

THE LEGION LINK

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PUBLICATION



NOVEMBER 2021

VOLUME XXX ISSUE 4

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Submit Articles at

floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org

A Message from the Department Commander

Jerry Brandt, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



What a month, Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, the five State-run, visiting the 14th District, Past Department Commander's Roast for Diane Boland. And now, preparing for the Fall Conference, it is non-

stop.

We are now in a competition with four of our four Departments to the NORTH. This change from the District Membership Challenge, a race we will win, includes the 'Statewide' contest. Those Districts in the contest are:

- 1st District Florida taking on the lean, mean 1st District of Louisiana
- The mighty 5th District of Florida, against the strong challenge of the 4th District of Georgia
- One of our Champions, the 15th District of Florida, will be taking on the 33rd District of Alabama, led by their own Don Madden.

We are currently waiting to see who the Department of Mississippi will throw into the ring as their contestant. Commanders, please reach out to your counterpart and learn from them and assist them with the problems of leadership you will come across. And let's make it fun.

The Department is working on several items:

1. Constitution and By-Laws and Communications. As discussed in our Round Table Discussion on September 18th, we are serious about working on the Constitution and By-Laws. The first draft of the suggested changes has been mailed to the Department Executive Committee for the initial review. I am sure we will have a lively Executive Committee Meeting on November 3rd. But this is a step we must face and overcome. Please remember, we are comrades, before and afterward, so let us keep everything civil.
2. Communications, a round table discussion is planned for February 15th to keep everyone up to date on what is happening in Department, Areas, and Districts. As well as an update from the Constitution and By-Laws Committee as well as the Area's Commander's report.
3. We just completed the "Train the Trainers" class. This class gives the Districts and Areas additional options in training. Legion College and Florida Legion College graduates were trained to prepare and offer courses in their Districts and Areas. This allows the Districts and Areas to hold training on

Department Commander continued on page 2 >>





<< Department Commander continued from page 1 the topics and time they need, even at individual Posts. They are not waiting for Department to assist, which would take weeks if not longer. Thanks to Jim Ramos, who spearheaded the class, they are now available to the Districts.

October is here, and the Florida American Legion Riders will be traveling on a 5 State Ride, a fun ride. The Florida riders will share their stories of fundraising ideas concerning Vet Relief, Children and Youth programs, COTA, and for those who had fallen, to the other Departments, as well as making new friends on the trip. The states involved are Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida. The ride will be joined by the Department Officers of Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana, and hopefully Mississippi. Riders, sign up. It will be fun.

You may have already received or given out, to our Mentors, a new Pin. The Pin indicated that they are a "Florida Family Mentor." How do YOU get this Pin? 1. You must have someone, whom you have mentored, step up to indicate you are their Mentor. 2. You and the person who nominated you must be at a District meeting in which a Zone Commanders, Detachment Commander, Auxiliary Department President, or myself is in attendance. We will NOT give the Pinto the Mentor. The person who indicated you are their Mentor will provide you with the Pin, as a way to say thank you. Again, this is just at District Meetings. This is a way to say "Thank You" to those who help you become who you are.

I hope to see all of you on my travels. After all, we are brothers and sisters in War and Peace.

Much to Do!

Eunice Butts, 1st Vice Commander
1stvce@legionmail.org



Greetings comrades. Hopefully, this article will find you and your families doing well. The Department Commander and his training staff have completed all area training. We hope that the information was helpful and valuable. The comments from the critiques were beneficial to the team. We thank you for your comments and observation, which also helped us in a very positive way.

I attended The Gold Star Mothers Monument presentation on October 6, 2021, at The Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida. I had the opportunity to participate in the first-ever "Train the Trainer," Instructor course. I am delighted to see a well-needed course in The American Legion Department Of Florida. This course

can improve mentorship in our Posts, Districts, and Areas.

I was honored to be invited to attend The Special Olympics Florida "Champion Gala. I now have a better understanding of The Special Olympic Program. By the time you read this article, I would have visited some posts in the 14th District.

We have a hectic Month in November. We celebrate The Great American Teach-In, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, etc. Let's continue to pray and serve our homeless and less fortunate veterans, communities, and families.

Don't forget to continue to use The Buddy Check. Let's work together as a TEAM from Post membership to Florida Department Officers and Past Department and National Officers.

"We all make mistakes. It's what we do next that matters."

NOVEMBER 2021

Calendar table with dates and events: 1-30 Membership Retention Month, 1-30 Military Family Month, 1-30 Warrior Care Month, 1 All Saint's Day, 2 Election Day, 2 All Souls Day, 3 Membership 65% Goal, 3 Area Commander Visit: Post 158, 4 Area Commander Visit: Post 147, 5-7 Department Fall Conference, 6 Fall Raffle Drawing, 7 Daylight Savings Time Ends, 8 Department Headquarters Closed, 8-12 Department Commander Visit: District 17, 10 National Membership 65% Goal, 10 U.S. Marine Corps Birthday, 11 Veterans Day, 11 Department Headquarters Closed, 11 Veteran Owned Business' Anniversary, 12 Renewal Date, 13 Wreaths Across America Golf Tournament, 13-18 Children & Youth Cruise, 13 Post 157: ALR Fall Poker Run, 14 District 5: Meeting, 14 District 4: Meeting, 15 Legion Link Articles Due, 15-22 American Education Week, 19-21 Scouting Camporee, 20 Post 186: Adopt-A-Highway, 20 District 9: Ball, 21-27 National Family Week, 25 Thanksgiving, 25-26 Department Headquarters Closed, 25-31 Holiday Blood Donor Drive, 27 Area Commander Visitation: Post 104, 27 District 9: Meeting, 28 First Sunday of Advent, 28-6 Hanukkah, 30 #Giving Tuesday

Commander Jerry Brandt'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.

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Limited edition ornament from the Department of Florida

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Legion Training "A Way of Life"

Michael Raymond, 2nd Vice Commander
2ndvice@legionmail.org



After five straight weeks of nonstop training classes, you would think we'd be all burned out by now, but quite the opposite. With a great turnout at our Area training, new and very interesting information passed on to our people, I see a very positive outcome and lasting interest in all things Legion.

We have to continue for this training culture to take hold. Last weekend 14 of

our Department leaders attended a three-day "Train the Trainer" seminar. We have pledged to continue this training at the District level throughout the coming year. This is training that is critical throughout the Department, and everyone should make every effort to attend and disseminate this vital information. This training is essential to every Post to ensure continuity of proper procedure and protocol. Every Post member can benefit from this training. In the near future, we will be scheduling this training at all Districts in the Department. Please make an effort to get the word out to all your people so we all can benefit. For more information, please contact your District, Area, or Zone Commander. I had a great time

and learned a lot, and I'm sure you will too.

Currently, I, along with the Department Commander Jerry Brandt, Department Rider Chairman Jim Wineland, and approximately twenty-five Florida Riders, are on the five State Unity ride. I didn't think I would be back on the bike so soon after the Legacy ride, but here I am! We have a beautiful ride through rolling hills and valleys, and the weather couldn't be better. All the Posts we've visited have been extremely supportive, and I can be perfectly honest when I say the supply of pulled pork has not diminished due to Covid. We will also chip in and buy Tim Morris a new GPS. Till next month, stay safe and bring a friend!

Training

Chris Hamrick, 3rd Vice Commander
3rdvice@legionmail.org



The month was filled with training. Our Department Commander, Zone Commanders, and Membership Chairmen traveled the entire state to conduct training in each of our six Areas. For the most part, we had

excellent attendance. For those that could attend, I hope that you could take something positive from it to use. There was some excellent information passed on.

Looking at membership reports, I see a lot of shuffling for positions between the Districts. Big Shout out to Western Area Commander John Eden. The Western Area is running in 1st place in Membership at the time of this writing. Keep up the excellent work. But it comes down to the posts and their members.

That's where the "rubber meets the road," so to speak. Our strength is in our members. Our leadership is for our members. Please keep that in mind. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Fall Conference.

In closing, I would like to thank every one of you for what you do. I'm looking forward to getting back on the road and seeing you soon. Keep It Real.

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation

Dennis Boland, NEC
nec@legionmail.org



The American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation delivers needed aid for military and veterans parents who face unexpected financial hardships that threaten the stability of their homes. One-time Temporary Financial Assistance grants cover housing, utilities, food, and other basic needs for families with minor children at home.

The American Legion V&CF also trains the organization's army of accredited service officers who at any one time are continuously working more than 750,000 benefits claims for disabled veterans and their families, free of charge.

The American Legion V&CF was established in 1925 as the American Legion Endowment Fund. Since then, the donation-driven fund has helped millions of disabled veterans and military/veteran families facing unexpected, threatening challenges. The foundation is a separate tax-deductible non-profit 502©3

organization with a dedicated board of directors and a national steering committee. It was renamed The American Legion V&CF in 2019 to reflect better those it serves.

