The skills developed through leadership training are transferred back to the members' workplaces. At renewal time, members will remember where these skills were developed.
19. Send a mini-survey to members about six months after they join to see how they rate your Post's services. One educational organization called this their "six-month report card." It was sent to members half way through their first year and asked the members to grade the organization in several service areas. Any members that rated a program below an A or B was given a phone call to get more information. The organization then used that information to try to correct that problem. They were also able to spot potential dropped members by noting which new members didn't even bother to return the card. These members also got a phone call.
20. Get new and inactive members to attend Department Conventions or Conferences. They are more likely to renew when they witness the importance of the business conducted at these functions. Even if they don't attend every year, the stature of the event and the impression they get by attending will help remind them of the benefits of membership.

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

Remembering Peace Officers and Firefighters in May

Brian Taz Gehling, Law & Order

laworder@legionmail.org



Hello my fellow Legionnaires and family.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated

May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week, which is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and federal peace officers who have died or who have been disabled in the line of duty.

The men and women of our law enforcement agencies often receive little or no recognition for their daily efforts, yet each day they put themselves in harm's way to protect our communities just like our military. With Armed Forces Day coming up May 18 and Memorial Day taking place May 27, this is a good week to begin saying thank you to officers.

May 4th is National Firefighter Day, not just in the U.S. but around the world. There are multiple ways to honor these

brave men and women. Remember that firefighters dedicate their lives to the protection of life and property. Like law enforcement officers, sometimes that dedication is in the form of countless hours volunteered over many years, in others it is many selfless years working in the industry. In all cases it risks the ultimate sacrifice of a firefighter's life.

I also want to add that the dates listed above are also good times to honor YOUR Post's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Paramedic/E.M.T. of the Year. You can do them individually or have all the winners together for a brief ceremony. You could invite them to a dinner at your Post and present them with an award at that time also.

Remember that Department will supply a certificate for your Post winners. All you need to do is contact Ms. Elizabeth Douglas with enough time for her to print them and mail them to you. I would also like to add, please invite dignitaries which could include your District Law & Order Chair.

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

Honoring Our Heros



National Police Week



Don't forget your Convention Book Ads!

**Deadline
May 15, 2019**

floridalegion.org

Free Healthcare for Recent Combat Vets
Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements

veteransbenefits@legionmail.org



We all know getting people to join the American Legion is getting harder and harder. Here is one way that can help you get younger members to join- let them know about:

FREE HEALTH CARE FOR RECENT COMBAT VETS

Combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for five years from the date of discharge or release. The enrollment period begins on the discharge or separation date of the service member from active duty service, or in the case of multiple calls-up, the most recent discharge date.

Veterans, including activated Reservists and National Guard members, are eligible if they served on active duty in a theater on combat operations after November 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

This information is from the Florida Veterans Benefits Guide 2019 page 7. You can download the guide from the FDVA website <http://floridavets.org/resources/va-benefits-guide> or call 1-850-488-4181/4182 to request a copy.

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YEARS OF SERVICE

Blood Donor Award Criteria

Nancy Thomas, Blood Donor
blooddonor@legionmail.org

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

RULES:

1. The National Consolidated Post Report and Department Addendum must be on file with the Department.
2. The report for judging must also contain a one-page narrative explaining what you did to have a successful Blood Drive, the number of donors, and number of units of blood produced.
3. A Letter of Verification from your blood center on their stationery.
4. The report should be in a report folder and should include a copy of the Consolidated Post Report and Addendum.
5. The report must be on time based on the due date in the Post Administrative Manual.

National Security Brochures

Nancy Thomas, Security
security@legionmail.org



There are some great brochures at Department headquarters to help you and your Post in your endeavors. They are: Access Granted, Blood Donor, and Disaster Preparedness.

We also have within the Department of Florida, our wonderful Department Chairs who you may contact for the following programs that the Security Commission gives guidance to, and they are: myself as the Blood Donor Chair, Loretta Young, the JROTC/ Shooting Sports Chair, and Taz Gehling, the Law and Order Chair.

We can all be reached through Department email and look forward to assisting you should you need us.

24 Cadets is the Goal

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



We have received four firm applications, a check from another Post with paperwork to follow, and another seven Posts who will submit their paperwork in the next few days, putting us halfway to our goal. Our goal is 24 cadets, which is the exact same number that we had last year. Please, if you are thinking of sending cadets to this program, let us know now.

As soon as we get 24 cadets signed up, that is it for this year. We have notified every Post in this state directly at least twice on this subject. Last year we had a half dozen Posts contact us after our quota was full. At this time, 24 cadets is the maximum number that we can handle. Maybe down the road we will be able to expand this total.

