



MARCH 2021

THE LEGION LINK

VOLUME 29 ISSUE VIII

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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



Another month down and four more to go. The 2021 Department Convention will proceed as scheduled this year. Both the Marriott and Department are implementing measures to ensure your safety. Please take a moment

to visit floridalegion.org/safety to review these measures and take part in our brief survey.

During the last two months I have completed numerous visitations throughout the state. My visits were very enjoyable, and the posts appreciated the visits from the staff. There are so many GREAT things happening around the state, despite the current pandemic. We are moving forward as normally as possible. However, we must still maintain our guard and keep the safety of our members in mind. Please continue to follow all the CDC guidelines, in this situation overkill is a good thing.

For the month of march, I would like to implement a program "Adopt a Vet" veteran membership program within our posts. As the program develops, I will provide additional information. Remember

the Adopt a Highway Program. If your post is involved in this program, you will receive a special award at the end of the year. **The Northern Area Ball** will be held March 6th at Post 129. Make sure to attend **Joe Magee's Roast**, hosted by District 11 at Post 268, March 13th. **The Polar Plunge II** will be hosted at Post 252 on March 20th, see the pledge sheet on page 14 or donate online at <https://give.floridalegion.org/CommandersPlunge>. **The Children & Youth Golf Tournament**, to be held March 27th, at Post 275, has just sold out with 140 golfers signed up. We still invite you to come by for entertainment and raffles in support of COTA.

Post 1 will host the **Children & Youth Picnic** April 3rd, please come out and show your support. The **Commander's Homecoming** for April 10th is sold out, thank you for your support. We are sure to have a great time at this luau event. Starting April 15th will be the **Vietnam Reunion** at Wickham park. Come by and enjoy as numerous other events will be going on.

As you see, there are a lot of events coming up to keep us busy, just stay safe out there. April is Children and Youth Month, please start planning your activities now. Visit floridalegion.org, click "Programs", "Children & Youth" and then "Support us" in the left side menu to make a direct donation.

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<< Dept. Commander Continued from page 1

There will be some changes coming out soon for the better of our organization. Unfortunately, some individuals have been attempting to disrupt our organization with alternate views, wasting time and money in efforts to address the issues caused by these disruptions.

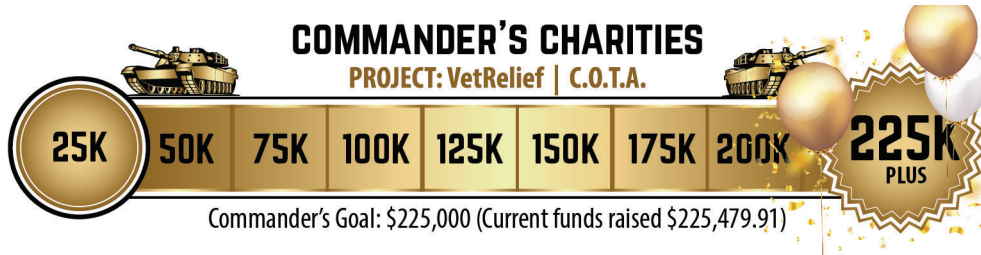
Attention District Commanders, please ensure that all your posts have information for the upcoming Department Convention, which can be found at floridalegion.org under "News & Events". Please make sure all DCC dates are correct on the Department website as well.

Thank you for all the support that you have shown to Department during these tough times. There are too many to list right now, but you know who you are behind the scenes. We just got through with the Eastern Area Ball which raised over \$2,400.00 for COTA. Chris, the Eastern Area Commander and staff did a great job. Thank you, River Rats, for showing up and helping during the event.

So, my Legion family, thanks for what you are doing and continue to do for the right reasons. Look forward to seeing everyone out there soon.

COMMANDER'S CHARITIES

PROJECT: VetRelief | C.O.T.A.



Mentorship & End of Year Reports

Jerry Brandt, 1st Vice

1stvice@legionmail.org



First off, I would like to thank Post 347, the 8th and 13th District Commanders and their staff, as well all the Post Commanders and their staff for the outstanding visit and reception

that the National Commander and his escort received. Everywhere we visited, everyone was friendly and attended to the National Commander. The Southwestern Area made Florida proud. Again, Thank You.

This is the time of year to start looking at the future, by now you have had the First Call for Candidates' for office for your incoming Post Officers. The question is, are they ready? A good leader should always think ahead, what happens if I cannot continue? Who will take my place? What will happen to the team,

the Post? While visiting the Posts, I find that many of the officers are elected to a position that they do not know anything about. For example, National Commander, Bill Oxford, indicated at his first Post Meeting, he was elected Commander of the Post. Others indicated had they became the finance officer, or adjutant. They did not know what to do. Would you? If this happens, would your Post step up and help? Please say yes. Please mentor them.

The Year End Reports will be coming up soon. Please start gathering your information together for Department and National reports, if you have not already done so. However, you may want to make of list of those programs you assisted with this past year and POST it so your membership can see what THEY did for our Veterans, Children and Youth and the Community. Why? To me, it is with pride that I indicate we are working on upgrading a Community Veteran Park. Or, we get a Special Olympics

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MARCH 2021

1-31	Month of the Military Caregiver
1-31	Women's History Month
1	General, Cadet & Eagle Scout Scholarship Apps Due
1-4	Washington Conference 🌟★
2	Read Across America Day
3	Navy Reserve Birthday
8-26	Department Service Officers School ★
4-7	Commander's Visit: District 4 🌟
4	Hug a G.I. Day
5-7	Weekie Wachee Swampfest 🌟
5	Employee Appreciation Day
5	Seabee Birthday
6	District 4 Picnic: District Wide Birthday
6	District 15 Meeting
6	District 2 Quarterly Meeting
6	District 15 Meeting
6	Northern Area Ball 🌟★
10	Membership Goal 90%
11	EOY Mailing Posts/Chapters/Squadrons
13	Department Oratorical Competition 🌟
13	K9 Veterans Day
13	District 11 Annual Roast - Joe Magee 🌟
14	Daylight Savings Time Begins
14	District 5 Meeting
15	The American Legion Birthday
15	Baseball: Rulebook Change Requests Due
15	Legion Link Articles Due
17	St. Patrick's Day
20-26	National Legion College
20	First Day of Spring 🌟
20	Polar Plunge II
20	District 12 Meeting
20	District 15 Meeting
20	District 8 Meeting
25	Medal of Honor Day
27	Children & Youth Golf Fundraiser 🌟
27	Ocean Beaches Challenge
28	Palm Sunday
29	Vietnam Veterans Day
30-31	PDC Think Tank 🌟
31	Baseball: Domicile Establishment Deadline

🌟 - 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.



<<1st Vice Continued from page 2

award for assisting the Children. Or that our Riders gave funds to Vet Relief or National Legacy Fund. I am sure your Post members will feel the same way, with pride.