The American Legion works every day in Washington D.C., across the country, and worldwide on behalf of veterans, U.S. military personnel, young people, and patriotic communities. Through "individual obligation to community, state, and nation," The American Legion is committed to fulfilling the words of its official motto. "VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA"



GET YOUR FALL RAFFLE TICKETS ONLINE! DRAWING ON NOVEMBER 6, 2021.

floridalegion.org/enter





For God and Country

Barry Roberts, Chaplain

chaplain@legionmail.org



It is hard to believe it is already November 2021. Many things are going on as we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Let's continue to pray for our military and their

families serving and are separated over the holiday season. Let's continue to pray for all the veterans and their families struggling with physical and emotional pain and the loss of loved ones that remain in our hearts

but have gone to be with the Lord.

As part of our Challenge 22 efforts, I have contacted 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 forty-five 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 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. I encourage you to go to The American Legion Department of Florida Chaplains' Facebook page. Feel free to like and share. www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains

Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

Training...Training...Training

Philip Crouthamel, Historian

historian@legionmail.org



Greetings to all Historians. Sorry I haven't put an article out recently. Have to get used to deadlines. To start with, I am excited to state that the Department of Florida had two History

books placed nationally.

On October 6th, American Legion National Historian Robert Gilmore Jr. reported to the National Executive Committee the 2020-2021 American Legion History Contests results, conducted down the hall from the committee room in the Legion's national library.

I was at National Headquarters October 4-6th observing how National Judges score history books by category. Congratulations to One Year Post Narrative,

First Place: Frierson-Nichols Post 8, Winter Haven and One-Year Post Yearbook, Honorable Mention: Veterans Memorial Post 347, Lady Lake.

I will be conducting a Historian "How to" class on Friday, November 5th at 10:00 am at the Fall conference. The conference is at Renaissance Sea World, Orlando, November 5-7.

The Historian class will be on:

Friday, November 5th.
10:00am – 11:00am
Tarpon B

Learn how to put History Narratives and Yearbooks together and best practices to maintain your Post's history.

As you can see, the class will last only an hour. So, if you are close by, stop in and get some meaningful pointers on how to put together a history book. I am also inviting the Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders to send their historians to this class. I will have handouts,

and I will email a PowerPoint Presentation to attendees.

While I understand that many cannot make this class, I have a solution for YOU. Send an email to me at: historian@legionmail.org (Please put "history book" in the subject line.), and I will email back to you the Historian manual, PowerPoint Presentation, and the judging sheets used for scoring. I will be looking for one more volunteer to judge history books at the Department Convention. All you have to do is follow the judging sheets, and I will assist you.

As a side note, there are only two classes: Narrative and Yearbook, when a history book is put together. There is NO "Scrapbook" or "Open Book" class. You may set your history book in a scrapbook (12 x 15) or three a ring binder, but it will be judged as a Narrative or Yearbook.

That's all for now. Be safe and remember, "No Veteran Left Behind."

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Central Area News

Bruce Carl, Central Area Commander
centralarea@legionmail.org



We are into the 2nd quarter of the year already. Hard to believe it, but the year is just moving along, and the holidays are fast approaching. The snowbirds will be "flocking" back to us for the next few months soon. The Central Area Posts have been busy running events, including dinners, picnics, poker runs, and many other fundraising activities. It is great to see the three Districts participating in each others' events; this is what being a Legion family is all about!

By the time of this printing, the Central Area Ball planning will have begun. The date for the Ball will be March 19th and will be at Post 252. More information regarding tickets

will be forthcoming.

Congratulations to the 7th District for being in first place in the Department at this writing. All three Districts are working hard on membership, and I know those numbers will continue to rise!

I continue to be busy as your Central Area Commander. My Post visits throughout the Area will continue, of course, attending several planned events. There have been several events that I have attended recently, including the 15th District picnic, the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument unveiling and dedication at Bushnell National Cemetery, and the Fall meetings in Indianapolis. Several Legionnaires from across the state became the first graduates of the "train the trainer" class taught by PDC Jim Ramos. It was a great three days of camaraderie and learning. I plan on putting this information to use by holding a

few District training between now and the Convention in June. I would ask all three Districts in the Area to come up with a list of what training is most needed and that training will be provided.

Fall Conference is upon us, and I am looking forward to meeting many of you from around the state again. Even though we were able to have the Convention, Covid kept many of you from attending. Department is offering many great classes at the Conference, and Covid is finally getting better, so I hope many of you can attend.

Keep working membership and programs, and continue supporting our Veterans, Communities, and Children and Youth! As the holidays approach, we all know many will need our support!

Please get in touch with me if you need assistance with anything!

Use Training to Bolster Membership

Troy Horsley, Northern Area Commander
northernarea@legionmail.org



Comrades. Training is a very important part of becoming a great legionnaire to assist with matters in your Post and serving the community. I want to thank the Department commander as well as the vice commanders for providing training at Post 57 as well as Post 137. Commander Cabrera and Commander Austin did a great job of providing us a place for learning

and fellowship. The training was very well received and informative to all that attended. If you missed it, Fall Conference is another opportunity to attend specific classes that may pique your interest. You do not have to attend the whole conference. The schedule for classes is on our department website, and even just coming down for a day could help you be a better legionnaire. I will be attending and hope to see you there.

Membership is almost on track from where we were this time last year. One good way to get more in your Post is to work your DMS lists. Talk to them and let them know what your Post has to offer. Having an open house

at your Post could help break down barriers with members who have not renewed their membership. Talk to those who have not renewed in the past year and invite them to your Post. With Veterans Day coming up on the 11th, it is a good time to use the "Buddy Check" program. Check on your fellow Veteran and make sure they are doing well as it could be the one thing that they need to come out to your Post and get involved.

Until next month, I wish you a happy Veterans Day and bountiful Thanksgiving. For God and Country.

PRE-ORDER / PICKUP AT FALL CONFERENCE

This new Department of Florida jacket, features the Department logo embroidered on left chest. A lightweight top layer, this water-repellent jacket takes on unpredictable weather with athletic color blocking, superb functionality and exceptional breathability.

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Engage last Paid 2020 Members

Bruce Thurber, Eastern Membership
membership@legionmail.org



As this issue releases, we are at the Fall Conference. We still have limited information coming from myLegion.org; however, the main items we need are working. All Legionnaires must

register for myLegion, and we need to begin using it to its fullest. Currently, we are not meeting our goals running 48th in the Nation averaging 5% behind. Our next three goals are December 1, 75%, January 12, 80%, February 2, 85%. If we get over the fear of the new myLegion and process not less than weekly, we can eliminate this trend.

As of October 6, 2021, the Eastern Membership Team had six posts at 75%, and 40 had met the 55% goal. GREAT JOB.

During September, the Commanders Area Training provided many insights into the issues Posts are having and provided the opportunity to help some of you. Any district wanting to have a membership round table, please get with me. I would be glad to see if we can help get everyone fluent in myLegion.

One of National Commander Paul Dillard's priorities on membership is to engage our members. Whether they are current members, expired members, or potential members, we need to engage these individuals and show them the value of being a member of The American Legion. One of the ways that Commander Dillard has discussed in engaging members is to contact those 2020 members and offer them the ability to keep their continuous years on their membership. This offer is only for those members who were last paid in 2020 and did not renew for 2021 – they can continue their straight years if they pay for 2022. With COVID affecting many aspects of daily life over the last year and a half, this is an easy way to talk with those 2020 members and show them some goodwill.

Here is how it would work: Someone contacts a member whose last paid year was 2020 (only ones eligible for this offer), and they had five years continuous membership at the time. If they were to pay for 2022 – their straight years would now be six years. If they would also like to have 2021, the offer would be normal, and they would have to pay for the 2021 year. If they do not care or do not want to get back 2021, but pay for 2022, then the adjustment on the continuous years would have to be made at the Post by filling out a Member Data Form (MDF) to correct the years or the department can fix it within Personify.

When transmitting the dues, unless the member is paying for 2021 and 2022, do not select 2021 as part of the payment. If 2021 is selected, the payment will come out for that portion of the per capita, and it will be deducted as part of the eCheck payment processing.

* For this, only 2022 needs to be selected, and then the adjustment should be made on that member record in Personify or sent in the MDF to be processed at the National Headquarters. If the member wants both years to be added to their continuous years, then accept payment for both 2021 and 2022 membership years and then process both years through PGO.

Who will WIN the Big 12? With your help, it will be Florida, and your Post could profit from it? The Big Twelve Competition recognizes Departments that meet or exceed their pledged membership goal percentage by the March target date. The percentage does not include members gained through DMS.

The competition is broken down into six categories. The winner in each category will be reimbursed for computer equipment purchases of up to \$2,000. In comparison, the runners-up in each category will be reimbursed for computer equipment purchases of up to \$1,000.

There are times when membership in a local Post has declined, and interest in the programs is non-existent. A revitalization effort can help reenergize and breathe life back into a Post so the Post can become viable once again. One of these times is the Pandemic. Now that most Posts are getting back to normal. As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. To reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15 and Veterans Day. However, American Legion Posts are encouraged to perform this vital function whenever it makes sense in their communities. The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

**November is Membership Retention month
Renew-Reinstate-Recruit**

FLORIDA DECAL

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ATTENTION POSTS - EARN MONEY FOR YOUR POST



 **31 DAYS OF WINNERS!** 

ATTENTION ALL POSTS!