Any questions whatsoever about this program, contact me at 904-272-1619.

Mobility Scooters Available

Jennifer Cooper, Dept. Fundraising
jcooper@floridalegion.org

You or a veteran you know need a mobility scooter?

The American Legion, Department of Florida received 13 mobility scooters earlier this year from generous donors Jack Kump and Joan Wheeler, his wife. Their donation has already made an impact on veterans who received one of these high-end scooters.

We still have a few remaining mobility

scooters that need to be distributed to well-deserved veterans.

If you or a member of your Post are a disabled Florida veteran who could greatly benefit from one of these mobility scooters, we would like to hear from you.

Requirements:

- Must be for the use of the veteran applying
- Veteran must be a Florida Resident
- Provide proof of military service
- Have the capability to arrange pick-up of the scooter at Department Headquarters in Orlando, Florida

- Written explanation of need

The American Legion, Department of Florida asks that you write a letter or email explaining why you or a known Legionnaire should receive one of these scooters. Briefly discuss why you feel you or they should be chosen. Please include a copy of the DD214 to verify veteran service and be sure to include contact information.

All letters and DD214 forms must be received in our office no later than May 31, 2019 for consideration. Late

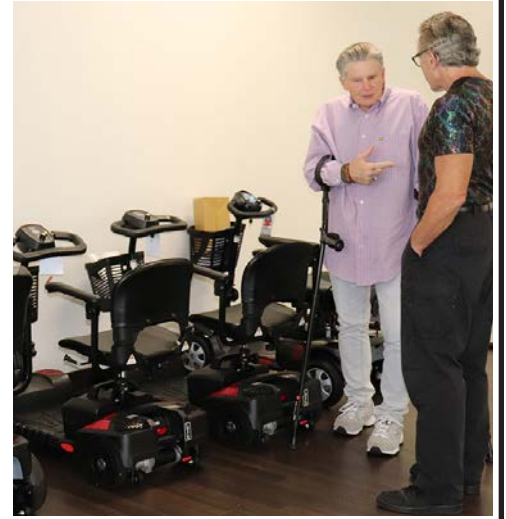
continued on page 10 >>

<< *Mobility Scooters - from page 9* and incomplete submissions will not be considered. Please do not call for inquiries. Recipients will be decided by a Department Committee based on the written entries received by the deadline, and on a first come first serve basis.

All entries should be mailed to: The American Legion, Department of Florida, Mobility for Veterans, PO Box 547859 Orlando, FL 32854-7859 or via emailed to jcooper@floridalegion.org. Selected recipients will be notified in

June to start arranging pick-up of their mobility scooters.

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 our veterans.



Reviewing Resolutions for Dept Convention

Clarence Hill, Resolutions
resolutions@legionmail.org



The deadline is fast approaching for submission of resolutions to be considered at this year's Department Convention. All resolutions must be

received by Department 40 days prior to convention so they can be compiled, reproduced, and distributed to Posts. Department should have them by mid-May. Those members who will represent their Posts at the Internal Affairs Committee meeting should read and review the resolutions prior to the meeting.

The Internal Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, June 27, at 2:15 PM in Crystal G2. The meeting will receive reports from Constitution and By-Laws, Credentials, Disaster Preparedness, POW-MIA, Resolutions, Time & Place, and Special Rules. When it comes to the Resolutions portion, only the RESOLVED clauses will be read, so it is important that the entire resolution be reviewed prior to the meeting.

Each Post can have one delegate at this meeting to vote on all matters to be decided. All voting members must have the appropriate ribbon received with the registration package. Attendees without the ribbon cannot vote. The results of the vote taken at this meeting become a recommendation to the General

Assembly when the Internal Affairs Committee report is presented. Every delegate to the Convention has a vote on the final disposition of the resolution.

I have reviewed 10 resolutions on the following topics: Department 4 Pillars; Lions Club stamp program; universal moral values plea; CAMO alerts; installation membership cards; Medicare 10% penalty; Gold Star kids base access; DMS membership study; male spouse membership eligibility. They are all nearly ready for presentation and should provide for an interesting meeting.

Resolutions that do not meet the 40-day deadline will be considered at the Fall Conference.

Let's Get It Done!

Bob Brewster, Post Development
mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com



Well, time is running out. As I look at the membership results for The Department of Florida, I notice that at least every District has at least two or more Posts who are

not succeeding in the membership drive. District and Vice Commanders need to get out to visit these Posts.

I am one phone call away (904-272-1619) from coming to your District to work with these Posts by setting up a membership drive. But I will not do this all on my own. If the District and Vice Commanders are happy with not succeeding, so be it.

