



SEPTEMBER 2021

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IN THIS EDITION

Officers

- 1 Commander
- 2 1st Vice Commander
- 3 2nd Vice Commander
- 3 3rd Vice Commander
- 3 NEC

Area / District Commanders

- 4 Central Area
- 4 Western Area

Membership

- 5 Eastern Membership
- 5 Western Membership

Programs

- 6 Americanism
- 6 American Legion Riders
- 7 Law & Order
- 8 Legion College
- 8 SAL Advisor
- 8 VA Entitlements
- 9 VAR
- 10 PROJECT: VetRelief

Other

- 9 Palm Bay News
- 11 Detachment Commander
- 11 Detachment NEC
- 12 Post 316 Donation
- 13 Post Everlasting
- 14 District 11 Roast
- 15 Stars & Stripes Honor Flight
- 16 Southern Area Ball
- 17 FL Legion College Application
- 21 Hurricane Relief

Submit Articles at

floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org

District Membership Challenge

Jerry Brandt, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



It has been an exciting first two months as your Department Commander - I am still in a learning curve and I wonder what will happen next. However, we have a good staff at Department, and so many Legionaries have

stepped up to help. We will have a great year.

We are now in a competition with three of our four Departments to the NORTH, this is for the District Membership Challenge - a race we are going to win. I made a 'BET', 'IF' Florida loses, a bushel of Oranges goes to the winner. Georgia, not to be out done, 'BET' a bushel of Peaches. Well Alabama, indicated they are known for Moon Pies, and Louisiana will provide the 'fixings' for Gumbo in their 'BET'. I am still waiting for a response from Mississippi. I am planning to be well-stocked; I hope the Districts will get involved in the action as well.

Why are we doing this? **1.** Our District Commanders will be reaching out monthly to help and to gauge their competition with the hope that Department and their districts will grow from the knowledge they share. **2.** We are one of the main leaders in new ideals within the American Legion, as such, it

is time we bring forward our ideals to other Departments, this will help the American Legion in the long run. **3.** It's fun, maybe our District officers can travel to another Department and enjoy the friendship that will develop between us and because of the monthly communication, we will get to know each other and develop together.

Speaking of traveling, in October, the Florida American Legion Riders will be traveling on a Five State Fun Ride. The Florida Legion 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. States involved are Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida. The ride will be joined by the Department Commanders of Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana, and hopefully Mississippi. Riders, please sign up. It will be a fun ride.

You may have either already received or given out, our new "Florida Family Mentor" pin.

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 the Zone Commander, Detachment Commander,

Department Commander continued on page 2 >>





<< *Department Commander continued from page 1*
 Auxiliary Department President, or myself is in attendance. We will NOT give the pin to the mentor, the person who indicated you are their mentor will give you the pin, to say thank you. Again, this is just at District Meetings.

We will be holding Area Training in September and October, for not only the Area and District teams, but also for all who wants to move up. Currently we have the following schedule:

- September 11th, Southern Area, Post 142, Pompano Beach
- September 12th, Eastern Area, Post 80, St Cloud
- September 18th, Central Area, Post 72, in Mulberry FL.
- September 19th, Southwestern Area, Post 103, Punta Gorda
- September 25th, Western Area, Post 402, Panama City Beach
- September 26th, Eastern Northern Area Post 137, Jacksonville
- October 2nd, Western Northern Area, Post 57, Lake City

I am also planning a round table meeting on September 28th, to find out what is needed in the Department, our Areas and our Districts. We will rotate through the District Commanders, I want to hear, in the following order: 1. The GOOD, items the District is proud of. 2. The BAD, if there is anything you need assistance with. 3. The UGLY, how is your membership doing. Since there is 16 Districts, please be short. And then we open to everyone to comment on items they see going on within the Department, either good or bad. Again, this is a round table, NO VOTING ON ANYTHING. This is not an official meeting. Therefore, we will use this information to bring up at the DEC meeting if necessary.

The Chairman for the Constitution and By-Laws Committee will also give a report at the Round Table on the status of the Constitution and By-Laws. Currently we are pending the National Headquarters on information needed to update our By-Laws, and we will continue working on them.

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

Work Membership

Eunice Butts, 1st Vice Commander

1stvice@legionmail.org



Greetings comrades. Hopefully, you and your Post are doing well. We are still in trying times with Covid, but I am happy to see that most of the Posts are open to carry on the business of The

American Legion.