We've developed a unique opportunity, where **EVERYONE is a winner!** Take advantage of our **Holiday Raffle** now! Here are a few things that we'd like to highlight:

-  **Posts keep 40% of all ticket sales!** Department gets 40% and our supporters get a chance to win the other 20%. (See it's a win-win for all!)
-  To help Posts earn the much-needed funding, we're going to give Posts **EXCLUSIVITY in ticket sales** until November 26, 2021. After the deadline, the Raffle will be made available to the general public.
-  A minimum donation of \$5 is suggested for each ticket. Posts can purchase tickets from Department for \$3/each, and **Posts keep all proceeds derived from their sales.** (This includes any additional donations collected)
-  **The more tickets we sell, the greater the prize pot.** Remember, that has to be divided into 31 days for the 31 Winners in December. The earlier tickets are sold the more opportunities to win.

"This is a fantastic idea for Posts! I could see this becoming a real opportunity for our Posts."

~PNC Clarence Hill

Time is running out, go to <http://www.floridalegion.org/win> and get your tickets now! Be sure to take the **Fundraising Class on Friday 11/5 at 11:30AM** in Nomeus to learn more information. Or, stop by the Holiday Raffle table in the vendor area where you can pre-purchase tickets for your Post. Joe Casalino with V360 Fundraising will be there to answer any of your questions.

POSTS: Pre-purchase your tickets by the end of Fall Conference and you will be entered to win a CASH PRIZE sponsored by our fundraising consultant, V360 Fundraising.

This is a Department of Florida raffle. Therefore, the portion of funds that the Department receives will go towards the Legion's programs and services.



Western Membership Zone

Randy Holeyfield, Western Membership
membershipfal@legionmail.org



Western Membership Zone

I want to thank everyone for the warm reception I have seen throughout Florida, both at District meetings and the training, our

Department Commander, put into motion to help at every level across the state. Training is key, only second to mentorship. Through training, one learns, even when we attend the same class, one picks up additional tidbits from even the same facilitator. I found out long ago that I needed more information/training, seeking to be better at whatever direction my feet go, striving excellence through knowledge. This is what a Mentor passes on and training (usually by a Mentor), pouring out their attained experience and knowledge. Humbling myself to the point that; I needed more understanding and ability to perform the position or chair position I swore to do.

Fall Conference will have a Post Membership Training class on Friday from 13:00 to 14:30. Where topics like: MyLegion processing, Membership tactics, How to execute a proper Membership Plan, and best of all, achieving 100% membership will be covered. We are sure that there will be plenty of questions as well.

Where are we at? And, where are we going? Well, as of October 8th, 2021, many stand around the 50% range. But there is the "Quick Draw Award," which ends on October 31st, with the extension from mid-month. At this date, 16 posts had already qualified for the award, but some were close, and still, some time remained. Not to mention we see massive membership renewal sometimes in just a short period. I hope this is the case, but you need to access the DMS and transfer some, if not all, of the 12,695 members from Post 400, not to mention the 1,870 members in Post 208.

Western Zone Membership, as of October 8th, 2021:

- 1st District is at 54.15%, one post over 75%
- 2nd District at 53.14%, three posts over 75%
- 3rd District at 43.00%, one post over 75%
- 4th District at 56.19%, one post over 75%
- 7th District at 56.19%, one post over 75%
- 8th District at 51.19%, one post over 75%
- 13th District at 47.75%, no posts over 75%
- 15th District at 47.32%, no post at 75%
- 16th District at 50.48%, no post at 75%

Western Area is in 1st Place at 54.00%, last year at this time they were at 57.60% in 3rd Northern Area is in 4th Place at 51.18%, last year at this time they were at 57.57% in 4th Central Area is in 5th Place at 50.49%. Last year at this time, they were at 55.14% in 5th Southwestern Area is in 6th Place at 49.31%, last year this time they were at 53.03% in 6th

Department is at 51.33%

Why mention all of these statistics? Because they do not define where one ends up at the end of the year or a specific deadline. Last year, Race to the Top did not have a defined bearing on where these Districts or even posts ended up just because of lagging numbers.

I do and will continue to mention the excessive waste of our American Legion funds. You say, Who is doing such a thing? Well, did you know that it cost over \$500,000 for every batch of renewal notices to be sent? Yes, \$500,000. Six of these reminders are going out to remind members to renew and support our commitment to serving veterans and our nation. So why keep putting off your renewal when you have set yourself to renew eventually, though you're causing a waste of need funds in our treasury. Most choose not to be a PUFL (Paid Up For Life), and that's fine, but did you know that you could set up to be automatically renewed and not one renewal notice would be sent. Then during July (our Fiscal year start), your dues would be paid, and a report would be available for your post as a notification so your card would go out. But some do not like automatic payments of any kind, but you can sign up to have your renewal notice emailed, and you would never receive a paper renewal (by Snail-mail).

Excellent Events

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders
legionriders@legionmail.org



So far, September and October have been busy. Let us start with the POW/MIA remembrance ride. It was a remarkable success, congratulations to Denny Luke and his team on a job well done. They had about 150 bikes to ride over

the seven bridges in Jacksonville on their way to the monument. I hope next year we double the amount bikes that participate.

Now, the "Five State Ride" did not go without the U-Turns, closed road, GPS taking us to dead ends, closed bridges, and gravel roads. Besides those few issues, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Our Department Commander Jerry Brandt rode with us and seemed to have a good time. As we all know, anything can happen on a ride, and that is when you may get a new patch for your vest.

Well, history is still intact. Ask Jerry about his new patch the next time you see him

Our ALR Chief Road Captain, Joe Marcheggiani has completed East & West routes except for the last stop. They are tying this in with the Rally, which is Jeff Hawk's piece of the puzzle. Once we have this all nailed down, we will send the stops to Wyndham Hotels for a quote.

At the Summit, we have the hotel nailed
American Legion Riders continued on page 9 >>





<< American Legion Riders continued from page 8

down! We know that several of you did not care for the Orlando location, but keeping the cost down so more individuals can afford to go, Orlando ended up giving us the biggest bang for our dollar. The after-class dinner rides are back—more info at the conference. If you are interested in teaching a class, let Bev or I know ASAP.

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 2nd, followed by classes on 3rd, 4th & 5th. I am

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.

- **Fall Conference**
November 5-7, 2021
- **Summit**
Meet & Greet, February 2, 2022
Classes, February 3-5, 2022
Safety Class, February 6, 2022
- **Round Robin**
April 2022
- **Children & Youth Picnic**

April 9, 2022, Post 1

- **In-State**
Meet & Greet, April 24, 2022
Ridem, April 25 - 29, 2022
Rally, April 30, 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 an amazing group!

Happy November

Marie Conti, Americanism
americanism@legionmail.org



I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Veteran's Day and Happy 246th Birthday to My Brothers and Sisters of the United States Marine Corps!!

One of the essential aspects of Americanism is teaching the next generation about our freedoms and the actual cost of remaining free. It is also instilling pride in our country and respecting our flag.

On 24 Oct 1921, Sgt. Edward F. Younger, a combat-wounded veteran of World War I,

was tasked with selecting the body of an Unknown soldier for burial at Arlington. There were four identical caskets in the City Hall of Châlons-Sur-Marne, France. After circling the room twice, Sgt. Younger made his selection by placing a spray of white roses on the casket. This Unknown Soldier was transported from Le Harve, France, aboard Admiral Dewey's flagship, the USS OLYMPIA, which arrived at the Washington Navy Yard on 09 Nov 1921. The Unknown Soldier was then taken to the Capitol Rotunda, where he lay in state until the morning of 11 Nov 1921. On the morning of the Third Anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I, this Unknown soldier would reach his final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery.

Our responsibility is to teach the next

generation what it means to be an American, which can be accomplished through our programs. Everything from "America's Pastime" - Baseball / American Legion Baseball; to understanding the value of the U.S. Constitution in our Oratorical Program; is part of who we are as The American Legion.

Just a reminder, I am still looking for grommets for the Flying Flags to Get Down to Brass / The Flag Never Dies Grommet Program. This is a great way to remind people that the American flag serves as a symbol of this Great Land, even after retirement. Would you please bring your grommets to Fall Conference?

Show that you're Proud To Be An American and Fly Old Glory!!

JSSP Registration Underway

Loretta Young, JROTC/JSSP
jrotc@legionmail.org



So far, it has been a very slow start to the JSSP Postal Marksmanship Registration for the First Round for Florida. The online application was available on September 1st on the website:

legion.org The individual registering the team; usually, the coach, must set up an account. This will take them to the link for CMP to start the online process. The club "team" must be identified along with the Post Affiliation who is sponsoring the team. The team coach/adult leader must complete a Risk Management Course, and background check online before getting the Post Commander to sign off on the Affiliation Form. I had the opportunity to

visit Post 266, Sarasota, sponsors for our 2021 Precision Category State Winning Team and the National Precision Category Winner for Sarasota Military Academy, and meet with Cmdr. Sidney Pencook. This program is not very costly for the post as the targets are \$18 for each member for a four-person team plus the \$20 for the coach background paperwork. The team coach/

JROTC/JSSP continued on page 10 >>





<<JROTC/JSSP continued from page 9

adult leader can be reimbursed for these fees after registration is completed online. This program has a scholarship award for the National Winner of \$5,000 each category and \$1,000 Second Place. As of

this writing, we do not have any completed teams registered, and the deadline is December 15th. The Postal Targets are sent by CMP directly to the coach and are fired at the team's range location. The Official Match Program instructions are on the website

with all requirements and details. Getting an early start is a KEY to getting the team registered. Please reach out to me if anyone has any questions. Thanks to everyone who supports our youth programs and good luck to our competitors.