I am still looking for Chairs for the upcoming year for Department. What does that mean? It means I and Florida American Legion needs help. We have many programs within the Department of

Florida. Programs that take a strong Chair to get the word out. Please go to Florida Department Website and fill out a request to be one of Florida's leaders.

Many Thanks

Eunice Butts, 2nd Vice Commander

2ndvice@legionmail.org



I want to thank the 8th District and the 13th District for your professional acceptance of The National Commander.

Once again, I thank

NEC Dennis Boland for choosing the Southwestern Area. Even though I could not be with you, I received many calls from Posts stating they enjoyed the visitation from The National Commander.

I attended the dinner for The National Commander at Post 347. It is now time to continue our membership and programs. We have three weeks to try and get 100% membership.

I have been missing in action due to having a medical procedure done that required rest of the body and brains immediately afterwards. As most of you know, I always keep you informed about anything that involves my health. I can now accept calls, drive, and continue my regular daily activities.

To each of you and your Post, I wish you an increase in your membership and programs.

Proof of Service

Michael Raymond, 3rd Vice Commander

3rdvice@legionmail.org



I know I've discussed this subject in the past, but I feel it is very important that we all understand just how much this affects our overall new member numbers. At some

posts proof of service means one and only one thing - DD form 214. I truly understand your feelings on this but now, especially since the passing of the "Legion Act", there are many forms of "proof of service" that more than qualify folks to become members of our organization.

Recently a gentleman came into a post and was asked for a DD214 to join. He went into his wallet and showed the adjutant his military retirement ID card, but he refused

to accept it and asked him to return later with his DD214. Odds are this guy may not come back. I know this sounds trivial, but I believe it is not. I encourage all posts to review your current policies and initiate changes, as necessary. As always, if you need assistance please don't hesitate to give me a call

National Emergency Fund

Dennis Boland, NEC

nec@legionmail.org



Disaster relief has been a part of The American Legion's identity since the early 1920's when it entered a formalized agreement with the Red Cross to provide volunteer help and raise money in times of catastrophe.

Known as The American Legion's Disaster Relief Program, it worked in conjunction with the Red Cross for about fifty (50)

years. Over that time, The American Legion through local posts, assisted disaster victims with housing, food, supplies and cleanup.

After Hurricane Camille struck the Gulf Coast in 1969, the National Executive Committee created the National Emergency Fund (NEF) as a one-time initiative to better assist American Legion family members and posts, with immediate funds of up to \$1,500 for individuals, and up to \$5,000 for posts.

In 1989, when Hurricane Hugo pummeled South Carolina, the NEF was revived. It continues to assist Legion Family members recovering from natural disasters. Grants of

up to \$3,000 each are awarded to eligible individuals, with up to \$10,000 for posts.

Since the NEF's inception, nearly \$9 million has been provided in direct financial assistance to American Legion and SAL members, as well as posts. Not one donated dollar is used for fundraising or administrative costs. Funds are provided as grants, not loans.

The funds are not designed for insurance compensation or to cover monetary losses from a business, nonresidential structures on property (like barns or sheds), equipment or vehicles.

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<<NEC Continued from page 3

Disbursement amounts are decided on a case-by-case basis. Applications are available at department headquarters or

online at legion.org/nef.

Tax-deductible donations to the NEF can be made at legion.org/donate. Learn more

about the program at legion.org/nef.

Upcoming Holidays and Chaplain Awards

Barry Roberts, Chaplain
chaplain@legionmail.org



In March we celebrate our American Legion Birthday along with other Observances to include the Passover and Palm Sunday. We have many things to be thankful for, so I pray you are blessed in your fellowship with family and friends as you celebrate these special days. I would

like to remind everyone that submitting nominations for awards is just around the corner. Please don't forget to submit awards for your Chaplain.

As part of our Challenge 22 efforts, I have been in contact with the American Association of Christian Counselors and we are being offered a faith based Mental Health Life Coach Certificate through Legion Church. It is about 45 hours of online training and the \$2,400 tuition has been waived, so the only cost is a \$54.00 administration fee. I already have several people from around the state enrolled in

the program. If you would like to know more please email me at bwroberts@rocketmail.com or call me at 863-661-9999.

Let's be proactive together in preserving "For God and Country" and let's be proactive together in reaching out into our communities and serving our veterans and their families. Let's be proactive together and go help somebody....

I am here for you, feel free to join and participate on Facebook, www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains

Events and CPRs

Marie Conti, Northern Area Commander
northernarea@legionmail.org



Congratulations to everyone that has met or exceeded the 90% goal. The next membership goal is 95% before April 7, 2021. I would like to see the Northern Area at 100% before March 17, 2021, as the deadline for Race to The Top is 31 March 2021.

There is still much to be accomplished for the 2020-2021 Legion Year. Look at

where your Post right now and see if you need to catch up in membership. How many have not renewed? How many have reported to Post Everlasting? How many new members? Are you getting the new members involved?

The Department Oratorical contest is March 13, 2021, at Department Headquarters (1912A Lee Rd, Orlando). Prepare your candidates. Maintain Social Distancing. Have practice sessions. Due to COVID, Department Headquarters is restricting attendance to contestants, their parents, and a bare minimum number of personnel required to conduct this event.

The Northern Area Ball will be held on

March, 6 2021, at American Legion Post 129, Jacksonville Beach. See flyer for details. Service Dress Uniform, with ribbons, is optional. This is a sold-out event. Tickets will not be available at the door. Please contact PDC Jay Conti Sr. at 352-287-1400, for more information.

Now is the time get an early start on the end of year CPR Reports, which can be done online. Also, don't forget awards for Boy Scouts, JROTC & Shooting Sports, School Medals, Americanism, Children & Youth Month (C & Y April) and many other Programs that we have. With Post nominations coming soon, let's finish what we started last year and go out with a BANG!

Deadlines Aplenty

Paul Bosco, Southern Area
southernarea@legionmail.org



In the middle of February, the VA started giving shots to those who are under 65 years of age with underlying conditions. By now, most of you should have had your

shots. If you are waiting to get them, do not wait, get them now.

On February 13, 2021 we conducted the Southern Area Oratorical contest. There were three outstanding candidates. The Candidate from the 11th District was picked to represent us at Department on March 13th. His name is Eric Singleton. He is a sharp young man, and I am proud to have him represent us.

Things happening this month:

- March 1st is the submission deadline for your Cadet and Eagle Scout Scholarship Applications. It's a great way for your posts to get recognized in your community.
- March 17th is the online registration deadline for Boys State Delegates and Alternates and also St Patrick's Day.
- The Post elections will begin this

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<<SouthernArea Continued from page 4

month. Make sure to include 100% of your membership in the election process.

- March 5th is the Seabee's Birthday.

Have a party.