I have been working membership for

fifteen years. FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION! Let's get it done!!

CELEBRATING



Department & National Oratorical Contest

Results

Meri West, Oratorical

oratorical@legionmail.org



Some things never change. And when it comes to the American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest, that is a good thing.

This year marks the 82nd year of the American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest. The program has awarded over 4 million dollars in scholarship money to very deserving students since the inception of the program.

Our Department held its contest March 9th and our winner was Chad Stephens from the Central Area, represented by Post 8.

The full results of the Department contest were:

1st Place – \$2,500

Represents Florida at National Oratorical Contest

Chad Stephens, Central Area, Post 8

2nd Place – \$1,500

Jacqueline Fake, Southern Area, Post 269

3rd Place – \$1,000

Luke Evangelista, Southwestern Area, Post 24

\$500 Winner

Kennedi Ray, Northern Area, Post 283

\$500 Winner

Gabriella Estevez, Eastern Area, Post 243

The National finals were held in Indianapolis, IN, from April 4th through

April 7th. Students from every state and US territory as well as a student from the American Legion Department of France came prepared to give it their all. What never changes about the contest is how the students always inspire and motivate us, as well as teach us new things about the Constitution.

The 3rd place winner was Eden Carnes of Friendsville, TN, a home-school freshman. Eden's speech focused on how one vote can change the course of history and cited examples in Tennessee history where one vote made a big difference.

Second place went to Caleb Maue of Homer Glen, IL. Caleb is a home-schooled junior. Caleb's speech emphasized the importance of voting and being educated about candidates to know which most supported your values. He had an endearing quirk, so sometimes spoke out of the side of his mouth. We felt he reminded us of Abe Lincoln in his posture and speaking style.

First place went to Patrick Junker, a junior at Vann Meter High School in Waukegan, IO. This was Patrick's second year competing at the National level. Last year he didn't make it past the quarter finals, but this year he went right to the top! Patrick aspires to attend West Point for college, and when you watch him on

stage it's easy to see that he is likely to make it there!

You can see videos of the three winners here:

Eden Carnes: https://www.legion.org/oratorical/videos/PLD1D27913E787209F/34EhZbDu_CE

Caleb Maue: https://www.legion.org/oratorical/videos/PLD1D27913E787209F/h5xjdf_C_-Y

Patrick Junker: <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/videos/PLD1D27913E787209F/awpMUydMjA>

Each of these contestants had such a different style and focus on the Constitution. They were a pleasure to watch. Grab some coffee and prepare to be amazed, inspired and educated!

We need more Oratorical Chairmen for next year. If you are interested, please contact Meri West at meriwest454@gmail.com or Elizabeth Douglas, the Programs Director, at edouglas@floridalegion.org. We learned a lot this year about what works best in promoting the contest and we promise to try to make your job as easy as possible!



L-R: Gabriella Estevez, Jacqueline Fake, Kennedi Ray, Chad Stephens and Luke Evangelista



L-R: Eden Carnes, Caleb Maue, Patrick Junker

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

End of Semester Celebrations and Events

**Loretta Young,
ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports**

jrotc@legionmail.org

The end of the semester is approaching quickly and the Year End Award Ceremonies, Military Balls, and final competitions are in full swing. As in the past, I have attended as many functions, events, and board reviews as time allows. Most of the Military Balls have stopped having the Year End Award Ceremony together and instead have separate functions to allow the cadets both the time to enjoy the Military Ball and the Award Ceremony. This change gives the cadets time to enjoy themselves at the Ball and at the Award Ceremony, concentrate on the academic aspect of the program.

I had the privilege of attending the



Entrepreneur Leadership Academy Military Ball 2019, Valdez, spouse, Armstrongs

Seventh Entrepreneur and Leadership Military Academy Ball in Hollywood. I was invited to join in the Receiving Line along with the school officials and other dignitaries to greet the guests. It was very well attended by the cadets, school officials, and parents and guests, and was planned by the Cadet Battalion Staff with some assistance from the instructors. The Presentation of the Colors by the Color Guard led the opening formalities followed by the National Anthem and Invocation. Next came the toasts to the various Military Branches, the US Flag, Commander, the President, Fallen Comrades, and to "the Ladies". There was the POW/MIA Table Ceremony followed by TAPS and lastly, the Grog Ceremony.