First Responders Veterans Preference

Daryl Bass, Law & Order
laworder@legionmail.org



I often tell young Veterans searching for a job in Law Enforcement or the Fire service my own story. When I was discharged from the U.S. Navy, I was advised by my Dad (WWII Army Veteran and member

of American Legion Post 35 St. Augustine) that I should attend school on the G.I. Bill. So I went to the St. Augustine Police Academy, and the Government paid for the school and paid me to go. When I graduated, I was hired by St. Johns County Sheriffs Office ahead of the other classmates because of my Veteran status. There were two other Veterans in the class that also got hired by other agencies. (Veterans Preference) Thirty-Three (33) Years later, I retired from the Osceola County Sheriffs Department.

So I saw this article from the News 4 Jacksonville, Florida (News4Jax) Titled: Florida launches nationwide law enforcement recruitment initiative with a new website.

Website: BeAFloridaHero.com offers a one-stop shop for law enforcement careers in the Sunshine State.

A new recruitment initiative launched by Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office encourages job seekers from across the country to come "Be a Florida Hero."

The initiative aims to draw recruits into law enforcement careers in Florida by launching a website that collects law enforcement career opportunities across Florida into a first-of-it-kind, on-stop shop.

According to the National Police Foundation, a majority of Police Departments nationwide experienced staffing shortages in 2020. Reports attribute the shortages to municipality budget cuts, low morale, among Officers and increasing retirement rates.

Moody said fewer Officers on patrol leads to a less safe populace and an environment ripe for crime.

"Florida is the most pro-law enforcement

state in the nation. We want Officers from areas that don't value their service to know that here in the Sunshine State, we back our blue," Moody said in a news release. "Florida enjoys a long tradition of supporting law enforcement. and we have leadership that understands and appreciate what it takes to protect and serve."

Governor Ron DeSantis touted incentives like passing a pro-police law and proposals, including a \$5000 signing bonus for new officers, an academy scholarship program, and out-of-state relocation financial support.

The Be A Florida Hero website includes an interactive map of Florida where users can click on different areas of the state and see exactly where open law enforcement jobs are located. The website also includes in-depth descriptions of each branch of law enforcement in Florida, with contact information for potential job seekers to get in touch with the right agency.

Brother and Sister Veterans, soon this type of website, I'm sure, will someday be available for Fire and Paramedic jobs, and you as a Veteran will get preference.

Florida American Legion College

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College
deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



Now is the time to apply (applications are online at floridalegion.org and go to NEWS & Events next go down to Florida Legion College **enter or click to Learn More)

Please fill it out and follow all instructions on each page and once you finish, send it in with your \$200.00 check. More information can be found on the application.

You have done Basic Training online, and you still want to learn more, so now you need to come to Florida American Legion College on Dec 16-19, 2021, and become a leader in your Post, District, and Department level! Let's Go forward, and you can make a positive difference in the Department of

Florida.

You want to be the best legionnaires, come to the Florida American Legion College (FALC) to learn more. By learning more, you can help your Post, District, and Department to move forward by being educated on the correct way of doing things the right way. You will get all the Books and resources you need to help your Post, District, and Department.

Florida Legion College continued on page 11 >>





<< Florida Legion College continued from page 10

More on Description: The Florida American Legion College is intended to teach the principles and techniques necessary for effective leadership at the following levels within the Department of Florida. The successful graduate will possess the education and skills required to provide programs and leadership at the district level and higher.

Some of the Topics:

- Leadership and mentoring
- History and Organization

- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- National Security
- Americanism
- Children & Youth
- Train the Trainer
- Communicate using face to face, and social media, and written
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Team building to set and accomplish goals

All course materials will be supplied to each student. You can use your laptop for assignments and other work for the group and class assignments as a student. We

recommend you bring your laptop or computer to the FALC.

Please complete the following:

- Be ready to work hard and work long hours
- Follow the dress code

If you have a question, please get in touch with Jim Ramos by Phone at 352-226-4370 or email at deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org

American Legion Scouters

Chris Ragusa, Scouting

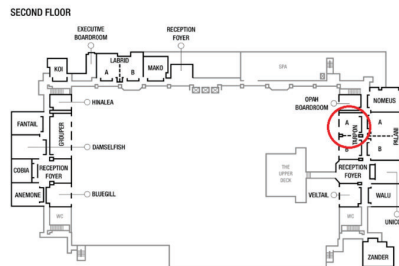
scouting@legionmail.org



District 1 Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts: To be a member of the Boy Scouts of America's Inaugural Class of female Eagle Scouts this year, the Scouts earned that rank by February 8, 2021.

Nearly 1,000 young women did a remarkable accomplishment given that membership in Scouts BSA - the 11-17-year-old program formerly known as Boy Scouts - wasn't open to females until February 2019. Four of those new Eagles hail from Scouts BSA troops that are chartered to Department of Florida District 1 American Legion posts, according to District 1 Scouting Chair Angie Walker. They include Tina Wehmeyer from Troop 1157 (Post 221 in Niceville), Helen Works from Troop 321G (Post 356 in Panama City), Ania Calbough from Troop 340G (Post 340 in Pensacola), and Sydney Walker, who is a dual member of both Troop 340G and Troop 451G (Post 78 in Milton). Of note, Ms. Works is currently a Cadet 3rd Class at the US Air Force Academy. In total, more than

140,000 young women have joined the Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA programs since they began allowing female Scouts in 2018 and 2019, respectively. Pictured are Eagle Scouts Tina, Ania, and Sydney, and C3C Works, and her mother.



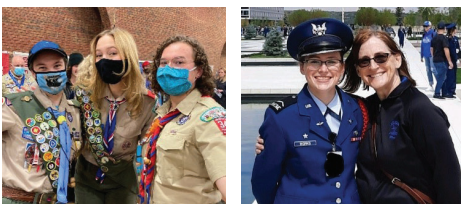
Learn about the Legion's oldest program and how your Post can get involved! 2021 Fall Conference Scouting Training: Held on Day One (Friday, November 5, 2021) of the Fall Conference, the Scouting Training will take place from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm in the Tarpon Suite A on the second floor of the Renaissance SeaWorld Orlando. Training will cover basic program history, tips for chartering a new BSA unit, best practices for Posts that already charter BSA units, updates on current Scouting issues (bankruptcy/lawsuit, the United Methodist Church), the role of the Post Scouting Chair, District Scouting Chair, Department Scouting Chair, and much more! We'll also review the guidance documents contained on the Resources link of the Department Scouting site.

American Legion and SAL-chartered

Cub Scout Camporee at MacDill AFB now scheduled for Friday, December 3 - Sunday, December 5, 2021:

Because I (inadvertently) planned this event over Veterans Day weekend, the various MacDill AFB missions that we want to visit will be minimally staffed and thus unable to support. So, we have shifted this event to the first weekend in December. At Lewis Lake Scout Camp on MacDill AFB in Tampa, FL, this campout has been reserved for an overnight Cub Scout Camporee specifically for American Legion Post, Auxiliary unit, and Sons of the American Legion Squadron-chartered Cub Scout packs. This primitive camping weekend will be jam-packed with tours of the Air Traffic Control Tower and Flight Simulator, the base's Flightline Fire and Rescue station, Maritime Coastal Patrol hanger and dock, an Armory weapons orientation, and a 6th Security Forces Squadron Military Dog Handling unit demo. At the cost of only \$15 per participant, the event will include a cookout on the bay in a marina beach pavilion, a catered BBQ dinner, and campfires and s'mores to finish off the night.

The 2021 MacDill AFB Cub Scout Camporee Guide is available in the Resources folder at the Department Scouting site.





Veterans Benefits for the Sportsman/women

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements

veteransbenefits@legionmail.org



Hunting and Fishing

The Military Gold Sportsman's License is available for a reduced fee of \$20 to any resident who is an active or retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Armed Forces Reserve,

or National Guard upon submission of a current military ID card. The license may also be obtained at Florida tax collectors' office with proof of residency and a current military identification card. For more information, visit myfwc.com/license/recreational/military-gold.

State hunting and fishing licenses and

permits shall be issued without fees for five years to any veteran who is a Florida resident, certified or determined to be 100% totally and permanently disabled by the VA or the U.S. Armed Forces, or who has been issued a valid disabled veteran ID card by FDVA. For more information, visit www.myfwc.com. (FS 379.353)



Supported by Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried and led by the Florida Forest Service, Operation Outdoor Freedom provides recreational and rehabilitative opportunities to wounded veterans on state

forests, agricultural lands, and private lands throughout Florida at no cost. The designated state and agricultural lands throughout Florida grant qualified veterans unique opportunities for recreation and rehabilitation. The Florida Forest Services provides hundreds of veterans with the Operation Outdoor Freedom experience. For more information, call (863)578-1894 or visit www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Veterans/Operation-Outdoor-Freedom



This information is from Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide 2021, Page 18

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Alan Cohen, VA&R

var@legionmail.org



As you read this, we're all preparing to attend the Department's Fall Conference. In connection with that, today, November 1st, is the cut-off day to register for what will be yet another

informative and helpful Post Service Officer class to be held November 5-6. This position at the Post goes far beyond just claims assistance, and your Service Officers are a priceless resource, so once again, I encourage all Posts to send someone to the class.