The Southern Area was visited by the Department Commander and the Department Third Vice Commander. They gave awards to those who reached 100%

and gave aid to those who requested the help. You should be at 90% in membership by March 10th.

Reverse the Trend

John Edens, Western Area Commander

westernarea@legionmail.org



The Western Area is pushing forward during a struggling time. The 1st District has held a successful third quarter meeting in February and 2nd District will be holding their next meeting on March 5th. The 1st District is going strong and many Posts have reached or exceeded 100%. We are helping the few Posts that are falling behind. 2nd District is going through a tougher time and needs

to vote in a strong leader again for the 2021-22 year with a dedicated staff. Roger Hewitt has done a great job but will not be able to continue this coming year.

March should be the month for a strong push for our **103% membership goal**. Remember, 100% means your post is just holding-their-own from last year, not improving our Legion membership. Our Legion's National membership has been decreasing three to five the past few years and we need to reverse the trend. PDC Ramos has worked hard for both Districts to promote Florida's potential increase in membership numbers. I plead with all our

posts to not let him down.

All Posts need to continue their precautions against this COVID-19 virus to show your state that the Legion is leading the way in taking care of our own while we continue to accomplish our mission for our vets and the community. Hopefully, the vaccine is getting out to all, as quick as possible, will allow us to get back together as groups soon. **I hope Everyone stays healthy and keep your distance.** I look forward to seeing everyone soon. **Thanks again for everyone's hard work and sacrifices.**

15th District Dispatch

Bruce Carl, District 15

15thdistrict@legionmail.org



The 15th District continues to impress! By the time this article comes out we should be at 100% membership, as we need less than 95 more members to attain that goal at the time of writing this article! That will make three straight years of being over 100% as a District. We are well on our way to qualifying for the National Race to the Top for the 2nd year in a row. Thank you to everyone in the District who has worked so hard to achieve this!

Despite all the setbacks the coronavirus has caused, the Posts continue to do most

everything that the Legion was founded upon. Our Veterans are being taken care of, the Children and Youth programs are still surviving, albeit at a slower rate, and we are still serving our communities, and attending and holding events. We have lost many members this year, so our Honor Guards have been especially busier than normal.

I would like to thank all the ALR Chapters in the District for their contributions to the Appreciation Room at the 5th Annual Summit. Everyone had a great time there! Thanks to Andrea and "Tank" for the karaoke, as they put in some long hours entertaining everyone and making sure we all had plenty of fun. Chapter 152 certainly knows what they are doing when it comes to holding a special event! Our room was certainly "da bomb" and the hit of the Summit.

I have been busy doing my Post visitations, working on membership, doing "buddy checks" and attending Legion functions. However, I am never too busy if you need my assistance. Feel free to call, email, or text me if you have any concerns, questions, or just need help with something.

I will more than likely be cancelling the 15th District picnic scheduled for April. Too many of members do not want to come out because of the COVID-19 situation from both the Legion and Auxiliary side. We will be trying to plan something else as a District fundraiser instead, and as soon as I know what it is, we will get it out there for everyone to participate.

Until next time, everyone be safe and healthy!

Find us on: **facebook**

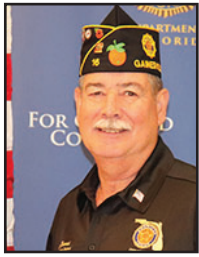
facebook.com/floridalegion



Race to the Top and American's Legion's Birthday

Jim Ramos, Northern Membership

teamramos@legionmail.org



We need to look at what we can do better in March to help our Districts get 100% or more to win the "Race to the Top". Be PROUD of your District and your Post. Work as a team to help your District and

your Post. We need big numbers to win the Race to the Top. This is how to have a membership DRIVE - have members go knock on doors, look at the membership manual (it is available online) for the membership PLAN to get ideas, and email or call me for other ideas or help. March 31, 2021 is the deadline for the District. Please help your District.

Please check out the Department Membership manual, it is on Department's website (floridalegion.org) under

resources, then go down to Forms & Documents then Membership. Please download it to your computer, take some time and read it. It has a lot of great information for your membership team. Also, use the timetable for your next event. We need to stay on top of membership to meet Department's membership goals. The membership timetable is helpful for each Post to make their goals. We all are recruiters. Here are some recruiting tips:



1. Recruit a friend, a neighbor or somebody who is a veteran.
2. Just ask if they look like a veteran.
3. Show your pride by wearing your Legion gear (shirt, cap with Legion

logo).

4. Buddy Checks are working. Please continue connecting with your members <https://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck>

The American Legion will be celebrating its 102nd Birthday – consider having a party for all your members or a ceremony to add the history of the Legion. Let it be a day for all the Legion families to get together and reflect on the good times of the Legion family. Whatever you decide to do, make it BIG and be sure to let everyone know so you can push membership in March.

For more suggestions or if you have any questions, please contact me at phone number (352) 226-4370 or email me at jramos149@bellsouth.net.

I am here to help you and your Post be the best in Florida.

Southern Membership News

Ray Perez, Southern Membership

teamperez@legionmail.org



First, let us look at some important dates in March, 90% by March 10th. The American Legion's Birthday on the 15th. St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. Post elections begin March 26th and the Children and Youth

Golf Tournament on the 27th. All these events are a good way of inviting your unrenewed members and community leaders to your Posts.

As of February 11th, the Southern Membership Area has seven out of nine Districts in a reachable status of the 90% goal to include the top three slots, 15th, 11th, and 12th respectively. I am currently attending an assistance visit in the 14th

District with the Department Commander, 3rd Vice Commander, Southern Area Commander, District Commander and Post Development Chairman.

Second, let's talk about some of the things we obviously know. COVID-19 is keeping more snowbirds home so visits to our Posts are down. Their response to renewing has also slowed down. The credit card renewals are increasing but our members and some Posts are reluctant to use this method for security reasons. We are still not using Social Media as a viable tool for membership as we should. Posts are not processing membership through MyLegion.org. And lastly, there are still far too many Post 0400 members not transferred to Posts in their community.

Let's look at each of those points I mentioned. While it appears that nothing can be done about our fate with the virus situation, why not look at the ways your community is tackling the vaccination

process and make your members aware of those opportunities. So far word of mouth seems to be the way people are finding out about it. Make it a point to add this information to your Facebook pages and newsletters. Keeping your members apprised of current events is a membership tool. Follow the CDC guidelines with discipline in your Posts, members want to feel safe and they want to know you are looking out for them.

Using their credit card to renew is as safe as paying your bills every month online. Much of this fear can be handled with education. Credit card and online renewals are the fastest way to improve your workload and your percentage. Take some time to educate your members as part of your monthly meetings, which brings us to the next point, a Facebook page for your Post or like our Department Social Media Chairman calls it, "Free Advertisement". Again, keeping your

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<<Southern Membership Continued from page 6

members up to date on the events related to membership can be visible to everyone.