I attended several of the JROTC Programs of Accreditation (JPA) since the beginning of the year. However, the one that stands out and really shows what the



MSD JPA 2019 with LTC Green

JROTC Program's motto states, "to build better citizens", was Marjorie Stoneman Douglas JROTC. This review was on the schedule for February 15th last year, one day after the mass shooting at the school that so devastated the school and the community. Since the school was closed, the review was postponed for the semester and rescheduled. The cadets did an outstanding job last month and were rewarded with the honored Star of Distinction for their performance. They had an outstanding Service-Learning Project, working with the community on an ongoing program involving the ecosystem. They have some very high achieving students graduating this year and several that will be getting full scholarships and appointments to the Service Academy.

As the end of the semester winds down, I encourage all Posts to attend these Award Ceremonies and make the presentation of the Legion Medal of Scholastic and Military Excellence. This means a lot to the cadets and the instructors to have someone come to the ceremony to present the awards. It takes only a little of your time and the benefit in the end is much greater. You will see firsthand how great the young people we have are and it will renew your faith in the future of our country.

Legion Rider Unity Ride and Rally

Jim Wineland, Legion Riders

legionriders@legionmail.org



First, a little ALR house cleaning - don't forget to have all your yearend reporting completed and turned in by May 15th. We need all your chapter's hours, miles, and donations. This

information is very important as it's part of our Department's reporting to

National and gets forwarded to Congress. Whether you want to admit it or not, it's all about the numbers to keep Congress focused on veteran's programs, so keep those numbers coming.

I hope you've had time to look at the pictures from the Unity Ride and the Rally. We had one of the safest rides and supported Project: VetRelief, Suicide Prevention Initiative (PVR/SPI). We had Riders from Ohio and Arkansas. The Riders from Ohio really enjoyed

themselves and wanted to be included in all our Department events. One group that left a huge void was our brothers and sisters from the First and Second Districts. They are still dealing with the aftermath of hurricane damage and had to miss this year's ride, but approximately ten did make to the Rally and donated to the cause.

Post 375 also made it to the Rally and picked up a few donations from their

continued on page 13 >>

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

<< Legion Riders - from page 12

brothers and sisters to help replace their Post which was destroyed in the hurricane. Riders, that's what we do, always try to help.

We also installed and presented a Charter to our new Rider's Chapter at 152. It's great to see us grow. Welcome aboard 152!

We had twenty stops on our Unity Ride and collected over 25k for PVR/SPI and the numbers are still climbing. I can't say thank you enough to all the Posts that participated in the event. Some supplied breakfast, morning snacks, lunches or dinners, and was all appreciated by all.

I can't say enough about Ocean Beaches Post 129 in Jacksonville. Besides having all the tables set and lunch already to go, they were our leading donors. The Legionnaires donated \$4,000, \$500 from the SAL, and \$250 from the Riders. The Riders were there to help cater the event along with the Commander Joe Maichle and Terry Stickles, our Second Vice who is our master chef. Great stop. Thank you just doesn't cover all your efforts and donations for the cause!

Just a quick note on the definition of Project:VetRelief, Suicide Prevention Initiative. There seems to be a lot of confusion. As in any operation, there is an awareness/planning and an operating side of the structure. All the events titled "22" represents the estimated number of veterans that take their lives daily. This represents the awareness side of the of the program. SPI would fulfill the operating side.

As a board member and on the special committee for PVR/SPI, when individuals contact us for help, in some cases we are their last hope of getting help. Everything in their world is ready to fall apart and they could just give up. That's were SPI would come in and help them through that period and get them linked up with the professionals in the field that could help them through the tough periods.

Our next big event is the 32nd Annual All Vets Reunion at Wickham Park, located at 2500 Parking Dr. Melbourne, FL, May 9th -12th. It's sponsored by VVB Vietnam and All Veteran's of Brevard. It starts with an escort of the Vietnam Wall on the Sunday prior to the event. See if you can make it for a few days. If you need more info call 321-408-2698. See you there.

Following the Reunion, we have Rolling Thunder in D.C. May 24-26. Look at the National website for info. If you have never been, there is lots to do in D.C. and it's a short ride to Gettysburg to explore one of the biggest battles of the Civil War. Department Convention. As it stands now, we will have the Chairman's meeting on Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 and the ALR General Session Friday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00. We will have more info to follow.

After Convention, we have the National Legacy Ride to the National Convention starting from Post 347 in Lady Lakes in August. More info to come on that. We should fill this up with Riders from Florida, even if you can only ride a couple of days.

If you missed the Coral-Head Music-Festival, don't miss their new concert this year in England Bros Park, Pinellas Park, November 2-3. Their events support Project:VetRelief. Make sure you get it on your calendar. 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!