The VA hospitals and CBOC's continue to limit what volunteers can do; however, our VAVS volunteer personnel continue to show their dedication by helping in as many ways possible. In line with VA healthcare, I'd like to clarify a couple of things. Several years

ago, the VA instituted a "means test," Based upon a veteran's eligibility and income; they can be placed in one of eight Priority Groups. Each veteran's situation is different. However, I urge everyone to use VA Form 10-10EZ to register. Additionally and regarding travel reimbursement: travel pay may be paid to veterans who are rated at 30% or higher, those who are traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition, veterans who are receiving a VA pension, or those traveling for a Compensation and Pension exam. Yes, there is a deductible of \$6 per round trip; however, this can be waived under certain circumstances.

We've recently learned that due to many problems caused by the COVID pandemic, over 600,000 claims are waiting to be processed by the VA, 200,000 of which are considered "backlogged." In an attempt to remedy this, the VA is hiring and training 2,000 new employees. This will, of course, take some time, but it's a step in the right direction.

With October having been Agent Orange awareness month, we must remain mindful that it doesn't end there. Not only are fellow veterans still battling illnesses of many types, but many have already died due to Agent Orange-related conditions. There is now a bill in Congress to include those veterans who served in Guam, and they deserve that recognition and help.

Once again, I encourage every Post to reach out to women veterans locally not only for membership purposes but because their contributions can be of such great value. We owe it to them to let them know that they're part of the veteran family and community and that we honor their service to our country.

As I always do, I will close this article by wishing everyone good health. Stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you in Orlando!



Find us on:

facebook

facebook.com/floridalegion





// FALL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES //

This month is The American Legion, Department of Florida Fall Conference. The event will be held at the Renaissance at Sea World in Orlando, FL from November 5-7, 2021. PROJECT: VetRelief will have many opportunities for you to learn how to get involved, hear about the program's successes, or introduce yourself to our new Case Worker, Lenora!

There will be two introductory Advocate Training classes this year; one of which is an exciting opportunity exclusively for Auxiliary members. During these classes, 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, you should have received an email invitation to our special cocktail party that will be hosted by our Board President's company, RL James, Inc. Bob James has also extended an invitation to his fellow Board Members and our Suicide Prevention Strategic Partners, so we hope that you will take advantage of this unique experience!

Be sure to check all Legion Family general session agendas, as PROJECT: VetRelief has been given the opportunity to provide a program report to all Legion Family entities! We are very happy about this, as it's the first chance we will be able to present to the Auxiliary.

As always, we will have our spot in the vendor area for you to stop by to say hello or pick up any marketing materials. Since we are the charity of choice for both Jerry and Wanda Brandt, this would be a great time to share any upcoming events in support of their efforts or make a contribution to their fundraising project! - *We hope to see you all there!*

APPROACHING 1,000 VETERANS SERVED!

We are very excited to share with you that PROJECT: VetRelief is trending to reach a huge benchmark this month - *assisting 1,000 veterans with financial support!*

Each year, our program has been able to help more and more service members and their families. However, we are only able to continue this much needed support through the donations we receive from the Legion Family, corporations, and individuals.

THANK YOU to our sponsors, volunteer advocates and all those who believe in our mission, and continue to dedicate their time, energy, and support to our program! It takes us all working together to meet the demand of our veteran community. It's because of you that we can be just that!

ADVOCATE INTEREST FORM

Calling all trained VetRelief Advocates - An email has gone out to our entire VetRelief Advocate database to ask if you are interested in continuing your volunteer role, or to be removed from our contact list. This is important because, **after Fall Conference, the Advocate interview will become a part of our financial assistance process again.** After January 1st, this will be mandatory. For those who are attending Fall Conference, we have a special opportunity for you to join us for a cocktail party to learn more. To ensure we have enough food and drinks, please RSVP to your invitation. If you feel that you should have received an invitation and didn't, please contact Jennifer Cooper, jcooper@floridalegion.org.

SUPPORT CASES

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

*Reflect PVR Cases ONLY



32 FAMILIES ASSISTED



\$32,268.31
AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED



Busy Month

Deb Wheeler, Women Veterans

womenveterans@legionmail.org



It has been a hectic month. I want to thank Commander Brandt for allowing me to speak at the area meetings. We covered the whole northern part of the state, which I have not been able to visit before. The message was well-received, and hopefully, they will carry that back to their Districts and Posts!

We also had our first Virtual zoom Women

Veteran meeting with Veterans counseling Veterans represented by Tony Williams, who did an excellent job as the commentator and setting this dream in motion. A big thank you to Post 69 in Avon Park for their hospitality with this event and, most of all, to Larry Roberts, Va&R Chair, and Doug D for their support and great dedication. The panelists were very awesome. Big thanks to NEC Dennis Boland and PDC Diane Boland for their presence and their presentations. An idea realized to help our Women Veterans awareness. How could I almost leave out Michael Gambler Raymond and his better half Debbie, Air Force Retired.

We learned some interesting information about Florida's female veterans' numbers. According to FDVA, the current number is 165,000, which has increased 25,000 in two years. More importantly, our Female Veterans number within the American Legion Department of Florida is 5,220; National could not provide their numbers.

I was floored at the small number and wondered what we were doing wrong and where are they? Just asking?

Lots of work ahead, and hoping to see most of you at the Fall Conference and a District Meeting near you.

Detachment Commander Greetings

Brian Carter, Detachment Commander

detcommander@legionmail.org



Fall is now upon us, and the weather will soon be cooling off (we hope). This means outside events. This is the time of year where we start to have our picnics and outdoor events more. Poker runs with the riders, dunk tanks, and BBQs. Fundraising for all of our charities.

I am looking forward to hearing all the wonderful things this Detachment has to offer. I am ready to travel, meet new friends, and catch up with old ones, so email me and let me know. Please submit all of your events to this newsletter and the Detachment calendar so everyone can see the great work you are doing in your communities.

I want to concentrate on Wreaths Across America for the next couple of months as that date is fast approaching. December 18th is Wreaths Across America day, and you must submit your monies no later than November 29th to sponsor wreaths. Check out www.wreathscrossamerica.org to find your local cemetery and its coordinator for

details on where to give your donations to keep it local. Go to the web page, click the menu button, search locations/groups, click participating groups, and type in your zip code. Zoom in on the map, and this will bring up all of your area cemeteries participating in the program.

September has been fun. I was able to attend a weekend event in Lehigh Acres over the Labor Day weekend. My wife and I were treated to a melt-in-your-mouth Prime rib dinner Friday night. I was asked to judge the unit 323 Rib Cook-Off, and I don't think anyone would say no to that. All of the contestants were fun to be with, and the ribs were to die for. I can't tell you the winning recipes (Top Secret) but let's say the other judges and I were happy. Then Sunday, the Squadron had a game after game going on, plus a Clam Bake and Lobster raffle as well as a horseshoe tournament. One small rain shower slowed down outdoor activities for a few minutes, but then it was back to fun in the sun once it ended. All their hard work was to benefit Fisher House. Thank you to Post Commander Tom Burns and his wife and all of the 323 family for being so hospitable, and we look forward to returning soon.

I attended a 9/11 ceremony at my Post in Holly Hill (120). I took part with the honor guard to fire a salute and remember the

nearly 3000 lives lost that day. May we never forget!

I attended a ride for Wreaths Across America at Debarry, Post 259. The turnout was great, and I had a great time talking to all the participants. I then went to Post 347, where I attended past Vice commander East Richard Duncan's celebration of life. Friends and family came to pay respects and tell some very heartwarming and funny stories about this wonderful man.

At the ceremony, they retired the golden gavel on a plaque that Richard won his last year as a Vice Commander to which they graciously gave to his wife, Susan. In my eyes, his legacy will live forever in this Detachment. I attended the 1st year Remembering Veterans Fall Festival event to benefit veterans, gold star mothers, and their communities.

Let's talk about membership for just a minute. National says they are working on it, but that answer is not good enough. The leaders of this Organization have heard the voices of your Detachment and others. On a southern regional call a few weeks back, many were very upset and have the same questions: What is taking so long? We hope

Detachment Commander continued on page 15 >>





<< Detachment Commander continued from page 14

to have real answers at the NEC meeting in October.

However, with all that said, be sure your Squadron Adjutant has submitted your SDR (Squadron Data report) and your officer report. If these are not submitted to Detachment and National, you cannot sign up for MyLegion.org. If you have already done so, then go to (www.legion.org) and register today. The future is the electronic world, and it's here to stay, so we need to get on board.

District Commanders, I need you to start using the web page created on our detachment website (www.floridasons.org)

for each District to announce your meetings and any other information about your Districts. This is vital so your Detachment officers can attend. We want to know what is happening in your Districts. This also gives your Squadrons another place to find information.

For District Meetings, you do not have to hold your meeting simultaneously as the Legion does. Not all Posts are big enough for the whole family. District Commanders, try to attend your meeting to update and report what the Sons are doing.