Lastly, MyLegion.org and the most valuable tool a Post has at their disposal and it is not being used to its full potential. This database is soon to be upgraded so that means if you have not been using it, you will only be that much further behind. If the process is intimidating to you, find someone that can help you or ask for a training session

through me. All the Districts I can honestly say have someone that can assist right away. DMS Transfers and Unrenewed Rosters are the key to Buddy Checks and should be done on a regular basis from now until May 31st.

The size of your membership within the Post is not a reason not to process membership electronically.

I am proud of the Southern Area and their work in membership and I can also say again this year the Race to the Top winner

will be from the Southern Membership Area.

I wanted to include this information on the Department Convention. By the time you get this it will be old news but if you have not acted, please do so ASAP if you have plans on attending the Convention.

<https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/department-convention/pre-registration/>

Successful Summit and Challenge 22

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders
legionriders@legionmail.org



The Summit, finally, we are all back together again. First Bev & I would like to thank our Department Leadership for believing in us so we could move forward with the Summit.

Wow, once again we pushed the attendance at the Summit. Well over 300 people and 546 room nights. Reviewing some of the responses from the survey makes us feel good about the overall performance. We have opportunities to look at, but please keep the comments coming, it will only make us better.

We have a new activity starting to gain momentum in Department and that is the Challenge 22 to help support PVR/SPI. The 5th District and Jacksonville Beach are cosponsoring a Challenge 22 event on March 27th at Seawalk Park & Pavilion. We will enjoy guest speakers, vendors, a couple of food trucks and 2.2 mile walk

through Purple Heart Park on Jacksonville Beach. This is all to raise awareness to the increasing problem the “+ Twenty-Two” suicides a day. Following the event, you are all invited back to Ocean Beaches Post 129 to continue the program.

Just a little history about Challenge 22. Challenge 22 started at Post 69 as an awareness program five years ago and has been an annual event. This has started to catch on as Post 63 in Winter Garden has scheduled an event over the last three years and Post 110 the last two. For Project Vet Relief/Suicide Prevention Initiative Challenge 22 has increased both the awareness level in the communities and donations.

After our February Fifth District meeting, we have received a challenge from District Four! This is the Mighty 5th; they do not know who their messing with! Right? Maybe that is a little strong, but maybe not, any other challenger’s out there?

Bev and I appreciated all the attendees at our “Succession Planning Class”, there were a few people that have started

asking for more information about the ALR Committee. The door is always open for anyone wanting to help. Bev and I have talked about forming committees to help put together the Summit program for next year.

Again, Thank You for all your Efforts! Here is our tentative schedule for the balance of the year for your review and comments.

- **April 3**, Children & Youth Picnic at American Legion Post #1, Titusville, Florida, 12P to 6PM
- **April**, all month, Round Robin, PVR/SPI
- **April 18**, Meet & Greet - Marathon & Pensacola FL
- **April 19-23**, North & South - In-State Unity Rides
- **April 24**, In-State-Rally – Post 10 Kissimmee
- **July 1-4**, Department Convention

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!

Happy Birthday

Richard Smith, SAL Advisor
sal@legionmail.org

March is our birthday. Every year is special, and we should celebrate it. If

you are having a birthday party have your squadron cook the dinner or if you have a baker amongst your squadron members, ask them to make the cake for the party. I hope everyone is at or near 100% in membership. As a reminder check your by-

laws and send them in if they need to be updated. Enjoy our birthday celebration.



Excitement of Baseball is in Full Swing

Terry Phillips, Baseball
baseball@legionmail.org



March is here and we are in the High School Baseball Season and preparing for our Legion Baseball Season.

As I attend high school games over these

past few weeks and spoke with coaches, players, and parents, I was asked constantly about our upcoming Legion Baseball Season. The excitement of Baseball is back in full swing.

Our Program is a very important part of the summer for the players and families in our communities. We are more than just playing a game; we are a summer activity that keeps kids off the streets and involved

with what we do as a program and service.

Our program needs your help as we get set for the Jr and Sr State Tournaments in July at our Baseball Park in Jacksonville. I will be sending out information about Post Banners and Signs for your posts to put up on the park fences as a fundraiser to help us get the park ready.

Margaret Skaggs Award and COVID-19 Variants

Ray Perez, Blood Donor
blooddonor@legionmail.org



Criteria for the Margaret Skaggs Award:

1. A copy of your National Consolidated Post Report and Department Addendum must be on file with Department Headquarters to be eligible for this award.
2. The reporting period is from May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021. Any donations after this date must go on next year's report.
3. For awards, a letter from the local blood bank listing the total Blood Units on file for the account and number of participants from your Post must be attached to your report.
4. Include a narrative containing information or comments concerning the Blood Donor activities of your post such as how many donated units were collected by Legion, Auxiliary, SAL or the community, how these units were utilized and any special activities for the Blood Donor Program.

AWARDS ARE: Margaret Skaggs Memorial (1st place) Runner-up (2nd place)
MAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: Florida American Legion P.O. BOX 547859 Orlando, FL

32854-7859 Attn: Programs Director
E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: programs@floridalegion.org

Nomination must be received no later than May 12, 2021

An important reminder about Post blood drives: The normal amount of blood drives a Post can hold is approximately six. Last year we had one Post report thirty blood drives, which is just not possible! The Blood Donor reps try to book six blood drives a year, as donors must wait fifty-six days after donating whole blood before donating again, which averages out to six drives a year. Not to say that there have been special occasions that a blood drive could be booked for a two-day drive, but those are rare.

New Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19

Information about the characteristics of these variants is rapidly emerging. Scientists are working to learn more about how easily they spread, whether they could cause more severe illness, and whether currently authorized vaccines will protect people against them.

What we know

U.S. COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the

United States and globally during this pandemic.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a type of coronavirus, a large family of viruses. Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surfaces. Scientists monitor changes in the virus, including changes to the spikes on the surface of the virus. These studies, including genetic analyses of the virus, are helping scientists understand how changes to the virus might affect how it spreads and what happens to people who are infected with it.

Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 are circulating globally:

- The United Kingdom (UK) identified a variant called B.1.1.7 with many mutations in the fall of 2020. This variant spreads more easily and quickly than other variants. In January 2021, experts in the UK reported that this variant may be associated with an increased risk of death compared to other variant viruses, but more studies are needed to confirm this finding. It has since been detected in many countries around the world. This variant was first detected in the U.S. at the end of December 2020.
- In South Africa, another variant called B.1.351 emerged independently of B.1.1.7. Originally detected in early October 2020, B.1.351 shares some mutations with B.1.1.7. Cases caused by this variant have been reported in

Continued on page 9>>



<<Blood Donor Continued from page 8

the US at the end of January 2021.