Now is the time to work DMS in addition to your standard membership. The buddy check is a very good way to secure some of your membership. It has proven to be a very valuable membership tool.

By now, most of your installations should be done. This year there is an award for 2021-2022 for making 75% by October 15, 2021. I would like to encourage all Posts in Zone 1 to compete for this early achievement award. The Post membership team will receive an early achievement award plaque and bronze coins. I would personally love to see each post receive 100% by November 15, 2021.

Your Area and District Commanders will be sending out communication for the upcoming training for officers. Please plan to attend as a lot of information has been updated, and you will need it to carry out your duties

Please continue to be careful out there.

1st Vice Commander continued on page 3 >>

SEPTEMBER 2021	
1-30	Disaster Preparedness Month
1-30	Suicide Prevention Month
1	Membership Goal 50% "Early Bird"
1	Post Program Chair Forms Due
1	JSSP: Target & Registration Open ★
6	Labor Day / Department HQ Closed
8	Area Commander Visit: Post 275
9	Membership Renewal Cut-Off
9	Area Commander Visit: Post 71
11	20th Anniversary of 9/11
11	Patriot Day
11	Emergency Responders Day
11	Flag at Half Staff
11	District 2: Meeting
12	Grandparent's Day
12	District 5: Meeting
12-22	Warrior Games
12	District 16: Meeting
14	Area Commander Visit: Post 14
15	Legion Link Articles Due
15	History Book Contest Entries Due ★
16	The American Legion Day
17	Post 152: POW/MIA Remembrance
17	POW/MIA Recognition Day
17	Constitution / Citizenship Day
18-19	Americanism/Children & Youth Conference ★
18	Child Welfare Foundation Golf Tournament ★
18	Air National Guard Birthday
18	US Air Force Birthday
18	ALR: POW/MIA Ride & Ceremony
18	Department Training: Post 72
18	District 14: Meeting
18	District 9: Meeting
19	District 4: Training Post 284
20	Area Commander Visit: Post 125
21	Area Commander Visit: Post 72
22	First Day of Fall
23	Veterans Leadership Conference
24-26	Children & Youth Conference
24	Central Area: Installation Post 246
25-26	Post 340: Bike Rally
25	District 15: Picnic
26	Gold Star Mother's Day
27	PROJECT: VetRelief Golf Tournament ★
29	VFW Day

★ 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.





<< 1st Vice Commander continued from page 2

Even those who have had the vaccinations are contracting Covid. Let us respect each other in our perception of wearing or not wearing a mask. I wear a mask because I care about you as well as myself. I do not want to spread it to someone else and I do not want to receive the virus from anyone if possible. Let us please respect each other for our individual ideas.

“GREAT LEADERSHIP IS NOT ABOUT CONTROL. IT IS ABOUT EMPOWERING OTHERS”.

Support One Another

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



Zone three is off to a good start. Installations are for the most part complete. I've hit the road running and have visited each District. I'm happy about what I'm seeing - District meetings, District training, and events being planned all over the place. Keep up the great work.

It's encouraging to see the interaction and support between the Districts in the Zone as well as the communication between the Posts in the Districts. As we roll into the year and hit our stride, let's continue to reach out to each other and support one another's events and programs. Together we'll be stronger.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming Area Training as well as my return visits to all six Districts in Zone 3. Let's "Keep it Real."

Simple Solutions

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



A few weeks back at one of the twenty-three or so installations I attended, I asked myself what did this Post do that was so different from others? How did they achieve the goals that were set for them? What minor miracle came to fruition that brought success to this small Post in the middle of nowhere? Could it be that they looked for simple solutions to

guarantee the success of their membership? I reviewed their numbers with a similar Post that did not do so well, and oh my goodness, simple solution! It was the DMS list! They utilized the DMS and not only achieved their membership goal but blew it out of the park! It is so simple to use, and it's right there at your fingertips. Whether you invite these members to your Post yourself or allow Department to transfer them in, it doesn't matter. It's a fact that once these members are transferred into your Post, the odds are over 85% that they will renew. If you have any questions about how DMS works, please contact your membership chairman directly

or your District, Area or Zone Commander. It is just one of the simple solutions to your membership issues.

As of this writing, I am preparing to depart with several other Florida Legion Riders on the Legacy ride. It will be a challenge, but after five previous rides, I feel I will be well prepared. I know it will be a successful ride and am looking forward to joining our Florida delegation in Phoenix for the National Convention. Thank you for your support and I promise a full report upon our return.