As we near Fall Conference, now is the time for Officers of the Detachment to start thinking of the future. Mentor your

replacement and give them the tools and information they need to continue your legacy and the work you have done. Going in blind will not get the job done. We need to let them know what is expected of them and guide them to a better tomorrow.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who continue to post articles here in The Source. Keep up the excellent work. If we work as a team to score for veterans by tackling their needs, we will all come out winners on the field. Remember our Fallen, Honor those who serve. Teach our youth the value of freedom.

God bless our Veterans!

Highlights

William D. Kelly Jr, Detachment NEC
detnec@legionmail.org



1. SAL Resolution # 6 Passage of Century Committee (CENTCOM)
2. TAL National Headquarters Information Technology Division, in charge of MyLegion.org SAL membership, will be holding Conference Calls on MyLegion.org SAL Membership section for Detachment Adjutant's to resolve the SAL Reporting Problems
3. SAL Donation to \$500,000. Veterans & Children Foundation
4. SAL Donation of \$130,000.to The American Legion Baseball

Florida's SAL was represented at the Fall National Executive Committee Meetings at the Sheraton Downtown in Indianapolis In. by Detachment Commander Brian Carter, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Tom Klinger, and National Executive Committeeman William D (Bill) Kelly. National Assistant and Detachment Adjutant Ed Sheubrooks & PNC Jim Roberts had work commitments and could not attend.

Commander Carter was there to attend

the SAL National Member Training and Development Committee Detachment Commander's Class, for which he received the Certificate of completion. ANEC Klinger, Commander Carter, and I attended the Committee & Commission Meetings of Membership, Children & Youth, Americanism, and Internal Affairs on Friday Night.

Saturday began early at 0830 for the NEC Meetings. After the opening by National Commander Fox, the SAL National Liaison, Ken George, and National Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel addressed the NEC. Finishing up the early business, a recess was called, and the five regions met with their National Vice Commanders for their 15-minute



caucus. We continued with our Commission and Committee Meetings during recess. We were a part of a new arrangement of our agenda where the Commission and Committees began their reports to the NEC on Saturday. This was being done to allow the NEC time to participate in a field trip. At 12.30 PM the SAL loaded buses and drove off to a cemetery in Zion, Indiana. The NEC could participate in Commander's Fox project "Flying Flags for Heroes" There were over 150 participates. They planted American Flags on Veterans Graves, and the field trip appeared to be a success.

Commander Fox would like every Detachment to form a committee or have a contact for the project.

After the field trip, Commander Fox asked all of the Vice Commanders to meet with all their Regional NECs at 4:30 on the 21st floor. We were all given 5 of the Commander's Challenge Coins to sell for \$20.00 apiece for his project.

Saturday evening was our Southern Regional Dinner at TAL Post 103 in Moorstown, In. Squadron 103 provided a Spaghetti Dinner with salad and garlic bread for the comradery of our Detachments in our region.

Detachment NEC continued on page 16 >>





<< Detachment NEC continued from page 15

Saturday night, for the 1st time before we went to sleep, we received emails delivered electronically to all the NECs & ANECs of all the resolutions we would be debating the next day. This may not sound like a big deal, but it was ten years in the making. We reconvened at 08.15 on Sunday with more of the Commission and Committee Reports before TAL National Commander Paul Dillard and Child Welfare Foundation President Dennis Boland in his FL. Squadron 323 cover addressed the body. Then the New TAL Marketing Director Dean Kessel introduced the NEC to the new marketing direction and presented the new The American Legion Marketing Logo and strategic plan for the future.

A new committee created at the 49th National Convention is the 50th Convention Committee. They want every SAL member to consider entering a design for the 50th-anniversary convention challenge coin as soon as possible. The last Committee to report, and its first time reporting, was the Century Committee (CENTCOM) by Chairmen Joe P. National Judge Advocate. This Committee was created to replace three former committees by incorporating them into one Committee's duties.

We concluded our reports and moved to Old Business. After almost two days of meetings with not one mention of the systemic membership reporting problem, Florida's

NEC approached the mic and reminded Commander Fox that on Page 17, Line 24 of the Post Convention NEC, he was asked if we could dedicate this year to solving the MyLegion.org SAL membership reporting problem. Commander Fox said yes and stated that Headquarters I.T. is setting up a process with every Detachment Adjutant. Through the MyLegion.org login live, it will be recorded for later review as expanded on by Liaison Ken George. An email is being sent to every Detachment Adjutant informing them of this process.

The NEC concluded with the announcements for Commander Fox's Home Homecoming in California.

Here is a listing of all SAL Fall 2021 NEC Resolutions

- NEC Fall 2021 # 1 Recognizing Recipients of the Marvin P Nay Outstanding V.E.E. Contributor of the Year Award. Passed
- NEC Fall 2021 # 2 & #3 National Commander's Recommendation Committee and National Leadership Selection Committee IA Returned to OK. Reason TAL IA Memo
- NEC Fall 2021 # 4 Creation of the Squadron Commander of the Year Passed
- NEC Fall 2021 #5 Funding for the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee Passed
- NEC Fall 2021 # 6 Creation of a Standing Committee and Funding for Century Committee (CENTCOM) PASSED by vote 29-15 Florida Voted Yes.
- This Resolution made CENTCOM a Standing Committee for five years and beyond, dissolved three standing committees, and funded CENTCOM.
- The FL NEC was the only NEC to go on record and state that this Resolution contained things his Detachment didn't like and that the process with the TAL/SAL could have been handled better. It was assured in IA and Resolutions meetings that this Committee CENTCOM would be adapted and help the SAL move into the future. The Bottom line, the TAL IA memo of September 16th had already rendered this Resolution mute. All we were doing was passing a resolution mirroring the TAL I.A. Memo of September 16th, 2021.
- NEC Fall 2021 #7 Donation to Veterans & Children Foundation of \$500,000. From the Reserve Fund Passed
- NEC Fall 2021 # 8 Donation TAL Baseball \$130,000. From the Reserved Fund Passed
- NEC Fall 2021 # 9 Amend the make-up of the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee. Passed

Afghanistan Veterans welcomed Home by Florida Legion Post, Community

The American Legion ~ American Legion Post 149 of Newberry, FL was featured in a National article on September 28, 2021:

A lot of effort went into the planning and carrying out of the Newberry, Fla., American Legion Post 149 "Welcome Home Afghanistan Veterans" event on Sept. 25.

But to event coordinator and Post 149 Legionnaire Bob Watson, it was worth every second of effort.

Watson estimates around 300 veterans and their families attended the event, which kicked off with a parade and was followed by a ceremony and other activities. Originally planned to take place at Post 149, the number of vendors wanting to participate forced organizers to change the venue to the 7,000-square-foot Clark Plantation.

Seeing the results of the hard work "felt real good," Watson said. "But it was all for the vets. It's worth it. It's well worth the effort we all put in."

The 15-minute parade included American Legion Riders and other veteran motorcycle groups, Buchholz High School Junior AFROTC, military and first-responder vehicles, vintage automobiles and two new M1152A1 Humvee cargo and troop carrier vehicles.

Following the parade, a ceremony took place at Clark Plantation that included remarks from local and state politicians.

Post 149 Article continued on page 17 >>





<<Post 149 Article continued from page 16

During the ceremony, Newberry Mayor Jordan Marlowe said, "Today is not about why we went to Afghanistan, today is not about how long we were there, and today is not about how we left. Today is about saying thank you to the men and women who answered the call of their country."

An expo also took place into the evening that included information booths on veteran benefits, counseling, employment and housing. Other activities included a car show, a silent auction and raffle, a mobile

blood donation center, live music, food vendors, and a bounce house, face painting and balloon artist for children.

"When I came home from Vietnam, we didn't get much help," Watson said. "So I wanted something when they came home they could go to, at one location where you have the resources they'd need to be able to help them out."

Others shared similar messages, something Watson wanted from each speaker. "They were told no politics, and they abided by the rules," said Watson.

Watson was able to speak to a few of the Afghanistan veterans who attended the event, saying they "were very pleased and happy." Post 149 Adjutant Vickie Van Buren said that's what the event was about.

"Back in the '60s and early '70s, when our (military) came back from Vietnam, they weren't greeted with very much respect," she said. "This, today, is to honor those individuals coming back from Afghanistan to make sure that they don't experience the same thing that our Vietnam vets experienced when they came home."

Bringing Solace to the "Lost Souls"; Challenge 22 in the Panhandle

Doreen Prasad ~ "Before you go to bed tonight, 22 veterans will have committed suicide."

October 2, 2021, proved to be a memorable and historic day for the American Legion Post 382 in Navarre, Florida. Not only did this day commemorate their largest fundraiser since inception, but it also bared witness to the hard work and dedication of its members and the community infused to bring to light an issue affecting so many veterans nationally. This historic day marked the Post's First Annual Challenge 22 Event.

A Challenge 22 event is hosted by the American Legion Post with support from the local community and veterans to raise awareness, funds and produce increased resources targeted to curb veteran suicide-related from unseen injuries during their service while supporting and defending the constitution of the United States and promoting Americanism.

All proceeds from a Challenge 22 event go directly to the primary benefactor, the Department of Florida Project VetRelief (PVR)/ Suicide Prevention Initiative (SPI). The SPI subcommittee then makes recommendations to the PVR Board of Directors regarding where and how much of those funds should be directed.