- In Brazil, a variant called P.1 emerged that was first identified in travelers from Brazil, who were tested during routine screening at an airport in Japan, in early January. This variant contains a set of additional mutations that may affect its ability to be recognized by antibodies. This variant was first detected in the U.S. at the end of January 2021.
- There are 300 to 400 cases in Florida already.

These variants seem to spread more easily

and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. An increase in the number of cases will put more strain on health care resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths.

So far, studies suggest that antibodies generated through vaccination with currently authorized vaccines recognize these variants. This is being thoroughly investigated and more studies are underway.

Rigorous and increased compliance with public health mitigation strategies, such

as vaccination, physical distancing, use of masks, hand hygiene, and isolation and quarantine, is essential to limit the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 and protect public health.

Vaccinations:

The vaccine distribution & scheduling websites overloaded, long lines and long waits are hindering the success of this operation. If you have been successful in getting your first dose, spread the word. As of the first week of February, only 3% have been totally vaccinated and 15% have received the first dose nationwide.

44 Officers Gone so far this Year, the Victims of Sheer Evil

Daryl Bass, Law & Order
laworder@legionmail.org



Here I am writing my Legion Link Article in the middle of February and already forty-four (44) Law Enforcement Officers have been killed in the line of duty since January 1st. This is hard for me to grasp. Twenty-

four (24) of these officers succumbed to COVID-19 they contracted in the performance of their normal duties. Here is a list of the causes of death regarding the other twenty (20).

- 1 due to 9/11 Cancer
- 1 due to Assault

- 2 due to Automobile crashes
- 8 due to Gunfire
- 1 due to Heart Attack
- 1 due to Motorcycle Crash
- 3 due to being Struck by a Motor Vehicle
- 3 due to Vehicular Assault

The State with the most since the first of the year is Georgia with seven (7). Coming in second (2nd) is Texas with six (6) and four (4) in Florida. One of the officers killed was Master Corporal Brian Roy La Vigne of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office who was killed in a head on crash his last duty shift prior to his retirement that next day. Jacksonville Sheriff's Officer Sgt. Louis Livatino who died from being exposed to COVID-19 and two FBI Agents while attempting to serve a Warrant in Sunrise, Florida. Special Agent Laura Ann Schwarzenberger 44 YOA and Daniel Alfin

36 YOA were shot and Killed by the subject of the Warrant with a high-powered rifle. He had expected them and apparently when they approached murdered them and then took his own life.

These officers, firefighters and paramedics daily are willing to give their lives so that we and our families can live safe. The ones that unfortunately are killed in the performance of their job are the victims of sheer evil. Those that die in the line of duty for us should never be forgotten and their families supported by the communities they serve which includes our Legion Family. Please keep up the good works of the American Legion and continue to honor these heroes - both living and departed. Remember, EVIL IS REAL! Ask our Combat Veterans who have witnessed it as well as our first responders.

Oratorical News

Meri West, Oratorical
oratorical@legionmail.org

In an email to Department Oratorical Chairmen on February 17th, the National office just announced the following:

After a great deal of careful consideration, the Americanism Commission, in consultation with National Commander James William "Bill" Oxford, announces

the cancellation of the American Legion National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis on April 9th through the 11th. This decision was extremely difficult but deemed necessary, with new variant strains of COVID-19 holding uncertainty for the possibility of reinfection and the Coronavirus vaccination not yet available to many folks.

Please continue to wear your masks to minimize the risk of infecting others,

especially students, with the Coronavirus. Masks are the easiest way to put a barrier between you and an infected person. This is the second year there has been no National contest and it's killing me! Surely, we can all help get this virus under control if we do the minimum to contain the spread.

Nevertheless, the Department Oratorical Contest will be held Saturday, March 13th

Continued on page 10>>



<<Oratorical Continued from page 9

at the Department Headquarters. We are limiting the audience to better follow the CDC guidelines about social distancing for Covid, so check with Bekki Tibbs or myself if you are interested in attending. We are trying to stay at forty (40) people or less for the whole event. The students' speeches will be video-taped and allowed to be distributed after the National contest is completed.

I had the pleasure of attending the Central Area Oratorical held in Dunedin, FL at Post 275. Thanks to Sid Damsgard for the hospitality and a great contest. Isabel Bequer, from the 15th District took first place. Robert Khazanov from the 16th District was second.

Isabel's winning speech centered on the topic of our duty as informed citizens to ensure we are not disseminating false information on social media platforms or any public forum. Admittedly, it's a tricky and often thorny topic but she did a good job of explaining how while we have the right to free speech, we have an obligation to be educated and informed citizens and that takes a lot more work, thought and effort.

Certainly it's too broad a topic for a student to cover in a ten minute speech but this is the very essence of the Oratorical program that its founder, William Kitchens sought to encourage. I think Kitchens would be applauding from his grave to hear these students take on a complex and tangled topic like Free Speech during these

times of political turmoil. He wanted to encourage students to think on their feet and think critically and to learn more about the Constitution and how it propels our government and democracy forward. Ultimately, he wanted to give students a forum or platform to practice public speaking and leadership and Isabel and Robert both stepped up to meet the challenge.



Left to right: Post Commander/Central Area Commander Sid Damsgard, judge Phyllis Gorshe, Isabel Bequer, judge Victor Lucas, Robert Khazanov, judge Andrew Gracy, judge Katherine Kastanis.

ROTC End of Year Awards and JSSP Postal Match

Loretta Young, ROTC/JROTC/JSSP

jrotc@legionmail.org



The ROTC/JROTC Program is a National Program that has Year End Award Medals sponsored by the American Legion Posts for the programs in your area. Most of the programs supported are from the High Schools

with the Bronze Medal given to the top two Cadets chosen by the JROTC Program Senior Instructor. The Scholastic Medal and the Military Excellence Medal are usually presented at the Year End Award Ceremony or Military Ball. These medals are mandated by Congress, therefore the upper-class medals, either Silver or Gold are not given to the high schools because these medals are worn on the Cadet Uniform and are not authorized to be interchangeable. It's ideal to have our Legionnaires attend the Award Programs to give the medals in person, however, during the COVID-19 pandemic last year and perhaps this year, the programs have been done virtually. Additionally, the Department of Florida has a Cadet of the Year Award for the High

Schools. The deadline for the Applications is March 1st and can only have one submitted per school by the Senior Instructor. This is a Scholarship Award of \$2,500, 1st Place; \$1,500, 2nd Place; \$1,000, 3rd Place and \$500, 4th Place that is presented at the Department Convention. This information and the application are on the Department website.