Child Welfare is Giving Children a Forever Home

Dennis Boland, NEC
nec@legionmail.org



I'm proud to say that the American Legion family has had another strong year of supporting the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF).

The CWF ended the 2020-2021 program year with \$435,312 in donations. Of these donations, more than \$317,000 came from the Sons of The American Legion – their

single largest contributor to CWF, they've donated nearly nine million since 1988.

Gift of Adoption is a 2021 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient of \$25,000 to help provide adoption assistance for children in the United States. This is the second \$25,000 CWF grant provided to Gift of Adoption whose mission (since its founding in 1996) is to "provide adoption assistance grants to bring the most vulnerable children into permanent, loving families and really changing the trajectory of their lives."

Gift of Adoption supports children who are at risk of entering foster care, aging out of foster care or an orphanage, and who have medical needs. They focus on keeping siblings together through adoption.

In its twenty-five-year history, Gift of Adoption has provided over eleven million in grants to unite more than 3,800 children with permanent families. The organization's goal this fiscal year is to unite 525 children with families in honor of its 25th anniversary and The American Legion CWF grant is helping to achieve that.



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Busy Busy Busy

Bruce Carl, Central Area Commander
centralarea@legionmail.org



By the time this article comes out, many of us will be at the National Convention in Phoenix. I am looking forward to meeting fellow members from around the country and participating in the many events.

The Central Area is moving along and finishing up the new Officer Installations. The 16th District has finished theirs, and the 7th and 15th are almost done. We have been trying to focus on membership. However, until we get our weekly membership reports, we are a little behind the eight ball. There was a Central Area Membership training class held on July 31st, with representatives from the 15th and 16th Districts in attendance. Thank you to Ray Perez for the training! Many issues were worked out, with only two

needing to go higher.

On September 18th, there will be a training class conducted by Department at Post 72 in Mulberry. This training is for all District Commanders, Vice Commanders, and Post Officers in the Central Area. I am looking for a great turnout! There is always something new to learn! The training is from 9-2, and lunch will be provided.

I have started my official visitations and will send out an email to the Post a month prior to the visit to confirm the date is okay with you. I like to meet with the Post Officers about a half hour prior to the meeting. Within the next two months, I will have attended a District meeting in all three Districts. I am also looking forward to attending the 15th District picnic at the end of the month. It has been a while since it has been held.

Until next month, keep working those memberships and programs, and stay safe.

FLORIDA SAMPL
 THE AMERICAN LEGION
 FLORIDALEGION.ORG

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The American Legion official license plate.

Proceeds benefit Veterans and their families in the State of Florida.

Now available at your local tag office!

Western Area News

John Edens, Western Area Commander
centralarea@legionmail.org



I would like to thank all the Western Area Posts for allowing me to be their Western Area Commander for one more year. Also, congratulations to all the new Post Commanders and staff for this year. I assure you that your new District Commanders, Sonny Decker (1st) and Steve Mears (2nd), are highly motivated and dedicated. They will lead our Posts to a very successful year. As Post Commanders, all you must do is act on your District Commanders wise and experienced advice and suggestions.

This Covid virus looks like it is not going to let us rest. A year and a half is a long time and has caused financial problems for all our Posts. I will be sure to continue updat-

ing you (through your District Commander) of any new Department updates and/or Posts restrictions.

I have visited most of our 1st District Posts in July. Thanks for your hospitality and warm welcome. I intend to visit as many 2nd District Posts as I can in August and September. I would also like to thank Post 402, who has graciously offered their Post for our first Western Area, American Legion Training session in mid-September. Everyone stay safe and virus free as we continue to strive for our American Legion membership and program goals. See you all soon.

The handful of Posts that are behind goals, this past year's "buddy checks", if done properly, should help us get our renewals up this year. The **Department Commander** visited our Western Area in mid-January. Commander Johnson visited our 1st and 2nd Districts over a four-day period. I want to thank our Post Commanders and staff that showed

the Commander hospitality by showing up for his visit. One of Commander Johnson's priorities for that visit was to meet the new Post 33 staff. This brand-new staff has raised money and worked extremely hard to re-build Post 33 after Hurricane Sally. The Western Area was very appreciative of his visit.