PROJECT: VetRelief has established Strategic Partnerships with existing veterans service organizations who are already focused on mental health. Funding either sponsors veterans through these vetted programs or provides them the opportunity to expand their services to save more veterans' lives.

American Legion Post 382 raised a total of \$37,030. The chapter hosted 17 vendors, solicited in-kind service donations of \$3,070.25, silent auctions and raffle tickets worth \$5,843, and acquired individual and company pledges from 50 organizations summing \$37,030. Additionally, the project

team was supported by approximately 60 volunteers from the 7th Special Forces Group, Navarre High School Junior ROTC, members from the 1 Special Operations Wing, and 24 Special Operations Special Tactics Training Squadron enabling event success. The combination of the local youth, post members, active-duty servicemen and women, local businesses, veterans service organizations, and community members proved to be a masterpiece that brought awareness to the cause and enlightened the community of some veterans' detrimental future has absent the much-needed resources.

Finally, the intangible outcome worth mentioning was the immediate impact from the stories shared, the relationships built, and a community banding together in a manner never done before for a crisis so near and dear to all Legionnaires promoting Americanism and preserving its values.





My Brother's Keeper

N'Jhari Jackson, 2019 American Legion National Eagle Scout of the Year Runner-Up

My brother's keeper holds true post military service. "If I can help a fellow brother adjust after serving, then I am my brother's keeper—that's what it's all about," says Ezekiel Everett, Jr. disabled army veteran.

Everett is a 100% disabled Army veteran who in addition, to his physical disability has chronic health issues that render him disabled. He did tours in Malaysia, Germany and Viet Nam.

I asked Everett about his life post military service. "At first, it was mental torture every day and night. I asked myself if I would ever be employable," says Everett.

Did other veterans show you the ropes after leaving the military? Other veterans did their best to help, "but no one really had definite roads to what I needed—just kind of try this or that kind of advice," says Everett.

"I had to face that I was a washed-up serviceman with no direction on how I was going to survive outside of the military," says Everett.

His reflection and concerns about his life—prognosis on making it as a civilian were stirring. The fear of uncertainty prompted Everett to look up information contained in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act.

He says, "Most newly separated vets don't even know where to begin to look for help and fall into deep depression."

"It is important for veterans to help each other like members of fraternities and sororities do for each other—share information and uplift one another," says Everett.

Everett sustained disabling injuries during his tours of duty. He lived in Washington, D.C. until 1990. He relocated to Jacksonville, Florida, after his military career. He was able to find work with the U.S. Census and U.S.

Postal Service after some searching.

In speaking with a VA nurse on veteran's post service, Jennifer Zubrick, explained that every military member must process through Transition Assistance Program six months prior to leaving service.

TAP explains how to write a resume utilizing skills learned in the military, interview practice, job hunt assistance, benefits such as the GI Bill and applying for VA benefits according Zubrick.

"During this period, it also helps to talk to someone from Disabled American Veterans for advice and assistance on how to file for disabilities incurred while on active duty," says Zubrick.

Zubrick also says, "She's noticed an emergence of assistance programs for veterans that are missing limbs, experience PTSD, or have other traumatic issues." One such program is Equine Therapy for Military Veterans utilizes horses for therapy of some of the above veteran conditions," says Zubrick.

Everett moved around a bit in search of work including Gainesville and Jacksonville before dropping anchor in Tampa in 2010. He suffered a major heart attack and stroke in Feb. 2012. Everett spent 3-4 years recovering at James A. Haley VA Hospital Haley's Cove Nursing Facility in Tampa.

Everett laments that the VA program, Vocational Rehabilitation helped put things in perspective—helped him know "he still had useful skills, and that he was still employable."

According to the VA national website, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E), sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program, provides services to eligible servicemembers and veterans with service-connected disabilities to help them prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment or achieve independence in daily living.

Voc Rehab is an Entitlement Program which a vocational rehabilitation counselor works with the veteran to determine if an employment handicap exists.

When asked if he has ever felt discriminated against because of his disability Everett responded—"Sadly, yes."

"Despite my time with Voc Rehab," employment did not come easy," says Everett. He had an employer tell him, "Disabled veterans get enough money from Uncle Sam, and that I should just get my check— not take a job from someone who does not have a government slush fund," said Everett.

James Ferguson, DAV Hospital Coordinator at the Tampa VA hospital helps veterans apply for benefits including disability. He makes sure veterans are aware of the various programs available to returning veterans. There are a lot of returning veterans who don't know the benefits available to them and therefore fail to take advantage of them— leaving a feeling of "helplessness and sometimes anger," says Ferguson.

He explains although people with disabilities are forced to self-identify as being disabled, some employers can go too far and intrude into a disabled person's medical history.

"This can keep some people with disabilities especially veterans from applying for work," says Ferguson.

Everett elaborated that there are very strong attitudes against veterans returning to the workforce for that very reason. According to Everett, many people feel veterans especially disable veterans take jobs away from non-vets.

Some organizations do adhere to veteran's priority law (Veterans Preference Act) where applicable. Federal agencies can participate in "special hiring practices" where they give preference to persons with disability

"My Brother's Keeper" continued on page 19 >>





<< "My Brother's Keeper" continued from page 18

including veterans and disabled veterans without being accused so discrimination. The above-mentioned practices appear to what Everett spoke of when he talked about people being upset about veteran hiring practices.

Everett credited knowledge he learned through Voc Rehab along with other legislation described in the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990). The USERRA of the ADA, protects veterans from employment discrimination. Title I of the ADA prohibits private and state and local government employers with 15 or more employees from discriminating against individuals based on disability. Retired professor Primus Tillman a retired disabled U.S. Navy veteran often felt overwhelmed maneuvering as a civilian. Unlike many veterans, he made it a priority to research available benefits and "how to be successful in obtaining those benefits," says Tillman.

Tillman says, "When I was not working on obtaining benefits, I engaged in hobbies including digital design, photography and art classes."

Like Everett, Tillman stresses participating in Voc Rehab and other programs both recreational and academic can make a big difference in adjusting to civilian life.

Tillman like Everett stressed the importance of "looking out for fellow veterans" and helping them "find their way."

Everett believes Title I of the ADA and USERRA are much needed and requires continual "tweaking" but what the legislation has been able to do thus far, for people with disabilities has been phenomenal compared to life prior to ADA laws.

Everett mentions that disabled veterans "need more advocates to help explain disability and veteran's rights" especially those who don't participate or qualify for Voc Rehab. He thinks the VA overloads veterans

with mailers and pamphlets about different disability rights.

"The overload can be a trigger for those who suffer from PTSD and other mental health issues," says Everett.

Everett describes being overwhelmed with all the mail with no one to explain things in "simple terms except the few things he picked up at appointments or sipping coffee with another disabled veteran in the VA canteen," said Everett.

Once made aware and they begin benefitting from programs designed to help better their lives after returning home—veterans breathe "a sigh of relief," says Ferguson.

Everett explains after going through vocational rehab, but prior to his heart attack and stroke, he soaked up as much information as he could and started regurgitating what he learned to other disabled veterans.

He realized that he had garnered a "following and trust among veterans seeking to have information explained—in the simplest of terms," said Everett.

One of the highlights of living at the nursing facility for him was hosting Bingo every night at 6pm and Game Day once a week. Game Day is where I encountered Everett while volunteering. His biggest goal—to walk again. He also aspires to one day write a book.

When asked where should veterans turn when trying to figure their next move? Everett said, "organizations like the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars are tight knit groups and you can always find someone to steer you in the right direction." American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars understand—"my brother's keeper."

Everett has since moved out of the VA Nursing Facility and purchased a home along with having a van outfitted with a lift and adaptive driving capabilities. He is a coach

for the VA competitive adaptive sports teams including balloon volleyball and ping pong.

Monique Masterpasqual, who worked in a VA hospital spinal cord injury unit after completing nursing school says, "on top of dealing with lifelong physical and mental injuries, not knowing the ins and outs of veteran benefits "can be overwhelming for veterans."

I am thankful knowing the VA does have a DAV hospital coordinator who rounds on the spinal cord unit to help wounded veterans apply for benefits which relieves family members from trying to figure it out, says Masterpasqual.

Everett feels good being able to be active by helping other disabled veterans train and enjoy recreation despite being dependent on a wheelchair. He travels to the Gainesville area to help other veterans form wheelchair games teams.

"Having outlets such as VA sponsored wheelchair games and other adaptive sports, relieves a lot of stress and make veterans feel not forgotten," says Masterpasqual.

Coaching other veterans on their entry into civilian life helps Everett stay connected to other disabled and or retired veterans giving him ample time to answer questions, help complete forms, and just "support his fellow brethren as he put it."

Because according to Everett, "I am my brother's keeper."

Sources

Ezekiel Everett, Jr., retired Army
904.704.7120

James L. Ferguson, Hospital Service Coordinator
James A. Haley VA Hospital
James.ferguson7@va.gov
813.310.4925 (w)
813.567.9399 (m)

Monique Masterpasqual, RN
Monique1012@gmail.com
Malcom Randall VA Medical Center

Primus Tillman, retired Navy
423.773.2200
tillmanprimus@gmail.com





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

POST EVERLASTING



Luther "Jay" L. Allen Jr

With deep regret, we report the passing of Past Central Area Commander Luther "Jay" L. Allen, Jr. of Apollo Beach, Florida, who passed away on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at the age of 72. He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Allen; 2 sons: Owen and Jayson; and three daughters: Raquel, Stephanie and Victoria. There are no details regarding services at this time, but any new information will be communicated to you through email as well as posted on the website.