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ADVOCATE TRAINING - *Next Opportunity*

The American Legion, Department of Florida's Annual Convention is just around the corner. The event will be held from June 27-30th, 2019 at the Marriott Orlando World Center in Orlando, FL.

There will only be one training opportunity this year. Be sure to visit the link below to reserve your seat today!

VETRELIEF ADVOCATE TRAINING:

Friday, June 28th

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Room: Canary 3-4

Registration Link:

<http://www.projectvetrelief.org/classregistration/>

The PROJECT: VetRelief Team will also have a table in the vendor area. Please stop by to see our case workers, Michael Beaven and Jeremy Gottschalk. You can collect any materials to take back with you to your Post or ask any questions you might have.

Calling all trained Advocates - We will be holding a special event for all trained VetRelief Advocates. If you are interested in learning more information on this event, and have already taken our Training course, please contact Jennifer Cooper, jcooper@floridalegion.org, for the details.

We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you there!

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Class day, time and location are subject to change.*



MISSION MOMENT: *Community Impact*

"The funding really helped me out of a tough situation. I would have been homeless again without help!"

- Army Veteran

WE SALUTE: *Florida Legion Riders*

The Florida American Legion Riders and PROJECT: VetRelief teamed up for the month of April to bring awareness to prevention, action and treatment in an effort to stop Veteran suicide. This is the first event that focused around the new initiative our program put forth last June. The Riders kicked off a week-long Unity Ride event at Post 138 in Tampa on April 7th. From there, they made their way round the entire state of Florida stopping at various Posts to raise awareness and collect donations.

The ride concluded back in Tampa at Post 111 where they celebrated with the Statewide Rally. Food, raffles, silent auction and live entertainment was provided, along with wonderful memories.

Their work isn't finished yet! Riders have the entire month of April to host local rides within their communities and raise more awareness and collect donations. The final results will be announced during the Department Convention in June.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: *Upcoming Events*

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

If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Cooper at 407-295-2631 or jcooper@floridalegion.org.

- **Chapter 10 Armed Forces Day Event** - May 18, 2019
Kissimmee, FL
- **6th Annual Golf Tournament** - Sept 23, 2019
Bella Collina, FL
- **Coral Head Blues Fest** - Oct 19, 2019
Marathon, FL
- **Coral Head Music Fest** - Nov 2-3, 2019
Pinellas Park, FL
- **Post 35 Golf Tournament** - Nov 16, 2019
Mt. Dora, FL



SUPPORT CASES
JULY 2018 - MAR 2019 STATS

families helped

118

amount distributed

\$107,671.15

*Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY

April 25, 2019
110% Target Report (Currently 95.01%)

12	Stephen Hamrick	103.34%
6	Timothy Tierney	98.03%
4	Cherie Korn	97.77%
16	Raymond Perez	97.54%
15	Bruce Carl	97.47%
11	Paul Bosco	97.10%
13	Brian Taz Gehling	95.85%
1	John Edens	94.81%
17	Willie Brance	94.06%
8	Jerry Faught	93.89%
5	Troy Horsley	92.45%
2	James Brennan	92.07%
7	David Tucker	91.24%
9	Teddy Pomerantz	91.23%
3	Stuart Scott	90.98%
14	Gary Decker	90.25%
Eastern	James Burk	100.31%
Central	Jay Allen	96.41%
Southwestern	Michael Raymond	94.96%
Western	Raymond Olsen	94.32%
Northern	Frederick Hutto	93.77%
Southern	James Tewes	93.10%
Post 400		88.60%
Post 208		88.11%



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

MEMBERSHIP GOAL
100% + 1 5/1/2019

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2019 District Constitutional Conferences

Date	District	Location	Time
04-May-19	6	Post 347	Registration: 8AM
		Lady Lake	Start: 9AM
11-May-19	5	Post 137	Registration: 8AM
		Jacksonville	Start: 9AM
11-May-19	17	Post 17	Registration: 12PM
		New Smyrna	Start: 12:30PM
18-May-19	2	Post 100	Registration: 8AM
		Marianna	Start: 9AM
18-May-19	7	Post 8	Registration: 2PM
		Winter Haven	Start: 3PM
18-May-19	15	Post 11	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-June-19	14	Post 31	Registration: 9AM
		South Miami	Start: 10AM
8-June-19	4	Post 284	Registration: 9AM
		Bellevue	Start: 10AM
8-June-19	3	Post 57	Registration: 10AM
		Lake City	Start: 11AM
8-June-19	12	Post 117	Registration: 1PM
		Palm Bay	Start: 2PM
8-June-19	16	Post 273	Registration: 9AM
		Madeira Beach	Start: 10AM
9-June-19	11	Post 64	Registration: 9AM
		Okeechobee	Start: 10AM
15-June-19	9	Post 222	Registration: 12PM
		Ft. Lauderdale	Start: 1PM
15-June-19	1	Post 235	Registration: 12PM CST
		Ft. Walton Beach	Start: 1PM CST

CELEBRATING



Current Department of Florida Endorsements

*as of April 18, 2019

Department Officers

COMMANDER
Rick Johnson
1ST VICE COMMANDER
Jerry Brandt
2ND VICE COMMANDER
Eunice Butts
3RD VICE COMMANDER
Gerald Kaufman Fred Matthews Ray Perez Michael Raymond
SGT-AT-ARMS
Lloyd Cole Jeff Durden
HISTORIAN
Edward Lewis
CHAPLAIN
Steven Newman Barry Roberts

Area Commanders

CENTRAL AREA
Jay Allen
EASTERN AREA
Timothy Tierney
NORTHERN AREA
Marie Kraemer Victoria Van Buren
SOUTHERN AREA
Paul Bosco
SOUTHWESTERN AREA
Jerry Fought
WESTERN AREA
John M. Edens

District Commanders

1ST DISTRICT
Lamar Carroll
2ND DISTRICT
Roger Hewitt
3RD DISTRICT
Stuart Scott
4TH DISTRICT
Cherie A. Korn
5TH DISTRICT
Ernie Florig Troy Horsley
6TH DISTRICT
Robert Suelter
7TH DISTRICT
Ira Anderson Rick Orzechowski
8TH DISTRICT
Angelo "Skip" Felicita
9TH DISTRICT
Arthur Barber
12TH DISTRICT
Stephen Hamrick
13TH DISTRICT
Brian "Taz" Gehling
15TH DISTRICT
Bruce Carl
16TH DISTRICT
Randall McNabb
17TH DISTRICT
James Bowers Henry Mangels

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

2019 Convention Voting Guide

During the 2017 Department Convention, the membership voted to adopt a new method for voting for Department Officers. All voting for Department Officers will now take place via ballots and scanned with electronic tabulation machines. This will provide a private setting in which to cast secret ballots and expedite the voting process. This guide will provide some pertinent information for the voting process at your 2019 Department Convention.

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

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

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

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

Each Post will receive one (1) official ballot for every paid delegate at the time of registration with the exception of the Past Department Commander's ballot, which will be provided on the floor at the time of voting as detailed in Section 6, Article 5 of the Department Constitution. Ballots may either be voted collectively by the acting chairman of each delegation or individually by Post delegates to the Convention. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from the Post.

Those candidates having an endorsement on file at Department by May 30, 2019, will be pre-printed on the ballot. The ballots shall provide for a write-in candidate for each office, should one be nominated off the Convention floor without prior endorsement by their respective Post.

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

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

A team of election officials will oversee the election process. These officials shall consist of an employee of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, the Assistant Department Adjutant, and the Department Assistant Judge Advocate or a representative appointed by the Department Commander in his/her absence. The election officials will examine any ballot rejections to determine the intent of the ballot. If a ballot reflects votes for two (2) candidates for the same office that ballot will have that one (1) office's vote cancelled and the balance of the ballot cast as presented. Should duplicate ballots be presented, the scanners will reject the votes from both ballots.

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

In cases of a tie vote, a roll call of Posts for the purpose of casting their votes for the tied candidates shall continue until one (1) candidate receives the majority of votes cast, the roll call is complete or until there shall be only one (1) candidate for a particular Department office.

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

Rules of Procedure

One-Hundred and First Annual Convention

The American Legion, Department of Florida

Marriot's Orlando World Center, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando Florida 32821
June 27 - 30, 2019

The following Special Rules of Procedure were adopted as the Special Rules to govern the One-Hundred and First Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Florida, to be held at the Marriott's Orlando World Center, Orlando, Florida, June 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2019, by the Department Executive Committee at the Fall Conference November 2, 3, and 4, 2018 at the Renaissance SeaWorld Orlando, Florida.

General Rules:

1. Matters of procedure not provided for in the Constitution or Department By-Laws or in these Special Rules shall be covered by Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.
2. The decision of the chair on rules and procedures shall be final, unless overturned by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting upon an appeal from that decision.
3. The order of business shall be published in the printed program of the Convention, except as modified by the Department Commander, or as altered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present.
4. Voting for elections shall be by ballot. All other voting shall be by acclamation, unless a roll call vote shall be demanded by a least five (5) Posts with one (1) or more accredited delegates present on the floor of the Convention.
5. When a roll call of any one Post is demanded by a delegate of such Post, the Secretary of the Convention (the Department Adjutant) shall poll the vote of this Post by delegates without discussion of the question then being considered.
6. On roll calls, the acting chairman of each delegation shall poll his delegation on the floor and shall announce the vote of the delegation. Unit rule of voting shall not be permitted.
7. A person who is not a duly accredited delegate shall not participate directly or indirectly in a voice vote on any subject.
8. When a delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention he/she shall rise, address the chair as "Mr. Commander," and upon receiving recognition shall state his/her name and the name and number of his/her Post before proceeding.

Resolutions:

9. A resolution shall not be considered by the Convention unless presented to the Department Adjutant at least forty (40) days prior to the Department Convention. This time limit may be waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present at the Department Convention.
10. Any resolution originating on the floor of the Convention, if permitted by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present, must be in writing, and will automatically, and without reading or discussion, be referred to the Resolution Committee for consideration and recommendation. Any resolution providing for the expenditure of Department funds, raising or lowering Department Dues, raising funds in the name of the Department, shall be referred to the Department Finance Committee for study and recommendations, and, by that body, transmitted to the Resolution Committee. The report from both of these committees shall be presented to the Convention for action.

CELEBRATING



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

Voting for Officers:

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

13. Each officer to be elected at the Department Convention shall be voted on by ballot, except that the election of Department Area Commanders, District Commanders, District Vice Commanders and delegates and alternate delegates to the National Convention may be elected and ratified collectively.

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

15. Each Post will receive one (1) official ballot for every paid delegate, except for Past Department Commanders. Ballots may either be voted collectively by the acting chairman of each delegation or individually by Post delegates to the Convention. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegation present from his Post.

16. Section 6, Article V of the Department Constitution provides that Past Department Commanders to be eligible to cast a vote, must be present on the floor on the Convention and be in good standing in their Post. On the final day of the Convention, prior to the election of Department Officers, the Secretary of the Convention (the Department Adjutant) shall provide all registered Past Department Commanders their official ballot.

17. The ballot shall provide for a write-in candidate for each office, should one be nominated off the Convention floor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25. All elections by ratification of the Districts of delegates and alternate delegates to the National Convention, two (2) District Vice Commanders from each District, District Commander from each district, and a Department Area Commander from

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

each Area shall be held in the following order or sequence, final determination within each group to be completed prior to consideration of the next group.

- First Ratification of nominations from Districts of delegates and alternate delegates to the National Convention.
- Second Ratification of the election of two (2) District Vice Commanders from each District.
- Third Ratification of the election of a District Commander from each District.
- Fourth Ratification of the election of a Department Area Commander from each Area.

26. All elections by official ballot shall be reported in the following order or sequence, final determination within each group to be completed prior to consideration of the next group.

- First Department Sergeant-At-Arms.
- Second Department Chaplain.
- Third Department Historian.
- Fourth Department Third Vice Commander.
- Fifth Department Second Vice Commander.
- Sixth Department First Vice Commander.
- Seventh Department Commander.

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



Centennial CELEBRATION RAFFLE



The American Legion, Department of Florida is proud to announce its upcoming **Centennial Celebration Raffle** where you could win **OVER \$15,000** in awesome prizes; including the ***BONUS RAFFLE*** drawing for a chance to win an **American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Three-Coin Set**.

On **June 29, 2019**, ten (10) **CASH winners** and one (1) **BONUS winner** will be chosen for the following **Centennial Celebration Raffle prizes**:

★ ★ ★
GRAND PRIZE
\$10,000

SECOND PRIZE — \$2,500
THIRD PRIZE — \$1,000
4TH PRIZE — \$500

5TH PRIZE — \$500
6TH-10TH PRIZE — \$100

The American Legion, Department of Florida is proud to announce its upcoming **Centennial Celebration Raffle** where you could win **OVER \$15,000** in awesome prizes; including the ***BONUS RAFFLE*** drawing for a chance to win an **American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Three-Coin Set**.

On **June 29, 2019**, ten (10) **CASH winners** and one (1) **BONUS winner** will be chosen for the following **Centennial Celebration Raffle prizes**:



THE GOLDEN TICKET

Return your enclosed golden ticket with an additional suggested donation of \$5 for a chance to win the **LIMITED EDITION Centennial American Legion Coin Set** with US Mint certificate of authenticity; includes \$5 Gold Coin, Silver Dollar and Clad Half Dollar.

Golden tickets are independent from Centennial Celebration Raffle and will be kept separate. Winner will be drawn on Saturday, June 29, 2019 during the Annual Convention and streamed live on Facebook.