I want to personally thank PDC Jim Ramos for his training and membership tutoring for our Western Area this past year. He has faithfully made at least four training sessions for our Area this year. He also made the extra effort to help mentor our Post 33 with their brand-new Officer staff, who had little-to-no Legion experience. **Thanks again PDC Ramos, for a job extremely well done.**

Everyone stay healthy and keep your distance. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Thanks again for everyone's hard work.





Recruiting Tips

Bruce Thurber, Eastern Membership
membership@legionmail.org



We need to get a jump on this year's membership. Every District has Posts that were under 90% at the end of June. If your post is in that category and you would like some help, contact your District Commander, Department Membership Chairperson, or our Department Post Development Chairperson. Any District that would like to have a revitalization contact your Area Commander and we can start the ball rolling. Help from National is available if we give sufficient notice. They assist with publicizing and materials.

Recruiting Tips

1. Always be ready with a two to three minute 'elevator pitch' on the importance and benefits of Legion membership.
2. Download the Legion app. You'll be ready to sign up members on the spot.
3. Get some door hangers and modify them with your post information. You're now ready to reach out to potential members even if you're not face-to-face.
4. Keep a few membership applications handy.
5. Have a supply of 'Why You Should Belong'; and 'This Is The American Legion' for information.

6. Work your post's expired member listings that can be found under the "Find Members in my Area" section of www.mylegion.org.
7. Build and maintain a relationship with military installations and the person in charge of veteran admissions and/or veteran student organizations that may be on college campuses.
8. Network with first responders, civic and community organizations, as well as other veteran service organizations to expand your pool of potential members.
9. Ensure that your Post is building its brand:
 - a. Send a localized version of the post's CPR to the media outlets in your area, and that this same information is published in the Post's newsletter.
 - b. Make sure your Post is actively participating in at least one program, and that it is done well.
 - c. Make sure your Post is an asset to the community; inform them of your Post's programs, participation in parades, service activities, etc.
 - d. Be seen in your Legion apparel.
 - e. Don't narrow your focus to veterans in only one or two war eras. Any veteran may be eligible, but you won't know if you don't ask!

Bring your general questions to the floor, however, for in-depth questions, please email them to me.

I have also started District specific visits. So far, I have scheduled with District 17 at Post 120, August 14th, District 5 at Post 250 September 5th, District 6 Post 63 September 18th. If you would like to host a training session or round table, contact your District Commander.

The 2021 Virtual National Membership Workshop was held July 26-29 and the sessions are available on the National Site under membership training.

Only 2022 membership cards are currently available on myLegion.org. If you see a blank page, please renew your membership for 2022.

Finally, as we strived to meet our goals last year, there were 14,000 AD's in Florida; we only transferred 3,251 into posts, retention of those is 70%, and you get credit immediately for them toward your goal when you bring them in. If each post that was under 90% begins working DMS Rosters early, we will exceed our expectations. Go to the "Reports" section of myLegion.org and click on find members in my area. Select your local Zip Codes and the 2022 year begin working them. Next, make a list of 2021 and start making calls to see if you can get them to renew with you. Let's get all 5 Race to the Top Categories, both 1st and 2nd place.

Don't let all your hard work go to waste - RETAIN THE MEMBERS YOU HAVE

The Commander's Area Training has begun and will include a session on membership.

that information. So, with this "out there" I am hoping it could be duplicated and forwarded. I know it a lot of information to collect, but it makes for smoother communication, so one does not have to search, ask, and reach out to attain this and if Bruce Carl can continue this in his new position, it's feasible and only logical. I hope it does not make for contention, but Jerry Brandt emphasized this at the

Western Membership continued on page 6 >>

Communication & MyLegion

Randy Holeyfield, Western Membership
membershipfal@legionmail.org



One of the key elements our Department Commander expressed was communication, and I was spoiled with three years under Bruce Carl. Bruce is now Central Area

Commander and continues to be excellent in disseminating everything. He has always provided a detailed and complete listing of every officer and chair, their position, email, phone, address; with all posts address, and mailing addresses, as well as a detailed calendar (with updates regularly). The reason I bring this up is it makes my job (or anyone's for that matter) so much easier, so that I do not have to contact every District, Area and Zone, not to mention every Post for





<< *Western Membership continued from page 5*

Leadership Retreat to do just that so that all of us are not spending valuable time attempting to communicate over actually communicating.

Every member of The American Legion should have MyLegion access, not just chairs or officers.

MyLegion is at the top of everyone's lists. Mostly for accessibility issues, and so far, it has been that either the Post Commander and/or Adjutant email addresses (which is how they gain access) do not match "National Last official listing." The Officer report (Which was due by June 15th) sent to Department, would then be forwarded to National as the official members to have access to privileged membership information and processing. Without these email addresses (the fingerprint

to gain access) those posts are not going to gain access without going through the Department Adjutant (Bruce Comer). Once this access is attained, those officers can determine who (Membership Team members) they want to access their post's information. Once this is done you're ready to learn the navigation of the MyLegion website which is navigated differently than when The American Legion was on the Legacy program (we are now on "Go Live"). Bruce Thurber and I are here and ready to help, and therefore our Commander has set statewide training for MyLegion and other areas, I am looking forward to these, to meet every Post's membership team, as well as show availability to them whenever they need.

The Department Commander and I are not just encouraging posts to transfer DMS (Post 0400's) members to local posts across the

state, we do not want them to be lost to attrition or discouragement from feeling unwanted. These members are already in "The American Legion" but need a home, your Home Post. These members (around 14,000) have already taken the first step, and with a good portion of Posts across the state who have missed their 100% to Goal, this is a superb way to create an influx to your roster and attain your 100%. Plus make them feel like part of the "Legion Family" by inviting them to transfer. In fact, every officer at my post (including myself) are from the DMS. One thing I hear is, "we need more volunteers," and my entire post is run from these DMS members who are the workforce at the post. Why are you skeptical about having them in your post? They are no different than someone you meet in a parking lot or the grocery store, verification of military character must be done for both types of veterans.

Americanism is at the Heart of Everything

Marie Conti, Americanism
americanism@legionmail.org



The Americanism Commission consists of the following: Committee on Children and Youth, Committee on Youth Education, American Legion Baseball Committee, Youth

Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, and

the Citizen Flag Alliance Committee. The Americanism Commission also includes various subcommittees, such as the Youth Activity Subcommittee. This subcommittee includes, but is not limited to: Junior Shooting Sports, Oratorical, and Boys State. As you can see, everything that defines who we are as The American Legion, can be classified as Americanism. All separate programs, working together to achieve great Americanism. That's what we do!

Schools are back in session. Now is the time

to start talking to the counselors.

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 continues to serve as a symbol of this Great Land, even after retirement. Please bring your grommets to Fall Conference.

Show that you're Proud to Be An American... Fly Old Glory!!

Upcoming Events

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders
legionriders@legionmail.org



We have a very busy start for the 2021 – 2022 Legion year. The September POW/MIA Ceremony is really starting to pick up speed. At the time of this article, we have ten (10) Riders coming out of the Tampa area and about six (6) coming

out of District 8. Plus, there will be heavy support coming out of District 5 and 4. We are also hearing about several individuals coming out of the Panhandle. It's going to be a great start to an annual event. Oh, by the way, join us at Post 129 on the beach for a gathering after the event.

The next big event is the comeback of the "Five State Fun Run". It's all setup, and the hotels are all ready to go. I received a lot of calls from our counterparts in the other four

states. They are very interested in the "Fun Run" and are looking forward to riding at least part or all of the ride. Tying in with the "Five State Fun Run" is the month-long "Merry Go Round" benefitting the "Children and Youth" program.

Joe Marcheggiani as the ALR Chief Road Captain is busy planning our In-State-Unity Rides. Jeff Hawk is also working with Joe on the ride while taking care of his position as

American Legion Riders continued on page 7 >>





<< *American Legion Riders continued from page 6*
 Event Coordinator for the Rally and Summit. We are looking for more volunteers! We are looking for different locations for both the Rally and Summit.

As the ALR Department of Florida, we have surrounded ourselves with a group of true Champions that stay focused on the tasks at hand and have a passion for the program. Now, of course, what are we going to do this year. Wait and see.

If you have any ideas, please share!

Beverly & I have already started putting together next year's schedule. The Summit Meet & Greet will be on February 2nd,

followed by classes on 3rd, 4th & 5th. Still working on the In-State Rally, more to come.

Again, Thank You for all your Efforts!

Here is our tentative schedule for the upcoming year.