Jay was a U.S. Army and U.S. Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War Era. He was a member of Ruskin Post 389 with 13 continuous years of membership. Jay served as Post Commander (2012-16 & 2018-21), 15th District Vice Commander (2015-16), 15th District Commander (2016-17), and Central Area Commander (2017-19).

If you would like to send your condolences, you may do so through his wife, Rebecca Allen, at 5340 Clover Mist Dr., Apollo Beach, FL 33572-3421.



Jack F. Stanley

With deep regret, we report the passing of Past Department National Cemetery Chairman Jack F. Stanley of Daytona Beach, Florida, who passed away on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife, Eileen.

Jack was a U.S. Navy Korean War Era Veteran. He was a member of Holly Hill Post 120 with 38 continuous years of membership. Jack served as Department National Cemetery Chairman for 7 years (2013-17 & 2018-21).

If you would like to send your condolences, you may do so through his wife, Eileen Stanley, at 276 Gala Cir., Daytona Beach, FL 32124-2012.





October 25, 2021 Membership Target Report (55%)		
7	Burl Thomas	60.05%
4	John Bennett	58.74%
6	Joe Marcheggiani	58.51%
14	Thomas Frank	58.34%
9	George Bograkos	58.30%
2	Steve Mears	57.10%
1	Sonny Decker	56.77%
17	Jim Bowers	55.57%
8	Skip Felicita	54.87%
16	Robert Matheson	54.16%
12	Dennis Mallon	53.78%
5	Lena Heredia-Perez	52.78%
13	Harold Boyer	51.82%
15	Stephen Tyler	49.64%
11	Harry Malecki	48.47%
3	Stuart Scott	46.57%
Western	John Edens	56.82%
Eastern	Daryl Bass	56.34%
Northern	Troy Horsley	54.11%
Southern	Johnny Castro	53.92%
Central	Bruce Carl	53.69%
Southwestern	Jessica Moore	53.21%
Post 400		53.08%
Post 208		53.14%



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

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




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



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




Insurance Coverage

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



No Cost Protection

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



Cancer Care Insurance Plan

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

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

Next Membership Goal:
November 3, 2021

65%

www.thelit.com



DEPARTMENT
OF FLORIDA

**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
SOUTHERN AREA BALL!!**
DATE: SATURDAY JANUARY 29, 2022

Where: American Legion Post 142

Please join us in celebrating the American
Legion Department of Florida's Southern Area.



4 Chaplains, Sunday, January 30th 1pm

AMERICAN LEGION POST 222

4250 NE 5th Ave Oakland Park, FL

Featuring Sounds by
(Don't Stop the Music)

Program ad forms: \$120
for inside front & back
cover and back cover. Full
pg. \$100 half pg. \$50.
Contact: Rob McCarten at
njirish11@gmail.com

Cocktail hour 5pm
with Hors d'oeuvres

Dinner served at
6pm

Chicken Marsala or
Salmon entrée options

Admission Ticket \$30
Zelle payment option @
Guamwarrior60@outlook.com

STERLING MCCLELLAN

American Legion Post 142

171 SW 2nd St
Pompano Beach, FL 33060
954-942-2448

Contact : Rob McCarten
njirish116466@gmail.com
njirish11@gmail.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH GOLF TOURNAMENT



\$ 70 per Golfer
see registration form
for more details

PICNIC

Sat. April 9, 2022

Golf - Shotgun Start at 8:00am, Indian River Preserve Golf Club

3950 Clubhouse Drive, Mims, Fl

Picnic at Noon, Post 1

1281 N Washington Ave. Titusville, Fl

FOOD
FUN
ENTERTAINMENT
FUN
AUCTION
FUN
LEGION RIDERS RIDE-IN
FUN
GOLF AWARDS
FUN



Silent
Auction



Golfers, dinner is available on Friday the 8th, at Post 1. Call ahead at least one week to let them know you are going to dinner, so they can have enough food for the night. (321) 269-9959

Hotel reservations for the 8th and/or 9th, Best Western Space Shuttle Inn, \$59 per night - (321) 269-9100

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
CHILDREN & YOUTH GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022
Team Registration Form

GOLFERS

1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____

SPONSORSHIPS & FEES

GOLD SPONSOR (4 GOLFERS & HOLE SPONSOR SIGN) \$325 _____
SILVER SPONSOR (HOLE SPONSORSHIP ONLY) \$100 _____
GOLFERS ONLY (\$70 PER GOLFER) \$280 _____
SPONSORSHIP CUT-OFF DATE: MARCH 25, 2022
TOTAL SUBMITTED _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT PERSON FOR THE TEAM _____
PHONE NUMBER _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: S.A.L. Squadron 325. Put "C&Y Golf" in memo
and mail to Squadron 325, 3412 HWY 301N - Unit 103, Ellenton, FL 34222

ANY QUESTIONS - CALL LES MARTIN (941) 201-7293



**2021
Cruise**

**November
13 - 18**



Group Name - American Legion, Children & Youth ** Booking # P77QR7

Elation - Exotic Eastern Carib 11/13/2021

Embarkation Information						Debarkation Information	
City	Port Canaveral					City	Port Canaveral (Orlando), FL
Port	Port Canaveral						
Pier	Cruise Terminals						
Begin time	12:30 PM			End time	2:30 PM		

Date	Day	Port of Call	Arrive	Depart	Info
11/13/2021	SAT	Port Canaveral (Orlando), FL		3:30 PM	Questions? Ernesto Romeo Vacation Planner Carnival Cruise Line 800-819-3902 ex 83026 Office 305-439-3325 FAX
11/14/2021	SUN	Fun Day At Sea			
11/15/2021	MON	Amber Cove, Dominican Republic	10:30 AM	6:30 PM	
11/16/2021	TUE	Grand Turk	8:00 AM	4:00 PM	
11/17/2021	WED	Fun Day At Sea			
11/18/2021	THU	Port Canaveral (Orlando), FL	8:00 AM		

**Florida American Legion Family
Children & Youth Cruise**

A Cruise has been set up for our Legion Family for November 13 - 18, 2021. Cabins are on a first come first served basis, so make your reservations soon.

Please call Ernesto Romeo, who is filling in for Maureen Williams (Past Department Commander Rick Johnson's wife), as soon as possible. **Prices can change at any time.** Deposits can be made until August 30th, at which time the full payment will be due.

Booking after August 30, 2021 will require full payment. **Go to Carnival.com to see current prices.**

Also, when on the website join the VIFP club prior to calling Ernesto to book your cabin. VIFP members receive discounts and other benefits.

I will have hotel information for the night before the cruise as we get closer to the cruise date.

Les Martin
 Children & Youth
 Chairman
 941-201-7293
 Captmarty48@gmail.com



Music By:
**Silver
Wings**



9TH DISTRICT BALL

Saturday, November 20, 2021

American Legion Post 321
9081 SW 51st St
Cooper City, FL 33328

Cocktails: 6:00-7:00 (Cash Bar)
Dinner: 7:00 - 8:00 • Dancing: 8:00 - 11:00

Tickets: \$25. / Table of 8: \$175.
See Any Post 321 or District 9 Officer for Tickets
Or Call (954) 868-2990 or (954) 559-3202



**Student Application
December 16-19, 2021**
Department Headquarters, Orlando

Section One – Personal Information

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Email Address _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

Section Two - Military and American Legion Service

Branch(es) of Service _____ Dates of Service _____
Year Joined Legion _____ American Legion Post # _____ Membership ID _____
List American Legion Offices previously/currently held and when:

Date Completed The American Legion Extension Institute (Required) Month _____ Year _____

Section Three – Education and Career Information

Educational Background (Check highest level achieved)
_____ High School Diploma _____ Technical/Trade Degree _____ Some College
_____ Associate Degree _____ Bachelor's Degree _____ Postgraduate Degree
Professional Background (Briefly describe your job and how long you have been in that position)

List other groups you are associated with and offices held: (Circle those you are actively involve in or with)

Section Four – Written or typed essay (required – must be included with this application)

FLALC Selection Committee Letter

The FLALC Selection Committee will review applications and make the final selection by December 1, 2021. In 300 words or less, tell them why you want to attend the Florida American Legion College and how you would apply the knowledge you will acquire and will help your District and the Department of Florida. This is an important part of the selection process and it is an opportunity for you to present yourself in your own words. Your comments must be typewritten (use pages 3 & 4).

Last Name _____ First _____ Membership ID _____

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Send application, essay, and registration fee to:
American Legion, Department of Florida, Attn: FLALC
PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854

No later than November 19, 2021. Registration fee MUST accompany the application and essay.

This institution does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin

Last Name _____ First _____ Membership ID _____

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Send application, essay, and registration fee to:
American Legion, Department of Florida, Attn: FLALC
PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854

No later than November 19, 2021. Registration fee MUST accompany the application and essay.

This institution does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin