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JUNE 2021

THE LEGION LINK

VOLUME 29 ISSUE XI

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Submit Articles at

floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org

From your Dept Commander Rick Johnson

Rick Johnson, Commander
commander@floridalegion.org



Well, we made it, my two years are nearly over. I just want to say thank you to the staff for everything that they do. They are our unsung heroes, always willing to go above and beyond, with little recognition.

This past month has been trying, with an investigation of the Department, prompted by a few individuals. National was here for five days reviewing evidence and conducting interviews. Most of the allegations were unfounded, and those that had validity were minor in nature with advice moving forward given. Our charter is intact and we will keep moving forward.

I was also asked for my DD214 to ensure my eligibility to serve within the American Legion. Peoples' feelings have been hurt this past year. We have done the best job we can with the information we were provided. It is my promise that, the staff nor I, would ever do anything to put our members or this organization in jeopardy. We have been accused that we have not followed our four pillars, and a letter was sent to the National Commander that our membership was hurting, and my team was not doing

their jobs. I take great personal offense, that my dedication to OUR organization has been challenged. Given the challenges we have experienced, our membership has been doing great. We are over 95% in membership and retention. Although every post might not have achieved 100%, I know you have all given 100%. Not too bad, in my opinion. Enough of the negativity, I just wanted you to know what has been happening, so that we can now move forward for convention.

There will be some different classes coming up, so make sure you look at the agendas online at floridalegion.org. Thursday evening will be the Legion Family Kickoff Party and Mike McDaniel's Bittersweet Farewell after 15 years of great service. So, please stop by, say goodbye, and most of all THANK YOU.

This is our last year at this hotel, thank goodness, as it seems every year, they have found ways to charge us more and move us further away from the halls again. They are supposed to have shuttles back and forth from the stairs to the different halls. We shall see.

Please District Commanders, ensure that all Posts have the information for convention and ensure that you are assisting the Posts with their CPRs. Well, what can I say? My Legion is in a state of emergency right

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<< Dept. Commander Continued from page 2
 now. We cannot even get reports to send out due to the new launch of their system. I apologize for the short comings, we feel the launch was poor timing and the infrastructure should have been tested more thoroughly before its release.

We are going to attempt to bring back golf before the convention as we used to years ago. So, sign up and have some fun. The flyer will be attached. We used to have it before, so let us see what happens.

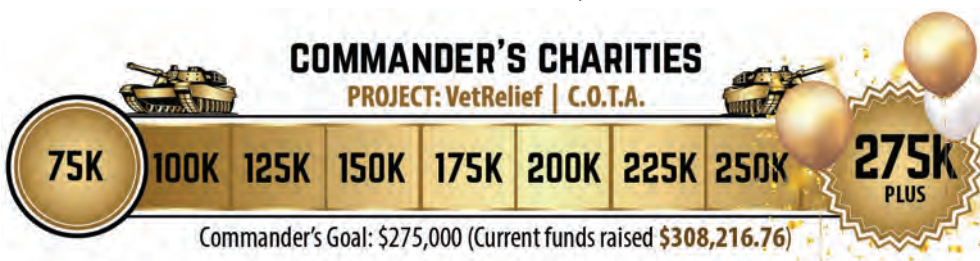
To my Vice Commanders, thank you for your support these past two years. As you move up now, you have seen many things these past years. Take the knowledge that has been provided and learn a lot more before you move into that position. Jerry, good luck to you on your upcoming position

as Department Commander. We all look forward to your year and the plans that you will have in place. I wish you the very best.

I want to say thank you for all the support that you have shown to Department during these tough times. Too many to list right now but you know who you are behind the scenes.

So, my Legion Family, Thanks for what you do and continue to do for the right reasons. Look forward to seeing everyone out there soon.

The word "inculcate" means "to impress by frequent admonitions" and "to enforce by frequent repetitions." Like the duties themselves, the reminders that they remain to be carried forward, are never finished. Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow. From myself and my wife, Thank You.



Upcoming Convention Classes and Thanks

Jerry Brandt, 1st Vice Commaner
 1stvice@legionmail.org



Comrades,
 By now, most of the Districts have had their District Constitution Conference, and you are now planning to go to the Department Convention. Please review the Safety Protocols listed on the Department Website, we want everyone to be safe and have fun, and World Center Marriott is asking the same thing.

If you are coming to convention to learn, please look at the Agenda for our stay, the schedule is full, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. If you do not find a class that you need, please let us know, and we

will attempt to have that class at the Fall Conference.

I would like to congratulate all the Districts Commanders and Districts Vice Commanders for stepping up for the 2021 – 2022 year. Additional training is being planned at the upcoming Retreat, July 15th -17th for all District and Area Commanders. You should have received this information, please attend.

I would like to take time to thank the Area Commanders, John Edens and Marie Conti, as well as the District Commanders, Lamar Carroll, Roger Hewitt, Stuart Scott, Cherie Korn, Troy Horsley and James Bowers in Zone III, for the outstanding service you provided this year. Your Members, Your Department and I would like to thank you for what you did this year.

JUNE 2021	
1	Baseball: Team Rosters Due
5	District 1 DCC
5	District 2 DCC
5	District 15 DCC
5	District 16 DCC
6	District 3 DCC
12	District 15 Visitation & Flag Retirement
14	Flag Day
14	Army Birthday (1775)
17	Post Service Officer Reports Deadline
20	Father's Day
20-26	77th Boys State Session
20	American Eagle Day
20	First Day of Summer
21	Last Day for Post Elections
21	Post Officer Reports Deadline
21	Certification of Service Records for Post Officers
22	Baseball Team Rosters Due
23	Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
25	Korean War Start (1950)
27	National PTSD Awareness Day
30	Commander's Golf Tournament ☆
1-4	Department Convention ☆

☆ - Commander Rick Johnson'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.



Together We Can Do So Much

Eunice Butts, 2nd Vice Commander

2ndvice@legionmail.org



It is hard to believe that our "Legion" year is coming to an end shortly. Congratulations to the 15th District Commander Bruce Carl for receiving the Race to the Top in Zone 2.

Congratulations also to Johnny Castro and Dennis Mallon. I thank each of you for a job well done, your

dedication has truly made a difference in the lives of veterans, children and youth, the homeless, and your communities.

I had the opportunity to speak to the AFJROTC Class at Middleton Sr High School in Tampa Bay, FL. I attended the 7th, 8th and 13th District DCCs, a special benefit for Julio, Derby race festivities at Post 139, a bench dedication for Bill and Rosa Mary Hamblin of Post 5, assisted homeless female veterans at Post 111, and attended Memorial activities at Post 3 Bartow, FL. These above are just a few of the areas I've

covered in my zone.

It is my prayer that all Posts invite their Zone Commanders to their activities and fundraisers, especially if the Department Commander cannot attend. We are here to assist in numerous capacities. I wish each post a rewarding and successful year in 2021-2022 in your membership and programs. Remember as a team we can do many things. I love each of you individually and collectively. Remember what Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

The Final Countdown

Michael Raymond, 3rd Vice Commander

3rdvice@legionmail.org



As we count down the final days of this very long tour of duty, we must look back at some of the great things we have accomplished over the past two years. The past is normally only remembered by the mistakes we've made, but that must change. The old saying, "one oh crap

wipes out 100atta boys" just isn't going cut it this time. We've done so many great things that we can only assess our past two years as a resounding success!

Our fundraising at the Department of Florida has shattered all records from the Commanders Charities to the Riders unbelievable Unity Ride results. From our local Posts being closed for many months and remaining solvent to the unbelievable stamina of the local Post leadership and members pulling together as a team to clean and refurbish their facilities not asking for anything in return.