- **POW/MIA Ceremony**
September 18th, Jacksonville
- **MGR**
October 2021
- **5 State Fun Run**
October 10th – 16th
- **Fall Conference**
November 5th-7th
- **2022 Summit**
 - o Meet & Greet, February 2nd

- o Classes, February 3rd – 5th
- o Safety Class on February 6th
- **Round Robin**
April 2022
- **In-State Ride**
 - o Meet & Greet, April 24th
 - o Ride, April 25th – 29th
- **Rally**
April 30th

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

Study: Police Officers and Firefighters Are More Likely to Die by Suicide than in Line of Duty

Daryl Bass, Law & Order
laworder@legionmail.org



A white paper commissioned by the Foundation revealed that first responders (police officers and firefighters) are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty. In 2017 there were at

least 103 firefighter suicides and 140 police officer suicides. In contrast, 93 firefighters and 129 police officers died in the line of duty. Suicide is a result of mental illness, including depression and PTSD, which stems from constant exposure to death and destruction.

The white paper study, the Ruderman White Paper on Mental Health and Suicide of First Responders examines several factors contributing to mental health issues among first responders and what leads to their elevated rate of suicide. One study included in the white paper found that on average police officers witness 188 critical incidents during their careers. This exposure to trauma can lead to several forms of mental illness. For example, PTSD and depression rates among firefighters and police officers have been found to be as much as 5 times higher

than the rates within the civilian population, which cause these first responders to commit suicide at a considerably higher rate (firefighters 18/100,000, police officers 17/100,000 and the general population 13/100,000). Even when suicide does not occur untreated mental illness can lead to poor physical health and impaired decision-making.

In addition, the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance (FBHA) estimates that approximately 40% of firefighter suicides are reported. If these estimates are accurate, the actual number of 2017 suicides would be approximately equal to 257, which is more than twice the number of firefighters who died in the line of duty.

First Responders are the heroes who run toward danger every day to save the lives of others. "They are also human beings, and their work exerts a toll on their mental health", said Jay Ruderman, President of the Ruderman Family Foundation. "It is our obligation to support them in every way possible to make sure that they feel welcome and able to access life-saving mental health care. This white paper should serve as a critical call to action to all who care about our heroes in red and blue."

The white paper also goes on to lay out several barriers that prevent first responders from accessing necessary mental health services to help them cope with trauma. Experts describe the shame and stigma surrounding mental health within professions that prioritize bravery and toughness, and the public remains largely unaware of these issues, since the vast majority of first responder suicides are not covered by the mainstream media. Additionally, of the 18,000 Law Enforcement Agencies across the United States approximately 3-5% have suicide prevention training programs.

We need to end the silence that surrounds the issue of first responders' mental health. We should celebrate the lives of those lost to suicide- at National monuments such as the National Law Enforcement Memorial, in the media, and within police and fire departments around the Country. Ruderman added, "Departments should encourage and require first responders to access mental health services annually. This will enable our heroes to identify issues early and get the help that they need. It will save lives."

Source: The White Papers, publication by the Ruderman Family Foundation.

Law & Order continued on page 8 >>





<< Law & Order continued from page 7

NOTE: This article was written in 2017. Consider since then the problems confronted with our First Responders. The Covid-19 with its variables. Higher Suicide Rates. The ever-increasing lack of respect shown the First Responders by our own citizenry. The call for

defunding an already low-funded profession, etc. Thus, as Legionnaires, it is vital that we support our first responders.

September 1, 2021, list of Chairman's for the 2021-2022 year are due to the Department from Post, District, and Area. Be sure and

submit your list to include a Law & Order Chairman so that we as the American Legion can continue to show our support for our Police, Fire, Paramedics and Hospital Staff and reward them for their service and for standing on that "Thin Blue/Red Line".

American Legion College 2021

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College
deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



We all know how training is a top priority at our Posts, Districts and Department. Training greatly benefits our Legionnaires. I'm asking you to come to the Florida American Legion College (FALC) to learn more. I know some of you have attended American Legion Extension Institute, which has been replaced with basic training, Leadership Education and Development also known as LEAD training. Now is time for you to step up and learn more by coming to the FALC.

The FALC will take place in Orlando at Department Headquarters December 16-19, 2021. All applications must be in by November 19, 2021, and your payment of \$200.00 to attend. The application is online for all the Legion families, and yes, I know

the Auxiliary and the SAL have their own training, but we are happy to have you come and learn more with FALC. The more you know, the better the Legion family gets so we can help each other on all our programs.