The JSSP Postal Match had a very low response this year due to the schools in the majority of Florida were on a virtual or split participation with very limited or no afterschool activities due to restrictions. The results for the First Qualifying Round highest score for the State of Florida National JSSP Tournament recognizes top Sporter Team: Sarasota Military Academy sponsored by Post 266; Precision Top Individual, Sophia Olazabal from Sarasota Military Academy and Sporter Top Individual, Adriana Ramos from Vanguard NJROTC sponsored by Post 27. Recognition Awards are sent from the National Headquarters to the Post for presentation to the recipients. Congratulations to our Team State Sporter Winners and our two Individual Winners. Also, many thanks to Post 27 and Post 266 for your sponsorship and continued support of our Legion Youth Programs. I would also like to give

a special thanks to the Team Coaches, Riess Pellegrino with the Sarasota Military Academy and LCDR Davis with the Vanguard NJROTC Program. It takes a lot of work and effort to travel with the teams especially during these times of the pandemic with restrictions and protocol at the highest level in place. Good luck to all our competitors for the 2nd Round Postal Qualifications. The deadline for targets due back to CMP is April 1st. The top fifteen (15) Finalists in each Category, Sporter and Precision will advance to the National JSSP Competition held July 21st through 24th.



PROJECT: VETRELIEF BULLETIN

AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

WELCOME TO THE TEAM.. COMMANDER JOHNSON & DR. JANELL ROYSTER!!

We are excited to announce that the PROJECT: VetRelief Team has grown! This past month, we officially welcomed American Legion, Department of Florida's Commander, William 'Rick' Johnson and Dr. Janell Royster, a psychologist and a Florida Licensed Mental Health Counselor.

Historically, the Commander has been invited to our Board Meetings as a non-voting guest. However, our Board felt they would benefit from the dedication and devotion that Commander Johnson displays for our veteran community. With him on our Team, helping to spread the PVR and SPI mission, we believe his impact will greatly increase our resources - while "keeping the fun - in Fundraising".

Dr. Janell Royster is an individual who is extremely passionate and motivated towards ending veteran suicide. We are excited to tap into her energy and expertise! Dr. Royster works with Dan Jarvis & the 22ZERO team, one of our SPI Strategic Partners. Our SPI Committee now has five (5) members, and with this new addition, we will add a level of professional experience that we feel will become instrumental, positive and impactful!

Please help us welcome them both to our team!



William 'Rick' Johnson
Board Member



Dr. Janell Royster
SPI Committee

CHALLENGE 22 EVENTS... RAISING FUNDS AND AWARENESS TO END SUICIDE

It is PROJECT: VetRelief's goal to raise awareness about the staggering statistic on veteran suicide through various Challenge 22 events. Whether it's a ruck walk, educational seminar or speaking engagement, there's no shortage of opportunities to alert our communities on this serious issue our veterans are facing.

These Challenge 22 events are designed to encompass fundraising, creating awareness and educating our communities on the importance of mental health within our veteran

communities and understanding the severity of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Our hope is to have at least 12 Challenge 22 events this calendar year to promote the mission of SPI, and since next year will be 2022, we are shooting for 22 events!

Take a look at the upcoming opportunities to make your impact on ending veteran suicides.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH

- 13** **Post 69 Challenge 22 Event**
Avon Park, FL
2 mile walk, vendors, silent auction, 50/50, door prizes, raffles and crafts to raise awareness for veteran suicide.
- 27** **District 5 Challenge 22 Event**
Jacksonville Beach, FL
2.2 mile walk on the Jax Beach, followed by food, entertainment, and vendors at Legion Post 129
Registration: \$22/walker
Registration Link:
give.floridalegion.org/JaxChallenge22

APRIL

- 19** **ALR Unity Ride Kick Off**
Entire State of Florida
Week long event with two Ride Routes (North & South) travelling to raise awareness for veteran suicides. Anyone can participate, and there will be a virtual element again this year!
- 24** **ALR State Rally**
Post 10, Kissimmee
Celebrate with the Legion Riders after their week-long journey raising funds and awareness for veteran suicide. Enjoy food, entertainment and camaraderie!

American Legion Scouters

Chris Ragusa, Scouting
scouting@legionmail.org



MacDill AFB Cub Scout Camporee: Originally scheduled for February 5th through the 7th, we are targeting November 12th through the 14th of this year as our rescheduled date. This will be a great event for American Legion Post

and Sons of the American Legion Squadron-chartered Cub Scout packs and will feature a full weekend of camping at Lewis Lake Scout Camp, a marina beach cookout, and tours of the air traffic controller tower, flightline fire and rescue station, maritime patrol station and dock, armory, and K9 Dog Handling unit.

American Legion Post 1 Titusville, FL:

On the good news front, American Legion Post 1 in Titusville, FL recently stepped up to charter Scouts BSA Troop 481, a BSA unit that has been in existence over 50 years

and produced 54 Eagle Scouts. Troop 481's previous chartering organization made the decision to no longer support the troop, and Post 1 came to the rescue. Bravo Zulu!

Legion Scouting Exhibit at Florida State Fair:

The Department of Florida Scouting Commission has secured an exhibit booth at the Florida State Fair from April 22nd through May 2nd in Tampa, FL. We will spend eleven (11) days actively engaged in promoting American Legion-chartered BSA activities and highlighting the Scouting movement in general. Both of which should drive program awareness, promote post chartering opportunities, and develop membership interest. We need dedicated Legion Scouters and Scouts to staff the booth during this timeframe. If interested, please contact me at the email address below.

Citation of Appreciation: At their December 2020 Court of Honor, Cubmaster Ben Germano of Cub Scout Pack 1381... chartered to American Legion Post 138 in Port Tampa City, FL... was presented with a Citation of Appreciation for support of

the American Legion Scouting program. Pictured with Ben are me (In my role as Chartered Organization Representative for Pack 1381) and Post 138 Commander Vic Kelly. These Citations of Appreciation (item #733.121) are available from the American Legion Flag and Emblem store, and are a great way of showing our appreciation to BSA unit leaders, community members, and organizations that support our Legion-chartered units.



Thank you to Commander Hamilton from Post 1 for providing me with that good news piece. If you have a story to share that sheds positive light on this important aspect of our Americanism pillar, please send that along!



2021 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

JULY 1-4, 2021

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



PRE-REGISTER
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YOUR SAFETY
<https://bit.ly/37Gp9JK>

Sign up for TEXT ALERTS.



TEXT **FAL** to **74121**

MORE INFO AT
floridalegion.org

ATTENTION



February 24, 2021
90% Target Report (Currently XX%)

11	Johnny Castro	
15	Bruce Carl	
12	Dennis Mallon	
4	Cherie Korn	
6	Kurt Gies	
1	Lamar Carroll	
17	Jim Bowers	
5	Troy Horsley	
13	Brian "Taz" Gehling	
16	Randall McNabb	
8	Skip Felicita	
9	Arthur Barber	
3	Stuart Scott	
7	Burl Thomas	
2	Roger Hewitt	
14	Thomas Frank	
Eastern	Chris Hamrick	
Central	Sid Damsgard	
Western	John Edens	
Southern	Paul Bosco	
Northern	Marie Conti	
Southwestern	Jerry Faught	
Post 400		
Post 208		



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

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

NEXT MEMBERSHIP GOAL
90% 3/10/2021

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The American Legion



**NORTHERN AREA BALL
COMMANDER**

MARIE K. CONTI

Saturday, March 6, 2021

**Legion Blue & Gold /
Military Theme**

American Legion Post #129 JAX BEACH

Tickets: \$25.00 per person

Dinner: Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Salad and American Legion Birthday Cake!