Membership, under the guidance of two of the most experienced and talented membership chairman, we accomplished something that I believe has never been done. Winning not one but two race to the Top first place finishes and one second place. Truly amazing! I am so proud of the people in the Department of Florida and couldn't imagine being anywhere but here. Thank you so much for your hard work and please... don't ever stop believing! We can do this. See you at convention.

Mission Blue Post Assistance Program

Dennis Boland, NEC

nec@legionmail.org



The American Legion NEC approved Res. No. 36 October 14, during its annual Fall Meetings in 2020 to provide up to \$5,000,000 from the National Emergency Fund (NEF) Trust for assistance for posts who

have a financial need. Posts may ask for up to \$1,000 grants if in good standing with their respective department. These funds must be used exclusively to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities, and/or insurance premiums.

The post can download the applications

and, upon completion, submit it to their department for review and recommendation. The application can easily be downloaded at: https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission_Blue_PAP_Application_1.pdf

Post must meet the following criteria to qualify for a grant.

- Must have a consolidated post report on file.
- Must have filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
- Must have filed all other required forms and reports prescribed by the department.
- Must have actively participated in one or more American Legion programs within the last 18 months.
- Must have a financial need.
- Must provide a certificate of

insurance for all liability coverage naming The American Legion doing business as (dba) American Legion National Headquarters and the post's department as an additional insured.

So far 161 posts have sent in their reports after receiving a grant. *They have reported using the funds as follows.*

- Mortgage \$15,655
- Rent \$3,602
- Utilities \$71,197
- Insurance \$63,390
- Other \$8,156
- TOTAL \$162,000

To date 367 posts received grants from 42 departments. There are currently 12,549 posts. So only 2.9% of post have received financial assistance from the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program.



Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen

Edward Lewis, Historian

historian@legionmail.org



I decided to “borrow” the title of my last column from the television show M.A.S.H. It only seems appropriate since we have dealt with the COVID-19 crisis, and over the course of the last year I have seen more surgical masks while visiting Posts than I did on the TV show.

GOODBYE..., to all my Legion brothers and sisters. It has been my honor and privilege meeting all of you during my two years as YOUR Department Historian. It was such an honor visiting all the Posts that I did and to bear photographic witness to the great

things all you are doing to support the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

I was extremely fortunate to visit Posts large and small and the graciousness that was afforded to me will never be forgotten. Thanks to each member I met. It means a lot to me, it truly does.

FAREWELL..., to all the hotel keycards and the interstate AND non-interstate miles. I have lived in our beautiful state most of my life. Over the last two years I have travelled on so many roads that I never knew existed. I sometimes felt I was in Robert Frost’s poem “The Road not Taken.” I am so grateful for GPS. I do not know what I would have done without it.

Also farewell to all the Pilot truck stops, Waffle Houses and McDonald’s out there. You were always there when I needed a

coffee, a cold drink, or late-night diner whilst on the road, but I must also bid you adieu.

In closing this final missive..., I would like to say as Legionnaires, WE all need to keep our collective eyes on the ball. WE need to focus our attention on why we established over 100 years ago. That is ladies and gentlemen the Four Pillars. Let us continue to support our Veterans. Let us not forget our fallen and missing comrades. Let us not forget our country and what it stands for and of course, support our children and youth programs.

I would like to wish all the newly elected officers on all levels in the Department of Florida good fortune and wise decision making in the upcoming year. See you at Convention...AMEN!

Sgt-at-Arms Class

Jeff Durden, Sgt-at-Arms

sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org



Hope all is well with everyone. We are having our Department Convention July 1-3 in Orlando.

There will be a Sgt-at-Arms class on Thursday, July 1 at 2:45 pm as of now. I am not sure of a class limit currently. I am looking forward to training Florida’s great Post and District Sgt-at-Arms again. I learn something every time we have this class.

Also, if you are interested in being an assistant Sgt-at-Arm for the convention, please send me an email at, jagucane@aol.com. If you have any questions about the

position give me a call or email and I will get or find the answer for you. Thanks for all that you do.

Look Ahead But Check Your Rearview

Christ Hamrick, Eastern Area Commander

easternarea@legionmail.org



As this year ends, I would like to thank the members of the Eastern Area for allowing me the opportunity to be your Eastern Area Commander. I’ve made new friends and learned new things as a leader

that I can apply to future endeavors in the American Legion as well as life itself. You have broadened my perspective and scope as to just how important we are to our communities, state and Nation.

As you all know, this past year has been very challenging in so many ways to say the least. And we’re not quite out of the woods yet but we’re much closer. The trials and tribulations, challenges and sacrifices that we all have made, many of them we made together. Keep looking forward but use your “rearview mirror” also because there are things that we don’t want to repeat as well.

Eastern Area is strong in membership and getting stronger. This is a result of tireless efforts at the member and Post level. Our programs are fundamental to membership growth. Our Legion Riders are moving billboards as to who we are, what

we are and why we do what we do. The work we do in our communities such as providing vaccination locations, honoring, and supporting our Law Enforcement, Firefighters and Emergency medical Teams, our Disaster Relief operations, Veteran Suicide Awareness and the endless other things that we do are the very epitome of what our great organization stands for. You have set the standard high.

All of this makes me very proud to have been your representative. 6th and 12th Districts in three years have collectively won two Wins for Race to The Top and two

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<< Eastern Area Continued from page 5

second place Race to The Top National awards for membership growth and that speaks well to the posts in our Area. Congratulations to you all. It was a team

effort. In closing, I'll ask each member to take a moment and remember the very moment you made the choice to become a member. The spirit in which made you join should be the spirit in which drives you

now. If we all stay on the same page there will be no stopping us from getting bigger and stronger. Once again, I say "Thank You" for helping me help us. Keep it Real.

Keep Working and Great Job!

Marie Conti, Northern Area Commander
northernarea@legionmail.org



Congratulations to all posts that have exceeded their 100% Membership Goal. Now is the time for a final membership push for the 2020-2021 membership year. We are still behind the

power curve.

If you have not yet submitted your end of year reports, please send them in as soon as possible as they are now past due. Post Officer Reports and Certifications are due no later than June 17, 2021 to Department Headquarters.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt Thanks to all my District Commanders; 3rd District Commander Stuart Scott, 4th District Commander Cherie Korn, 5th District Commander Troy Horsely, 17th District Commander Jim Bowers, all their District Officers, all Posts, and all my

Northern Area Chairmen, for a Job Well Done! Now is the time to start planning next year's programs and calendars.

Let's finish this year Strong and be ready to continue the work of The American Legion next year.

This has been a wild ride! Thank You to all who have helped me along the way! Special thanks go to my husband, PDC Jay Conti Sr., for all the support and assistance!

Western Area News

John Edens, Western Area Commander
westernarea@legionmail.org



This will be my last post for this year (2020-2021) but I want to make sure I thank both my District Commanders (Lamar Carrol and Roger Hewitt) for their hard work this year. A year I hope never to repeat with

the VIRUS and Hurricane Sally here in the panhandle. **Post 375** has just finished their Post re-build after Hurricane Michael three years ago and now **Post 33** is rebuilding their post after Hurricane Sally and doing a great job with little resources available. I am proud of both Posts for hanging in and rebuilding.

I realize we were not able to reach our Membership goal of 103% this year due to the Virus and hurricanes, but we will keep trying and hopefully accomplish that goal next year. Over 90 percent for the Area with all the misfortune we have been through this

year is quite an accomplishment! The District Commanders worked hard, and I appreciate their efforts. **A Special thanks to all our Posts that were able to reach the 100% PLUS this year,** I know that took a lot of extra effort.

I am proud to announce that I will be running for the Western Area Commander position for one more year. I have had many Post Commanders and Department staff ask me to run for one more year. It took a lot of consideration, but I have committed, and my wife (Kim) has committed to continue as 1st District President for one more year, if selected, by you, this year. We look forward to helping the new District Commanders for the 2021-2022 year & advising Posts as needed.

Everyone stay healthy and keep your distance when needed. I look forward to seeing everyone that can make it to this year's Convention. **Thanks again for everyone's hard work and dedication to the Legion causes.** God Bless.

Excellent Job

Paul Bosco, Southern Area Commander
southernarea@legionmail.org



This will be my last article as Southern Area Commander. This was a good year even with the pandemic looming over our heads. I want to thank the 9th, 11th, and 14th District Commanders as well as the Post Commanders for a job well done. Last year the Southern Area came in third, and this year we came in second. Once again thanks for a job well done. Keep up the good work in 2021 - 2022.

Pre-register Your Post online at floridalegion.org and SKIP the line at Convention!

▶▶▶▶ Sign up for TEXT ALERTS. TEXT FAL to 74121 ◀◀◀◀



15th District Bulletin

Bruce Carl, 15th District Commander

15thdistrict@legionmail.org



For those of you who remember all the people with signs about the “end is near”, well the end is near, just not in the same context. The end of our tumultuous 2020-2021 American Legion year is

ending. COVID-19 certainly put a damper on what the Legion could do with their programs, but the biggest impact was felt on our Children and Youth programs.

With schools being shut down and strict COVID-19 restrictions in place, it was tough to get candidates for Boys and Girls State, the Oratorical competition, ROTC, and school medals. Through it all the 15th District had an outstanding year aiding our Veteran’s, participating and holding events in our communities, and supporting our children and youth. We found new and innovative ways to continue to do what we are all about and supporting the Four Pillars.

Some of our Posts are still struggling, but things are starting to look up as we return

to some type of “normalcy”. They are starting to have regular meetings again instead of zoom, hall rentals are picking up, dinners and entertainment are coming back. All things considered, the Posts in the 15th District fared well. I will be the first to admit I was concerned about losing several Posts, but until recently they all held up except one.

Membership continued to thrive as we added about 400 more members than what we had last year. We also won the National Race to the Top competition in category four for the second year in a row. As the District Commander we have had 3 years of reaching 100%. Thank you to everyone who helped with membership! It is not only the Membership chairs of the Posts and Districts, but every member who got new members to join, transfers, or just reminded those friends of theirs who had not renewed.

The 15th District Legion Riders went all out again this year! What an amazing group of men and women. The funds they raised for Cota, Project Vet Relief, and other groups was outstanding.

This will be my last newsletter article as your District Commander, as I am running for Central Area Commander. I will still

be around the 15th District, although probably not as much if I am elected. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my District Officers and Chairman for all their hard work and dedication the past three years. I would like to also thank all the Post Commanders and Officers for continuing to do what they were able to during this pandemic. Finally, I would like to thank the entire 15th District Family for all their support and help these past three years. Working together as a family made us a great cohesive unit, and we were able to accomplish so much! Did we have our problems and disagreements? Of course we did, but we always came to an agreement! Each family unit can’t survive on their own, however, working together provided the basis for the entire family to survive as a whole, even in those extraordinary times.

I look forward to finishing out the year and hopefully seeing many of you at the Department Convention in July. Remember to get all your paperwork turned in on time so you can register and attend the Convention. Again, thank you to everyone in the 15th District for an outstanding three years, and to all those outside the District who provided guidance, leadership, and mentoring to me personally! I appreciate all of you!

Great Job Let’s Keep Going

Jim Ramos, Northern Membership

teamramos@legionmail.org



Congratulations to all Districts for doing a great job. Thanks to all the District’s Commander’s, all Post Leadership, and members for a great two years. We still need to work, it is not over

until the Department Convention on July 1-4, 2021. So Please keep working on membership until your Post gets 103% and then maybe we can stop. We are all in this together, we have just four weeks to go, let us make it happen. The next Goal

is 103%. Let’s go Florida!

Some ideas on how to make 103%:

1. Buddy checks, they work.
2. Get help from the Legion families, have the Aux, SAL, and ALR to help set up a “carpool” to get Legionnaires to meetings.
3. Now is the time to get more members to renew.

Remember that Membership is the life blood of the American Legion. See you all at the Department Convention!

The Membership Training class is on July 2, 2021 with Ray Perez, Bruce Comer and Jim Ramos from 2:45pm-4:15pm. On July

1, 2021 is the Post Commander Class from 9:30am - 10:30am. Two great classes, please go to them. We continue to help and sacrifice for our Post (members) and our Community because it is the right thing to do and I thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you!

We still need to continue to work with our District and Post’s to see how we can make 103% goal.

Communication is the key to success and recognize your volunteer or just say Thank You.

If you need ideas just ask me (call 352-226-4370 or email jramos149@bellsouth.net)



Congrats and Thanks

Ray Perez, Southern Membership
teamperez@legionmail.org



Well, it is convention time! I rate the Department's membership mission a huge success considering the barriers our Posts had to contend with, starting with placing Race to

The Top winners from the 11th District, 15th District and 12th District. Diligent work from the Posts under Johnny Castro, Bruce Carl and Dennis Mallon and the Zone and Area Commander's as well. You have made the Department and the entire membership team immensely proud. That is the good stuff!

Now let's talk about the bad, some maybe even describing the transition of the new MyLegion.org as horrible, I won't disagree with you. By now all Posts should be on there way to using the new system to process membership and those that are still fighting to use it will get left further behind. So, let's talk about blame to get it out of the way so we stop pulling our hair out, throwing coffee cups at our monitors and using F-Bombs in several sentences. Frustration cannot describe how horrible this transition has been

and I have to commend Bruce Comer, our Department Assistant Adjutant for bearing the brunt of the many problems created by the National Headquarters IT Team. Someone in their infinite wisdom decided to blast out a new database to 55 Departments at one time. I regress, remember when the original MyLegion.org came to us in Florida? California had it about 2 years before us? They released that program a little at a time. Do not ask me why they did it this way now. My tenure as your Southern Membership Chairman has taught me that National has no clue what our Posts go through. In Army terms we call that in the foxholes, the trenches where the battle is being fought. Yes, none of this was Department of Florida's fault.

Here are my recommendations. If you have not done so, register in myLegion.org first. By now you must know that the email sent out to everyone from Department was to make sure you are working with the correct email that is assigned to you in MyLegion.org. Those District Commanders that are fortunate to have access at this point can obtain it for your Adjutants and Leaders at the Posts. If not, you will have to get that information from myself or Bruce Comer. Many of you know this already and have been patient enough to work with us to straighten it out but most of the burden falls on Bruce to get it worked out in most cases in coordination with National. I can go on about the several problems we

have run in to and how painstaking it is to collect the errors and funnel them through National. Many of you already know this. Only Bruce could describe that to you. So, I make you this promise, I will work with the incoming Membership Chairmen, Bruce Thurber and Randy Holyfield in teaching and assisting Posts to get through this to the best of my ability.

I am moving on to in my career with the American Legion as Assistant Adjutant at my Post, District and Central Area Membership Chairman. These past two plus years traveling through the Department visiting our Posts has been quite the education. The fellowship and friends I made are indescribable and gratifying. Our Department has some hurdles to climb and wounds to heal. I look to our Department leadership to do what is right for our members and stay focused. I wish Jerry Brandt and his Vice Commanders all the best, I know they will do the right thing.

This is end of mission for me and I want to thank all the leaders and staff of Department Headquarters for their faith in me and support. To Commander Johnson a thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve. I cannot forget my mentor PDC Jim Ramos, we made a great team. See all of you at the Convention. OUT!

Smashing Success

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders
legionriders@legionmail.org



What away to end our 2021 Legion Year, I still cannot believe the goal that we reached. Think of the number of veterans we can help with that size of a donation.

Speaking from my own experience with SPI, how many veterans are helped through the Coalition. For

every veteran we help, think of the number of friends and families that are also impacted by a successful SPI story. This performance "sets" a high bar for next year!

As you all know, putting one of these events on is not a "One Man Band" there are several unique moving parts for each event that is put on during the year, and many individuals put their shoulders into it and just keep pushing to get it done. One of the most critical individuals to making this all happen is our adjutant Beverly Wooten, followed by her husband

Wayne. They are a real team just by themselves.

Then as we move across the state, we have Jim Bowers and Sonny Decker that kept the North Unity Ride running smooth. On the South Ride we could not have made it through the Miami area without Wayne Schorr and his leadership team. Now that was a real challenge for us with 45 bikes in tow. Of course, not to be out done by the other Road Captains, Tim Morris found a new way to Gator Alley, which provided the most exciting

Continued on page 9>>



<< *American Legion Riders Continued from page 8*

leg, which I am sure will be talked about for a few years. At the end when both legs met and rode in together to Kissimmee, it put the finishing touches on a great nine-day trip.

Following the Unity Ride, we have another group of individuals that need a special "Well Done" and that's Joe Marcheggiani and Jeff Hawk and their team that put all the last pieces together. The Rally was a great success along with the raffles that were put together.

As the ALR Department of Florida, we have surrounded ourselves with a group of true champions that stay focused on

the tasks at hand and have a passion for the program. Now of course what are we going to do next year, wait and see.

If you have any ideas, please share!

Beverly & I have already started putting together next year's schedule. The Summit Meet & Greet will be on February 2, followed by classes on 3rd, 4th & 5th. Still working on the In-State Rally, more to come.

Again, Thank You for all your Efforts! Here is our tentative schedule for the upcoming year.

- Convention | July 1-4, 2021
- POW/MIA Ceremony | September 18th,

- 2021, Jacksonville, - Pending
- MGR | October 2021
- 5 State Fun Run | October 10th – 16th, 2021
- Fall Conference | November 5-7th 2021
- Summit, 2022 | Feb. 2nd Meet & Greet, classes 3rd – 5th Safety Class on the 6th
- Round Robin | April 2022
- In-State | April 24th Meet & Greet, Ride April 25 – 29th
- Rally | April 30th, 2022

Beverly and I would like to thank each of you for the support we received this last year! Thank You for what you do, and we are proud to be part of your Leadership Team of such a great group!

PLAY BALL!

Terry Phillips, Baseball
baseball@legionmail.org



The Department of Florida American Legion 2021 Baseball Season has arrived, we are back baby - yeah.

The players, coaches and parents are all ready for a great season of baseball, fellowship and activity.

I am excited to report, the Executive Baseball Committee has been working hard in preparing for this season as we return to the fields after the COVID-19 shut down.

We have added new members to the staff, new teams, new post support and the Florida Baseball page to the web for all the contact info, rules manual, important dates, events and State Tournament information. The link is floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com this will take you right to the Florida Baseball page.

The Sr. State Tournament will be hosted in Jacksonville July 21st - 25th that will feature the top eight teams in the Department playing for a State Championship and a bid to the Southeast Regional Tournament in Alabama.

Thank you for your support in this great Americanism Program and for caring about the hundreds of kids and families we serve each season through Baseball. See you at the Convention in July, there will be a baseball breakout session on Saturday July 3rd at the Convention for information and inquiries about the program.

Children & Youth Bulletin

Les Martin, Children & Youth
cy@legionmail.org



Well we finally reached our last Link article for the year. With the COVID-19 restrictions coming to an end, I wish everyone a safe and happy summer. With the cancelation of our fundraisers last

year, we were able to complete both our Children and Youth Picnic and Golf Tournament.

We had a nice crowd at the picnic in early April at Titusville Post 1. Commander Hamilton and her staff did a great job and everyone in attendance had a blast. I am still receiving donations and we will end up raising over \$14,000 from this event.

Our Golf Tournament was also a success, and I would like to thank Mike Mason from Post 323 in Lehigh Acres for a job well done. As of this writing, we don't have the final tally, but it looks like we will have raised over \$4,000.



Americanism: Brass Grommets!

Kurt Gies, Americanism

americanism@legionmail.org

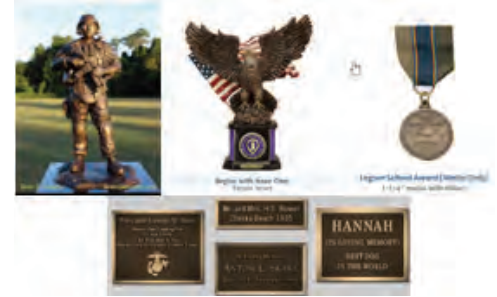


As you may have heard, Post 63 is collecting the brass flag grommets from retired US Flags. Many Posts have set up teams of veterans to sit at their Posts and cut the grommets off the flag before being retired

or they have salvaged them from the fire pits where the flag was burned. Either way is fine. BUT WE WANT YOU TO COLLECT THE GROMMETS.

The photo below is of an 18" statue that that was commissioned by a local dentist who had a family member who was a member of the Army's Special Forces and wanted something he could put in his office. The price he paid for this piece was \$18,000!! Imagine what he would have paid if it were made from retired American

flags instead of bronze.



The options that can be considered using re-purposed brass from American flag grommets are limitless, but can include:

Individual commissioned art pieces	Brass bells	Challenge Coins	Military Buttons
Awards for Americanism programs	Serving trays	Jewelry	Jewelry boxes
Mementos/trinkets for key chains, desks	Dog tags	Bottle openers	Bullets/casings
US State flags or State symbols	Letter openers	Knives, Swords	Paperweights
Military Service Emblems or Legion Logos for Posts	Location markers	Grave markers	House address plates
Warfare pins (Seabees, Subs, Armor, Infantry, Space Force, SF, Cavalry, Airborne, etc)	Miniature American flags	Candle stick holders	Golf divot tools
Miniature tanks, Humvees, ships, planes, cannons	Stamped items of any kind	Belt buckles	Compasses
School and ROTC medals (coordinate with Emblem Sales)	Lighters	Religious symbols	Other ideas?

Please start collecting those grommets today! Once you have a good quantity, you can contact me personal at KurtGies@Gmail.com or bring them to the Dept Convention so we can fill up a 55-gallon barrel. What District will have the highest participation?

ROTC/JROTC/JSSP News

Loretta Young, ROTC/JROTC/JSSP

jrotc@legionmail.org



The schools are all now involved in Year End Awards and Graduation Ceremonies. Many of the JROTC Program Award Ceremonies are still being conducted virtually. Broward County JROTC Cadet of the Year Awards

will have all thirty-one (31) programs participating. The winner for the COY is C/LTC Liliana Pita with West Broward AJROTC and will receive a \$1,500 Scholarship. The Runner Up is C/CDR Alyssa Debelen with Nova NJROTC and will receive a \$1,000 Scholarship. There are five additional scholarship awards of \$500 each that will be presented to cadets at Cypress Bay,

Marjorie Stoneman Douglas and Piper High School all AJROTC Programs. Coral Springs, AFJROTC Program and Cooper City, NJROTC Program are also receiving awards. Each cadet is also presented with a trophy. I would like to congratulate all the winners and wish them much success in their future endeavors.

Also, many thanks to the Broward County JROTC Curriculum Director, LTC Kenneth Green, (RET), MAJ Thomas Johnson, (RET) and the staff for all their hard work in putting this Virtual Program together and all the "behind the scenes" difficult tasks. I know there are other programs throughout the state of Florida, and I look forward to reviewing the Year End Reports which are just now coming into Department and share with you additional information in the next Legion Link.

The National JSSP Competition is scheduled for Colorado Springs from July 21-24. There was a virtual meeting held to update the National Volunteer Staff on our responsibilities and the changes that will be in place due to the COVID19 restrictions. It will not be held at the USA Olympic Training Center but at another location in Colorado Springs. It was good to hear however that there will still be an Award Ceremony and a modified pizza party for the cadets. Other scheduling and rotating match participation will also be in place.

Thanks to all the posts that supported this program this year as it was especially challenging with restrictions and increased rules regarding the Legion Safe Sport Training and Requirements. I will have more information and some pictures to share after the event.



National Police Week Proclamation

Daryl Bass, Law & Order
laworder@legionmail.org



May 9th through May 15, 2021 is National Police Week. The following is a Proclamation by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. on May 7, 2021.

A PROCLAMATION

Every day, we ask a great deal of the men and women of our Nation's law enforcement agencies; from ensuring public safety, to serving as front-line workers, to responding to incidents involving domestic violence, substance use disorders, mental health challenges, and homelessness, often with limited resources. Every morning, our Nation's law enforcement officers pin on a badge and go to work, not knowing what the day will bring, and hoping to come home safely. This year, even as the COVID-19 pandemic took a physical, mental, and emotional toll, our officers, deputies, and troopers demonstrated courage and dedication in continuing to support our communities. As we recognize Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, we honor those who lost their lives in the line of duty, and thank them on behalf of this grateful Nation for their service.

The economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic has strained State, local, and Tribal budgets — forcing many communities to stretch their funding, consider layoffs, and reduce public services. My Administration will support our Nation's law enforcement agencies and officers and work to ensure they have the resources and research tools they need to do their jobs successfully and the funding

necessary to enhance officer safety and wellness, including improving access to mental health services. We will also continue to bolster initiatives that protect our law enforcement officers' physical safety — including those that provide for bulletproof vests and active shooter training.

This year, we also recognize that in many of our communities, especially Black and brown communities, there is a deep sense of distrust towards law enforcement; a distrust that has been exacerbated by the recent deaths of several Black and brown people at the hands of law enforcement. These deaths have resulted in a profound fear, trauma, pain, and exhaustion for many Black and brown Americans, and the resulting breakdown in trust between law enforcement and the communities they have sworn to protect and serve ultimately makes officers' jobs harder and more dangerous as well. In order to rebuild that trust, our State, local, and Federal Government and law enforcement agencies must protect constitutional rights, ensure accountability for misconduct, and embrace policing that reflects community values and ensures community safety. These approaches benefit those who wear the badge and those who count on their protection.

We must also stop tasking law enforcement with problems that are far beyond their jurisdictions. From providing emergency health care to resolving school discipline issues, our communities rely on the police to perform services that often should be the duty of other institutions. We then accuse the police of failure when responsibility lies with public policy choices they did not make. Supporting our law enforcement officers requires that we invest in underfunded public systems that

provide health care, counseling, housing, education, and other social services.

There are many ways we can demonstrate appreciation for our law enforcement heroes. We recognize acts of bravery through the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor and the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery. We must also acknowledge the challenge and value of their service through the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 and the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act of 2019. Should tragedy strike, Public Safety Officers' benefits must be available for the families of officers who lose their lives or are catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

This country asks much of our Federal, State, Tribal, and local police officers and deputies, and it is our solemn responsibility to ensure that those who protect and serve have the training, resources, and support they need to do their jobs well. My Administration will do everything we can to support the men and women who so courageously protect us.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended (76 Stat. 676), and by Public Law 103-322, as amended (36 U.S.C. 136-137), the President has been authorized and requested to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2021, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 9 through May 15, 2021, as Police Week. I call upon all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag from their homes and businesses on that day.

We Made it Through

Richard Smith, SAL Advisor
sal@legionmail.org

Wow! What a year this has been. It is ending on an upward turn. I would like to thank Department Commander Johnson

for giving me the opportunity to be the Department SAL Advisor. I would also like to thank all of you for making it a great job to have. I was called upon a few times to assist or answer questions. We are very lucky in the Department of Florida that we have a strong Sons organization and leadership. I want to

remind everyone that all the reports should have been sent in June 1st. Even if you do not do a program, send the report in saying so. 100% reporting is the goal. Please keep working just as hard this coming year and remember to have fun doing it.



PROJECT: VETRELIEF BULLETIN

AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION... GETTING BACK TO "NORMAL"

It's been entirely too long since we've seen all of you and we hope that you will be attending the upcoming American Legion, Department of Florida Convention next month!

PROJECT: VetRelief will be hosting an introductory Advocate Training class where we will break down the details of the program and Advocate role. If you have attended one of our trainings before, this class is not for you.

For those who are already involved as a VetRelief Advocate, we will have our Networking Event again. An email invitation will be sent soon with those details.

Both the Advocate Training and the

Networking event will be revealing how we will ease back into our normal application process, provide an update on our program's growth, and introduce you to our strategic partners through the Suicide Prevention Initiative.

The coronavirus pandemic has made things somewhat chaotic this past year, and we know that's putting it lightly! Thankfully, our program was able to make quick decisions, adapt to the new CDC guidelines, and still meet the increased demand of our veteran community.

As a result of that, we were forced to forego the VetRelief Advocate interview portion of the financial assistance process and **our program is now**

facing a *shortage of funds*. As the world continues to open back up and things become more safe, we need to get back to our "normal"; focusing on our fundraising, and relying on our Advocates again.

Our VetRelief Advocates mean a lot to us, and we are so eager to see each and every one of you!

We hope to see you there!

**INTRODUCTORY
ADVOCATE TRAINING
JULY 2 @1:15PM**

STILL FEELING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Even though guidelines are becoming looser and the world is regaining normalcy, PROJECT: VetRelief is still feeling the effects from the coronavirus pandemic. As expected, we saw a higher demand for financial assistance and provided more emergency support to our veterans and their families due to the coronavirus. Thankfully, our program has been able to accommodate to the immediate demand and assisted veterans who were unable to work due to the virus.

However, this increased level of support and many cancelled fundraising events has caused our program to be in dire need to replenish funds in order to keep providing our services to Florida's veterans.

Our veterans need us! And, PROJECT: VetRelief needs YOU!

Now, more than ever, we need the support of the Legion Family to help us continue our mission of providing assistance to our service members in their time of need!

Remember - Commander Rick Johnson chose PROJECT: VetRelief as one of his charities. If your Post was planning to make a donation to contribute to his efforts, there will be a donation call during General Session at the Department Convention. If you are not attending Convention, you can send it into Headquarters and Jennifer Cooper will ensure your Post receives credit.

We want to keep providing our services to veterans, active duty military and their families for years to come. In order to do that, we need everyone's continued support. **Please remember we are veterans serving veterans, every day.**



SUPPORT CASES
*Numbers reflect PVR Cases ONLY

JULY 2020 - APR 2021

215 families helped - **\$200,864.05** amount distributed

Legislative Season Overview

Stuart Scott, Legislative
legislative@legionmail.org



And that's a wrap! The 2021 legislative session has come to an end here in the capital city. It was a semi-successful year. Several bills in motion this year mentioned veterans or their families. Some of the more notable bills included: POW/MIA Vietnam Veterans Bracelet Memorial, Services for Veterans and Their Families, Veterans Treatment Courts, Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment, Purple Star Campuses, Veterans' Preference in Employment, Workforce and Postsecondary Education.