Didn't get a packet? No worries, just complete our online form at floridalegion.org/raffle before **May 31, 2019** and we will mail one to you. After **May 31st**, you will only be able to purchase tickets at our Department Convention, **June 27-29, 2019**.



Department of Florida Membership Drive

Volunteers Needed for Florida's
Largest Membership Drive

At Wickham Park During

Florida's 32nd Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion

The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND

May 9th – 12th

The **Vietnam** Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 5-12, 2019**

Recruiting Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL Family

Volunteers needed to work a couple hours Thursday Friday
and Saturday

Noon-6pm

EMAIL: Membership@Legionmail.org

With availability

Event at Wickham Park, Melbourne FL



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA FAMILY



2019 CRUISE

SEPTEMBER 16-21

THE ELATION



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

GROUP CODE
5DSL69

Elation - Exotic Eastern Caribbean

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

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

Questions?

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

Welcome from 1st Vice Commander

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

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

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

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

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

Everyone have a great time and will see you aboard.



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

**DO YOU
HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES?**

**BECOME A
DEPARTMENT
CHAIRMAN!**

2019



**MAKE
AN
IMPACT**

2020

YEARS IN LEGION

DISTRICT

POST

AREA

NAME

POSITION INTERESTED IN

EXPLAIN YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN _____

LEGION SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

ALEI

Florida Legion College

National Legion College

Sgt-at-Arms

Chaplain

National LEAD Classes

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

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

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

2019 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

T-SHIRT PRE-ORDER FORM

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	Zip:
Phone:	
Email:	



BACK

Back includes names of all
2018-2019 Department Officers,
Area & District Commanders, and
Chairmen

FRONT

**PRE-ORDER MUST BE RETURNED BY
MAY 15, 2019**

Please choose your method of delivery: Pickup at Convention Pickup at Headquarters Ship to Home*

Style	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty
Men's	S	Qty	M	Qty	L	Qty	XL	Qty	2XL	Qty	3XL	Qty	4XL	Qty	5XL	Qty
Ladies'	S	Qty	M	Qty	L	Qty	XL	Qty	2XL	Qty						

Shirts are **\$15 each**, plus tax and shipping. If tax exempt, please include copy of exemption form.

SHIPPING FEES* (Pickup is Free)

(Qty: 1) - \$5.95 (Qty: 4-6) - \$9.95 (Qty: 21-26) - \$24.95
 (Qty: 2) - \$7.95 (Qty: 7-13) - \$15.95 (Qty: 27-33) - \$33.95
 (Qty: 3) - \$8.95 (Qty: 14-20) - \$21.95 (Qty: 34+) - \$39.95

Subtotal	\$
Tax (6.5%)	\$
Shipping	\$
Grand Total	\$

PAYMENT

ORDER ONLINE: floridalegionstore.org

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters:

The American Legion, Dept of FL; Attn: Emblem Sales, PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32810

Payment Type: Check / Money Order Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Card Holder Name: _____

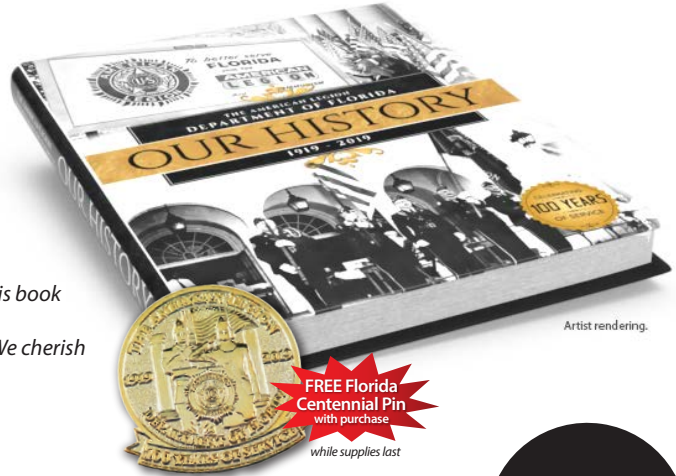
Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Limited quantities and sizes available at event.

1919-2019 BOOK ORDER FORM

Starting at
\$18
+ Tax and Shipping



Also available in hardcover for \$40

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

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

PRE-ORDER
ETA JUNE 2019

PURCHASE ONLINE
www.floridalegionstore.org

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

of Paperback Books _____ X \$18 each = Item Total \$ _____

of Hardcover Books _____ X \$40 each = Item Total \$ _____

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

Subtotal \$ _____

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

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

Total Due \$ _____

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

Payment Type: Check Money Order Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

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

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration: _____ CVV: _____ Signature: _____

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