DRESS: Formal / Semi-Formal Social hour 5:00-6:00, 6pm Program/Dinner. **Entertainment after Program**

Hotel is less than 5 minutes from the Post at a very reasonable rate of \$109.00 per night Rooms can be reserved through Hotel (Please call Hampton Inn @ 904-280-9101 for Reservations & mention The American Legion (Group Rate).



DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL

Due to current health guidelines, we will be Conducting the Department Oratorical Contest with only contestants, their parents/guardians, and the bare minimum of volunteers necessary to run the competition to allow for social distancing. Unfortunately, this means we are unable to invite prestigious guests, Legion family members and friends to attend as normal. Videos of each contestant's prepared speech and assigned topic oration will be available on the Department of Florida's website. Department will also live stream this event, please follow us at [facebook.com/floridalegion](https://www.facebook.com/floridalegion)

American Legion Department of Florida 11th District Annual Roast



March 13, 2021

5:30p : Reception

6:00p: Dinner

6:45p: Program

American Legion Post
268

1690 Avenue H West
Riviera Beach , Florida
33404

RSVP NLT
MARCH 8, 2021



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Guest Of Honor– Past Department Commander

Joe McGee

Past Department Commandeer 2016-2017

St. Patrick's Day Parade Palm Beach Shores

Dinner Corned Beef and Cabbage with a Cash Bar

Music by D.J Lenny

Tickets: \$25.00

Payment Zille or Credit Card

**Credit Card Payments by phone to Johnny Castro:
561-290-9980**

Hotel rooms are available locally if needed.

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POST 275



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27**

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SUPPORTING C.O.T.A.

C.O.T.A. helps children and young adults who need life-saving transplants by providing fundraising assistance and family support.

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 275 Hosts a Charity Golf Outing for C.O.T.A.



Children's Organ Transplant Association®

Saturday, March 27th, 2021

- 7:00am: Sign-In and Registration
- 8:00am: Shot Gun Start
- Lunch to Follow after golf at The American Legion -Post 275
- After lunch: Raffles, Prizes, Auction & Gifts
- All Golfers will receive a raffle ticket & drink ticket at registration

Hotels listed in Order closest to The American Legion Post 275: 360 Wilson St Dunedin, FL 34698

****Please contact hotels for availability and rates ****

Beso Del Sol Resort: 1420 Bayshore Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698 ph # 800-331-2548
Advertised at \$ 209/nt

Hampton Inn Dunedin: 2641 Michael Pl, Dunedin, FL 34698-1804 ph # (727) 733-1400
Advertised at \$254/nt

Holiday Inn Express Clearwater North/Dunedin: 975 Broadway, Dunedin, FL 34698-5717
ph# 877-424-3664

Meranova Bed & Breakfast: 458 Virginia Ln, Dunedin, FL 34698-4970 ph # (727) 261-1728
Advertised at \$165/nt

Comfort Suites: 1941 Edgewater Dr, Clearwater, FL 33755 ph # 844-224-1310
Advertised at \$153/nt



THE AMERICAN LEGION

For God and Country

MEMO

DATE: February 4, 2021
TO: All Posts
FROM: Michael McDaniel, Department Adjutant
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 35 – Insurance Requirements

On October 14-15, 2020, the National Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 35, titled “Insurance Requirements”.

Resolution No. 35 specifies additional insurance requirements for EVERY POST of The American Legion. It is anticipated that the additional requirements regarding Department will also take effect in the near future and it is recommended that each post consider this when contacting your insurance agents.

Attached you will find a copy of Resolution 35 - Insurance Requirements, a memo published by the National Judge Advocate, a copy of the December Florida Legion Link Article submitted by the Department Judge Advocate, and a **Certificate of Liability Insurance Example**. These documents will provide additional information related to the resolution and answer most of your questions.

Please direct any questions regarding the insurance requirements to Department Judge Advocate Clarence Hill at Judgeadvocate@legionmail.org.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 14-15, 2020
Virtual**

Resolution No. 35: Insurance Requirements

Origin: Finance Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion's charter is codified in 36 USC 21701 et seq and under this statutory code, The American Legion may: (a) establish and maintain offices to conduct its activities, (b) sue and be sued, (c) establish state, territorial and post organizations, and (d) have the exclusive right to use, manufacture and control the adopted organization emblems; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, its state, territorial and post organizations have the exclusive rights to use the name "The American Legion" or "American Legion" (collectively "Name"); and

WHEREAS, The names, emblems, trademarks and copyrights of The American Legion comprise The American Legion intellectual property (collectively "Tradenames"); and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's Tradenames consists of assets requiring legal and financial protections through insurance coverage, and

WHEREAS, It is recommended that The American Legion's state, territorial and post organizations have their own protective insurance coverage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That because The American Legion owns, controls, protects and defends The American Legion's Tradenames, this resolution is necessary to dictate protective standards over the Tradenames; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, via insurance policies, protect itself, and its Tradenames, from liability and subsequently strongly urges all American Legion departments, department-chartered intermediate bodies and posts do the same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to the need to protect The American Legion's Tradenames from liability it shall be required forthwith that when any American Legion department, department-chartered intermediate body, post or organization use The American Legion's Name or Tradenames and an insurance policy is obtained, the group utilizing this insurance policy shall specifically in the insurance policy hold The American Legion harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion's national adjutant, or designee, has complete authority to independently investigate, confirm and report that any, and all, insurance policy(ies) purchased by an American Legion department, department-chartered intermediate body, post or organization shall specify that The American Legion is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion's National Executive Committee strongly urges that all American Legion departments follow similar courses of protective action, to wit: (1) require all of the department's own intermediate chartered bodies and posts that obtain insurance policies hold their respective American Legion departments harmless and also named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policy(ies) and (2) that the department adjutant, or said designee, have the complete authority to independently investigate, confirm and report that any insurance policy(ies) purchased by the department's intermediate body or post shall hold its respective department also harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies.

Note: The following memo was written by American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett.

How American Legion Departments and Posts comply with Resolution 35

The American Legion national organization is the owner, protector and the organization that may grant the use of the names, emblems, trademarks and copyrights (Tradenames) of The American Legion. As owner and protector of the Tradenames, The American Legion utilizes a number of different protective insurance coverages. As owner, protector and grantor of the Tradenames, The American Legion, like all owners of trademarks or copyrights, is allowed to place restrictions upon the use of its Tradenames, including similar insurance requirements, reviewing Tradename usage prior to use, etc.

Resolution No. 35, Insurance Requirements, places restrictions on the use of the Tradenames – namely that, if any organization would like to use the Tradenames of The American Legion and the Tradename-using organization has a situation whereby there is a need for liability insurance protection, then the Tradename-using organization will specify that The American Legion (and, if needed, the respective department of The American Legion) is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance liability policies.

In other words, any organization using the Tradenames of The American Legion, and needing liability insurance coverage, is required to specify that The American Legion (and, if needed, the respective department of The American Legion) is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance liability policies. This Tradename protection is a standard business practice and not viewed as a control of the insurance-purchasing organization.

This requirement brings up two Q&As for clarification.

Q: What is liability insurance?

A: Liability insurance is an insurance product that provides an insured party with protection against claims resulting from injuries and damage to other people or property. Liability insurance policies protect both the insured and third parties who may be injured as a result of the policyholder's unintentional negligence and therefore the liability insurance covers legal costs and payouts for which an insured party is responsible, if the insured party is found legally liable. Liability insurance policies pay these damaged parties and not the policyholders.

The different types of liability insurance include directors and officers insurance (D&O); commercial liability; general liability insurance; dram shop liability; special events insurance; employment practices liability (EPL); and criminal acts insurance.

Q: What is an additional insured?

A: An additional insured is a type of insurance status associated with liability insurance policies that provides coverage to another group that is not initially named in the liability policy. With an additional insured endorsement, the additional insured is then protected under the named insurer's liability policy.

Therefore the Tradename-using group may obtain this additional insured endorsement coverage for The American Legion, and the respective department of The American Legion as needed, by simply calling their insurance agent and requesting the addition of The American Legion, and the respective department of The American Legion as needed, to their liability insurance coverage(s) as an additional insured endorsement. The majority of insurance agencies do not charge for this endorsement; therefore, if presented with an additional charge one should inquire why such additional fee.

Enforcement of this Tradename business requirement is also covered in Resolution No. 35. The American Legion's national adjutant, or designee, has been given authority to independently investigate, confirm and determine that organizations using the Tradenames are also naming The American Legion, and respected department of The American Legion as needed, as additional insured on their respective liability insurance policies. Once a national adjutant's designee is determined and authorized, this designee's information will be made public.

Note: The following December Legion Link Article was written by Department Judge Advocate Clarence Hill.

NEW INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS, RESOLUTION 35

ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT A VIRTUAL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 14 -15 AND WHAT IT MEANS TO EVERY POST WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

The National Executive Committee (NEC), without consultation with any of the Posts in the organization which has become the procedural norm, has approved the following resolution which will affect every Post in The American Legion. Below are the resolved clauses of Resolution 35

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That because The American Legion owns, controls, protects and defends The American Legion's Tradenames, this resolution is necessary to dictate protective standards over the Tradenames; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, via insurance policies, protect itself, and its Tradenames, from liability and subsequently strongly urges all American Legion departments, department-chartered intermediate bodies and posts do the same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to the need to protect The American Legion's Tradenames from liability it shall be required forthwith that when any American Legion department, department-chartered intermediate body, post or organization use The American Legion's Name or Tradenames and an insurance policy is obtained, the group utilizing this insurance policy shall specifically in the insurance policy hold The American Legion harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion's national adjutant, or designee, has complete authority to independently investigate, confirm and report that any, and all, insurance policy(ies) purchased by an American Legion department, department-chartered intermediate body, post or organization shall specify that The American Legion is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies; and, be it finally

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What does this mean to a Post?

Let's define some terms, what is Hold Harmless? A legal **definition of hold harmless**: is an agreement between parties in which one assumes the potential liability for injury (Post) that may arise from a situation and thus relieves the other of liability (The American Legion and AL Department of Florida). Say someone falls in your parking lot, breaks a shoulder, or is overserved in your Post and leaves, getting in a serious accident. Lawsuits follow. Under a hold harmless the Post is solely responsible for the lawsuits both Department and National are protected from liability under the hold harmless. This "hold harmless" for The American Legion and The American Legion Department of Florida must be added to every insurance policy a Post holds in its name (General Liability, Liquor Liability, Property, Directors and Officers and Fidelity Bonds).

The next new term applies more to liability **insurance**, but an **additional insured** would have their names (The American Legion and AL Department of Florida) listed on all your insurance policies. Should a lawsuit or any other claim occur the Post is held liable, and the additional insured is protected, and should the additional insured incur costs they would be reimbursed by the insurance company. Usually **additional insured** is commonly used in conjunction with an indemnity agreement (like Resolution 35) between the named **insured** (the Post) and the party requesting **additional insured** status (The American Legion and AL Department of Florida). Every insurance policy held in a Posts name, must specifically reflect The American Legion and The American Legion Department of Florida as named additional insured.

The additions required under Resolution 35 are being implemented because the tradename The American Legion and the Logo of The American Legion are assets of the organization and require legal and financial protections through insurance coverage at all levels of the organization.

Please re-read the 4th Resolved clause as this will be the mechanism to assure compliance by Posts and Departments. I expect the Department Adjutant will be charged with monitoring compliance by every Post within the Department. Exactly how, has yet to be determined.



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
01/01/2021

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER [INSURANCE COMPANY] [LEGAL ADDRESS] [CITY STATE ZIP]	CONTACT NAME: [NAME]	FAX (A/C. N#):
	PHONE (A/C. N#, Ext):	E-MAIL ADDRESS: [EMAIL]
INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE		NAIC #
INSURED [POST LEGAL NAME] [CITY STATE ZIP]	INSURER A :	
	INSURER B :	
	INSURER C :	
	INSURER D :	
	INSURER E :	
	INSURER F :	

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC OTHER:	Y		XYZ000111222	1/1/21	1/1/22	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ X,XXX,XX DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ XX,XXX MED EXP (Any one person) \$ XX,XXX PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ XX,XXX GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ X,XX,XXX PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ X,XXX,XX \$ X
<input type="checkbox"/>	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> OWNED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	UMBRELLA LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION \$						EACH OCCURRENCE \$ AGGREGATE \$ \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) <input type="checkbox"/> Y/N If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below		N/A				PER STATUTE OTH-ER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)
The American Legion and American Legion Department of [STATE] are listed as additional insureds per written contract.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER	CANCELLATION
The American Legion dba American Legion National Headquarters 700 N. Pennsylvania St. PO Box 1055 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055	SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE [SIGNATURE]

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**102ND ANNUAL
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
JULY 1-4, 2021**



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"The American Legion"



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REGISTER TO ATTEND

Register to attend at
www.floridalegion.org/flcon

Book soon, room block will fill quickly!

MORE INFO AT
www.floridalegion.org



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