One big win was some funding in the state's budget for Boy's State and Girl's State. This allocation, to the tune of \$200k,

will benefit us by offsetting a portion of our total cost to send delegates. The money will go directly to Florida State University to assist with providing housing and other necessities.

A special session was held May 17th – May 19th, to address gambling. The Bingo Bill (SB 10-A), formally known as SB840, was heard in committee. It did not modernize the bingo industry at all; in fact, it would have allowed para-mutual entities to also do bingo and would have allowed card minders. Thankfully, it was tabled on the Senate side and didn't move any further.

We will be back during the fall committees to get a new bill sponsored with the hope of getting us where we want to be.

Most bills die in committee, or what's known as laid on the table. Why, you ask? Usually, it's because our legislators don't know much about the issue. It's left up to the bill sponsor to try to make

them understand, or the industry to testify during committee meetings. Legislative Session begins early in the coming year (January 11th) so committee meetings should start in September. This gives us a short turnaround for legislation that we might want to get behind or encourage. I know I will be our advocate, however you can make yourself heard.

I'm asking for your help! Going forward, when you see something that you have an interest in, please contact your legislator. This will help them understand how we feel regarding proposed legislation; be it favorable or opposed.

Please contact me if you have any suggested items, or seek me out during convention where we will hold a "class" to show how the process works and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. I'm looking forward to the 2022 session and anxious to see what we can accomplish next!

2020 Outstanding Post Scouting Program and Eagle Scout of the Year Recognition

Scott Ragusa, Scouting
scouting@legionmail.org



At the General session of the 2021 Department of Florida Annual Convention in Orlando on July 3, the American Legion Department of Florida Scouting Commission will recognize three of our Florida Posts with

the Outstanding Post Scouting Program Award. This recognition will be bestowed upon Posts in acknowledgement of their excellence and leadership in support of the Boys Scouts of America's Scouting program from May 1, 2020 – April 20, 2021.

The Eagle Scout of the Year recipient will also be announced. The winning Scout will either be a registered active member of a Boy Scouts of America unit that is chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit or

Sons of The American Legion squadron, or be a registered active member of any chartered Boy Scouts of America unit and have a parent or grandparent possessing up-to-date membership in The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary, and in the case of a recently deceased member, their membership for the year immediately prior to the current year may be used.

He (or she) must have received the Eagle Scout Award, earned the Scouts BSA or Venturer Religious Emblem for their faith, have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting and community, have reached their 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection, and applied through the department (state) in which their Scout unit is chartered.

Legion Scouting Exhibit at Florida State Fair April 22 – May 4, 2021
 The American

Legion Department of Florida Scouting Commission sponsored a Scouting Booth at the Florida State Fair from April 22 – May 2, 2021. Staffed by Legionnaires and both professional and volunteer Scouters from the local Greater Tampa Bay Area council, the booth provided an opportunity for families to learn more about the long history of the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America. It also served as an opportunity for veterans and the public to receive information about the numerous American Legion programs like Boy's State and Project: Vet Relief, as well as the Scholarships that the American Legion sponsors (Eagle Scout of the Year, Oratorical, Junior Shooting Sports, Baseball, etc.)



A Most Difficult Year

Alan Cohen, VA&R
var@legionmail.org



With this being my last article before our Department Convention next month, I'm just going to provide you with a few updates as well as some brief summaries of the past year.

As I often do, I will once again encourage every Post to have a Service Officer. That position is one of being a resource - not only to veterans - but to the community at large. He or she can answer questions and provide information such as, "where and how do I apply for VA healthcare?", "who is eligible for VA burial benefits?", "can the American Legion help me through financial difficulties?" and much more. Our partners at the Florida Department

of Veterans Affairs have once again put together what will be an informative roadmap for Post Service Officers that will address the Benefits and Claims process. Registration for this class is required and will be open until June 16th.

Even in the face of the country being in the grips of a pandemic for the past year, during which VA hospitals and CBOC's found it necessary to pause most assignments by the volunteer service, our dedicated men and women have found ways to step up virtually and other ways. They have given hundreds upon hundreds of hours of their personal time to continue helping veterans in need.

In line with hospitals and CBOC's, as of the end of April the VA has vaccinated more than 2.7 million veterans and family members. While initially these shots were administered by appointment only, the VA has begun allowing walk-in's as well. I encourage both veterans and eligible

family members to avail themselves of this service.

Over the past year, the American Legion's voice has continued leading the way to some major strides in legislation benefitting veterans. Women veterans now have greater access to healthcare than ever, veteran-consumers now have greater protections and more. We are now waiting for the eminent release of a bill from Congress that will give Post 9/11 veterans access to benefits and compensation for Burn Pit Exposure associated with their service to America.

In closing, I'd like to once again express to all what a great privilege it's been for me to have served in this capacity. We've survived a most difficult year and our combined resolve and dedication has kept us strong. I look forward to continuing to serve beside and with my brother and sister veterans.

Thank You for Your Support

Deb Wheeler, Women Veterans
womenveterans@legionmail.org



The pleasure of being your Women Veterans Chair is a multifaceted position concerning claims, eligibility, education, homelessness, divorce, and the list goes on. I love what I do, and I take every

phone call and email I receive very seriously. With the beginning of a new legion year, we are appreciative of those that have continued to serve all our veterans - male and female.

The past year made us stronger and more dedicated. I am so happy to see our female veterans moving upwards to more challenging positions within our Legion! This link will be short and sweet, thanks everyone for your support for our sisters! They deserve your support, and you won't be dissatisfied!

Florida's Fallen Memorial

Post 243

If you haven't seen it before, now is the time! The Florida's Fallen Memorial is being installed in the Oviedo Cemetery, right across the street from Post 243. The Memorial has over 400 crosses, representing Floridians who have died in military service for our Country since September 11, 2001. The individual crosses have names, military branch, rank, hometown, casualty date, age, photographs, and awards. The Memorial also includes flags of our military branches and large crosses representing the major campaigns from American history, the dates of those conflicts, and the total number of deaths incurred.

- **The Memorial is staffed daily from 0800-2000 starting Sunday, May 23rd.**
- **It will remain in place for two weeks through June 4th.**

A Memorial Day Remembrance service is planned for 1100 on May 31st with special guests Lieutenant Commander

Amir Pishdad Jr., US Navy SEAL (retired) providing the Memorial Day Address, acclaimed Tenor, Aaron Odom, providing patriotic performances, and the Lake Howell NJROTC, providing the Honor Guard and Rifle Line.

To see more about the Florida's Fallen Memorial, please visit <https://oviedolegion.org/fl-fallen-memorial>



Are We Ready for Hurricane Season 2021

Bill Hoppner, Disaster Preparedness
disasterprep@legionmail.org



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the incoming Commander Jerry Brandt for the appointment to serve as the Department of Florida's Disaster Preparedness Chairman for 2021-2022. The

prediction for the 2021 hurricane season calls for 16 to 20 named storms (with winds of 39 mph or higher) of which 7 to 10 could become hurricanes (with winds of 74 mph or higher) including 3 to 5 major hurricanes (category 3,4 or 5 with winds of 111 mph or higher).

All Posts should have a contingency plan for emergencies. At your next meeting make it a joint function for all legion family members to discuss and plan in the event of a hurricane and what will be the procedures. If there is a disaster preparedness chairman in your post let him guide you along.

Check to see if you have supplies on hand, if not this would be a good time to collect and replenish. With COVID-19 upon us and the uncertainty of the economy with gas at a minimum right now the possibility of travel may be impeded and the price of products and food going up each Post should take into consideration their needs and act now. With the influx of people to Florida there are some who have never experienced a hurricane and those are the

ones the Posts will have to educate about how to prepare.

There are web sites to go to for information, they are Fema.gov and floridadisaster.org. weatherforkids.org is a web site for children that explains everything from how rain is made to how hurricanes form and has activities for them. You can also go to the American Legion Department of Florida website under program resources and download the Disaster Prep Manual.

I'm available anytime to give classes to a Post, District, or an Area if requested. If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me at 305-968-7979 or by email gonepost1@aol.com. When the season starts to ramp up you can reach and follow me on Facebook.



2021 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

JULY 1-4, 2021

Join us at the World Center Marriott, in Orlando, FL



PRE-REGISTER

<https://bit.ly/3pLxTo8>



YOUR SAFETY

<https://bit.ly/37Gp9JK>

Sign up for TEXT ALERTS.



TEXT FAL to 74121

MORE INFO AT floridalegion.org



2021-2022 Endorsements on File
as of 06/01/2021

OFFICERS

Position	Endorsee
Department Commander	Jerry Brandt
1st Vice Commander	Eunice Butts
2nd Vice Commander	Michael "Gambler" Raymond
3rd Vice Commander	Kurt Gies
3rd Vice Commander	Chris Hamrick
3rd Vice Commander	Fred Matthews
Chaplain	Willie Branch
Chaplain	Barry Roberts
Historian	Philip R. Crouthamel
Sgt-at-Arms	Jeff Durden
Sgt-at-Arms	Les Martin

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Position	Endorsee
District 1 Commander	Sonny Decker
District 3 Commander	Stuart Scott
District 4 Commander	Jack Bennett
District 5 Commander	Lena Heredia-Perez
District 6 Commander	Joseph Marcheggiani
District 7 Commander	Burl Thomas
District 8 Commander	Angelo "Skip" Felicita
District 9 Commander	Jim Tewes
District 11 Commander	Harry Malecki
District 12 Commander	Wayne Mulligan
District 13 Commander	Harold "Bud" Boyer
District 15 Commander	Steve Tyler
District 16 Commander	Robert "Bob" Matheson
District 17 Commander	Jim Bowers

AREA COMMANDERS

Position	Endorsee
Central Area Commander	Bruce Carl
Eastern Area Commander	Daryl Bass
Northern Area Commander	Troy Horsley
Southern Area Commander	Johnny Castro
Southwestern Area Commander	Brian "Taz" Gehling
Southwestern Area Commander	Jessica Moore
Western Area Commander	Lamar Carroll
Western Area Commander	John Edens

Every 10 minutes, someone dies from an accident . . .

Accident Facts to Know:

- Accidents are the **leading cause** of premature deaths.
- Men are at **higher risk**
- **Living in an urban area** increases risks
- About half **happen at home**

Protect your family with extra Legionnaire Insurance Trust Accident Benefits

Sources: National Safety Council, Injury Facts 2014
http://www.nsc.org/nchs/data/factsheets/factsheet_injury.pdf

Endorsed by Your American Legion Department 57450

2nd prize \$2,500 CASH

3rd prize \$1,000 CASH

GRAND PRIZE \$10,000 CASH

4th-5th prizes \$500 /EA CASH

6th-10th prizes \$100 /EA CASH

GET YOUR TICKETS AT floridalegion.org/enter



Legionnaire Benefits

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

Now We Can Help

The LIT Plans can help with

- **Hospital HELP Plan**
- **Cancer Care**
- **Accidental Death Protection**
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident**
- **Emergency Assistance Plus**
- **Medicare Supplement Insurance**
- **Health Insurance**
- **Dental Insurance**
- **Long-Term Care**
- **Lifeline Medical Alert Service**



ENDORSED BY YOUR
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT



- **Hospital HELP Plan** — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*
- **Cancer Care** — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*
- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*
- **Emergency Assistance Plus** — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
- **Medicare Supplement Insurance** — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- **Health & Dental Insurance** — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
- **Long-Term Care** — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
- **Lifeline Medical Alert Service** — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

To Learn More and Enroll, Visit

www.TheLIT.com

For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943

*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit www.TheLIT.com to review plan details.

American Legion Department of Florida 11th District Golf Tournament



Saturday June 19, 2021

Madison Green Country Club

2001 Crestwood Blvd. N. West Palm Beach, FL. 33411

8am. Shotgun Start

11:30 to 12p Lunch

\$125.00 Per Golfer

\$400.00 Per Foursome

Registration by May 24, 2021

**To Register Please Contact: Harry Malecki @ 410.610.9277 or
harry.malecki@comcast.net**



Support Your Local Veterans

Golf Tournament Sponsorships

Tournament Sponsors: \$200

Tee Box Sponsors: \$150 per tee box

Hole Sponsors: \$100 per hole

If you would like to be a sponsor please contact Harry Malecki as noted above.



**All proceeds collected from this golf tournament go to
support the 11th District Veterans Programs and Charities.**



The American Legion



Commander's Golf Tournament

(Fundraiser—all proceeds to the Commander's COTA Charity)

When – 30 June 2021, (Wednesday, Shot-gun start- 07:30)

Where – Hawks Landing Golf Course (Orlando World Center, Marriott)

Play -- 4 Person Scramble

Cost -- \$75.00/player (Contact – John EDENS, C-229-444-3534)

Includes :

- 18 holes of golf w/cart & range balls
- Door prizes, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners, Closest to Hole - each Par 3.
- All "Hole in Ones" will win a free entry into next year's tournament.

*** **Looking for Hole Sponsors** (Legion family & Business Sponsors)

SEE **Registration & Donations** form for more details..... ON BACK

Dept of FL , Commander's Golf Tournament

REGISTRATION FORM

Entry-- **DEADLINE** – 10 June, 2021

<u>Player</u>	<u>Phone/e-mail</u>	<u>Approx. HDC</u>
1		
2		
3		
4		

*** The intentions are for a **fun** Scramble Golf Tournament – fundraiser for the Commander's COTA Charity. Please submit a **reasonable** team with A, B, C, & D handicaps. (Individuals or partial teams may apply and I will attempt to make you a team.)

Hole Sponsors (All hole sponsors will be recognized at the golf course with a sign.)

- 1. Legion Family – i.e.-- Post, Auxiliary, Riders or SAL -- \$50.00
- 2. Business -----\$100 - \$500.00

Make Checks **payable to** "A.L., Post 240", and mail to: **Western Area Commander, 5471 Keel Dr, Pensacola, FL 32507**. I, (John Edens) can be reached at C-229-444-3534 or E-mail: snakeb52@gmail.com. Entry verification will be sent back to you by E-MAIL or PHONE by 15 June, 2021.



COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2021-2022



Did you know you can order online? Just go to www.floridalegionstore.org

Name: _____ Post: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DELIVERY METHOD

Pick Up at HQ Orlando ~~Pick Up at Convention~~ Delivery*

*Additional Shipping fee is required for delivery, see chart below.

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. You will be notified prior to shipment.

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SHIRT OPTIONS

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

TOTAL

Shirts are **\$35 each**, add **\$6 each** for extended sizes 2XL-5XL, price includes personalization. Please see next page for personalization options. If tax exempt, please include copy of exemption form.

DELIVERY FEES*

Order Subtotal	Shipping Cost	Order Subtotal	Shipping Cost
\$30.01 - \$50.00	\$8.95	\$300.01 - \$400	\$24.95
\$50.01 - \$100.00	\$9.95	\$400.01 - \$500	\$33.95
\$100.01 - \$200.00	\$15.95	\$500.01 & over	\$39.95
\$200.01 - \$300.00	\$21.95		

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

PAYMENT

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters:

The American Legion, Dept of FL; Attn: Emblem Sales, PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854

Cash Check # _____ Credit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____



COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2021-2022

PERSONALIZATION (Line 1 example: First Name Last Name. Line 2 example: Post # Title)

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

By signing below, I agree that I have verified the information provided as correct and free of errors. I acknowledge that The American Legion, Department of Florida is NOT responsible for incorrect information provided.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PRESENTS

Commander's & President's

HOEDOWN

World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL

JULY 2

7:00PM | TICKETS \$50

6:00
COCKTAIL
HOUR

ENTERTAINMENT

**BLUE DIAMOND
BAND**



Order your tickets online at floridalegion.org or mail check or money order to:
The American Legion, Dept of FL, PO Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PRESENTS

COMMANDER'S & PRESIDENT'S

HOEDOWN

DINNER MENU

6:00
COCKTAIL
HOUR



STARTER

Cornbread & Sweet Butter Salad - Mixed Greens, Tomato, Charred Corn, Red Onions, Cucumber & Ranch Dressing



MAIN COURSE

Mesquite Smoked Chicken Breast, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, & Green Beans



DESSERT

Chocolate Bundt Cake

Join us, July 2, 2021, Department Convention at the World Marriott Center.

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

of Tickets _____ X \$50 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.

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

2021

Swick-Off

CHEERS

BEERS

World Center
Marriott

Orlando
Florida

JULY 1
2021

party

6:30PM

&

Michael McDaniel's



Bittersweet

RETIREMENT

Entertainment by
DOC HOLIDAY

Free Beer
Free Wine
Free Food

plus Cash Bar



Brought
to you by the
Florida
American
Legion
Family

While supplies last. Ends at 8:30PM.

**The American Legion, Department of Florida:
102nd Annual Department Convention
Marriott Orlando World Center: July 1st-4th, 2021**

-----**Wednesday, June 30th**-----

8:00am – 2:00pm **Commander’s Golf Tournament** **Hawk’s Landing Golf Course**
A “welcome” golf tournament hosted by Department Commander Rick Johnson.
Pre-Registration Required

-----**Thursday, July 1st**-----

7:45am - 5:00pm **Emblem Sales** **Crystal Ballroom D**
Visit Emblem Sales for all your Legion and Department gear, pins, patches and more. You can also order online at floridalegionstore.org. Banquet tickets can be picked up here.

7:45am - 5:00pm **Headquarters Office/Legion Registration** **Crystal Ballroom D**
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** **Crystal Ballroom G1**
This is a two-day, informative VA&R class that covers all veteran benefits. Certificate and card provided upon completion. Call Bekki Tibbs at 407.295.2631 ext. 235 for more information.
Attendance required both days. Pre-Registration required. *Limited seating*

9:30am – 10:30am **Post Commander Class** **Grand Ballroom 11-14**
This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Commander.

11:00am – 12:30pm **Food Handlers Class** **Grand Ballroom 11-14**
Class given by Food Safety Certifications, LLC. Certificate will be given at the end of class. This course is intended to provide certification to those in attendance on food safety training for your Post. The course will cover key areas including Basic Food Safety, Personal Hygiene, Cross-contamination & Allergens, Time & Temperature, as well as Cleaning & Sanitation
Pre-Registration required. *Certification good for 3 years*

11:00pm – 12:00pm **Dept. Finance Committee Meeting** **Crystal Ballroom 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.

11:30pm – 12:30pm **Chaplain’s Training** **Atlanta/Boston**
This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Chaplain.

12:00pm – 1:00pm **Judge Advocate Class** **Miami**
This course will cover how to advise the different sections of the Legion and how to interpret the Constitution and By-Laws of the Post, District, or Area.

1:00pm – 2:30pm **Internal Affairs Commission** **Crystal Ballroom H**

**Agenda is tentative and subject to change.*

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.

2:45pm – 4:15pm **Membership Training-Featuring MyLegion** **Crystal Ballroom M-N**

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.

2:45pm – 3:15pm **State Legislative Meeting** **Crystal Ballroom P-Q**

3:00pm – 4:00pm **VA Benefits/Entitlements Class** **Crystal Ballroom E**

Featuring state and local VA benefits

3:00pm – 4:00pm **Post Operations Class** **Chicago/Denver**

Recommended for any post officer. 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/Atlanta**

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

4:00pm – 5:00pm **Post Adjutant Class** **Chicago/Denver**

This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Adjutant.

6:00pm – 7:00pm **Cocktail Hour** **Grand Ballroom Foyer**

7:00pm - 10:00pm **Commander & Presidents' Banquet** **Grand Ballroom 7**

Enjoy a fun filled evening with your Department Commander and Auxiliary President. Attendees will enjoy delicious food and great entertainment.

Tickets will not be sold on site and must be paid for before Convention. 210 tickets available.

-----Saturday July 3rd-----

7:45am - 5:00pm **Emblem Sales** **Crystal Ballroom D**

Visit Emblem Sales for all your Legion and Department gear, pins, patches and more. You can also order online at floridalegionstore.org.

7:45am – 3:00pm **Headquarters Office/Legion Registration** **Crystal Ballroom D**

Registration, Programs Information, Membership Cards, & History Book Display. (Registration is mandatory before voting takes place.)

Office will be closed from 10:30am-11:30am* *Registration closes at 9:45am

7:45am - 12:00pm **Legion General Session** **Crystal Ballroom H**

Continuation of reports, awards and Special Order of Business – Election of Officers 2021-2022. Strongly recommended for all Legionnaires to attend.

12:00pm – 1:00pm **Electronic Voting** **Crystal Ballroom N-Q**

1:30pm **Voting Results** **Crystal Ballroom H**

2:00pm – 3:00pm **FALPA Training & Breakout** **Anaheim/Atlanta**

**Agenda is tentative and subject to change.*

2:00pm -- 3:00pm	Baseball Class	Chicago/Denver
<i>Training class for baseball coaches, managers, or volunteers covering baseball registration, background checks & safety training, insurance, and rosters.</i>		
2:30pm- 4:30pm	Legion Riders General Session	Grand Ballroom 7
<i>This will cover Area and District reports, SOP's, Charters, EOY Report, Awards, and 2021-2022 Goals.</i>		
2:30pm-3:30pm	Post Historian Class	Crystal Ballroom E
<i>This course will cover details pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of a Post Historian.</i>		
2:30pm-3:30pm	District Commander's Meeting	Miami
<i>This meeting is for District Commander's only.</i>		
4:00pm – 6:00pm	20/4 Bivouac Echelon 30	Anaheim/Atlanta
4:00pm – 6:00pm	20/4 Bivouac Echelon 5	Chicago/Denver
<i>Honor Society of female members of the American Legion. Female members of the Legion are encouraged to attend and learn the benefits of becoming involved with this group.</i>		
5:00pm - 5:30pm	FALPA EXEC BOARD ONLY	Grand Ballroom 5-6
5:30pm - 6:30pm	FALPA General Meeting	Grand Ballroom 5-6
<i>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.</i>		
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Installation of Officers	Crystal Ballroom H
7:30pm - 8:30pm	Installation of Officers Reception	Grand Ballroom 7
-----Sunday, July 4th-----		
Legion Headquarters Office Closed		
8:30am - 9:00am	Religious Service	Crystal Ballroom H
9:30am – 10:45am	Department Executive Committee Meeting	Grand Ballroom 8
<i>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.</i>		

**Agenda is tentative and subject to change.*