The Florida American Legion College is intended to teach the principles and techniques necessary for effective leadership at the next levels within the Department of Florida. The successful graduate will possess the education and skills necessary to provide program and leadership at the district level and higher.

Some of the Topics:

- Leadership and mentoring
- Communicate using face to face, social media and email
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Team building to set and accomplish goals
- Develop, instruct, and support the Post, District, and Department level training platform

- Salesmanship and marketing (Community networking strategies)
- Training tips to aid your Post members

All course materials will be supplied to each student. As a student you can use your laptop group and class assignments.

Please remember the following:

- Submit your Florida American Legion College application with the \$200.00 fee
- Be ready to work hard and full days
- Follow the dress code, Legion polo and slacks (no jeans or shorts)

More information can be found on the application.

If you have any questions, please contact me by pPhone at 352-226-4370 or email at deptlegioncollege@floridaleigon.org

Time to Get Busy

Richard Smith, SAL Advisor
sal@legionmail.org



We are already in September. If your Post hosts Halloween parties for the kids in the community, get the SAL to help and ask them to purchase the Halloween coloring books available through Emblem Sales to pass out. This begins the holiday season and is a great opportunity to use your SAL squadron.

Homeless and Resource for Recent Combat Vets

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements
veteransbenefits@legionmail.org



On August 5th – myself, Doug Deierlein, post 69 Commander, Kim Deierlein, post 74 Commander, and Judy Casey, post 69 Assistant Service Officer had the privilege to help Jim Burke deliver supplies and do buddy checks with the homeless in Fort Pierce. Every one of the homeless we spoke with said the biggest thing they need is someone to talk to, the second was bug

spray and water. We got asked one question, why we are helping, I replied we would never leave a comrade behind.

National VA Homeless Hotline (877)424-3838
www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp

Free Health Care for Recent Combat Vets

Combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA Health Care System for five years from the date of discharge or release. The enrollment

VA Entitlements continued on page 9 >>





<< VA Entitlements continued from page 8

period begins on the discharge or separation date of the service member from active-duty service, or in the case of multiple call-ups, the most recent discharge date. Veterans,

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

conditions.

This information was from the Florida Veterans Benefits Guide 2021 Page 10.

Changes to the VA

Alan Cohen, VAR

var@legionmail.org



By the time this reaches you I'll have been to this year's National Convention and will come away re-energized and with much great information to share.

In the meantime, I'm happy to let everyone know that at long last, the VA has begun processing claims for even more presumptive conditions that have long since been affecting our brother and sister veterans who served in Southwest Asia: asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis. These are caused by exposure to particulate matter during their tours of duty, a/k/a Burn Pit Exposure. Let's help by directing them to Post Service Officers to get the claims

process started. To speed up just the appeals process, the VA has appointed twenty new Veterans Law Judges with an eye towards reducing the wait time for claims that have been denied and are in appeal.

While this pandemic persists, the VA hospitals and CBOC's (Community-Based Outpatient Clinics) have greatly limited what volunteers can do, our VAVS volunteer personnel continue to show their dedication by helping in as many ways possible, even virtually. They often reach out by phone to those among us who've been affected by COVID to let them know they're not alone.

In line with VA healthcare, the VA has stepped up its availability for mental healthcare. Not only has the pandemic caused many to suffer physically but emotionally as well. Another element is that now that the situation in Afghanistan being

what it is there. Many of our fellow veterans of that war will need a hand to reach out and an ear to listen to them. Let's step up and wrap our arms around them.

As I've mentioned before, women veterans now have greater access to healthcare than ever, and it doesn't end there. Along with other steps, the VA is conducting a two-day virtual boot camp for women veteran entrepreneurs. It's been recognized that women veterans have a strong work ethic and success rate. I encourage every Post to reach out to our sister veterans not only for membership purposes but because their contributions can be of such great value.

In closing this month's article and just as I've done before I will tell everyone to stay safe and healthy.

New Patrol Vehicle Honoring Veterans

Palm Bay

PALM BAY, FL-American Legion Posts 117 and 394 along with the Palm Bay Police have selected Officer Tasha Gray to receive a new Patrol Vehicle Honoring Veterans. Officer Gray, born in Canada, moved to South Florida with her parents at age 12. At age 17, she joined the US Army where she served from 1994 to 2002. During her service, Officer Gray was selected as one of the Army's only Fifteen Flight Stewards. She received

several service awards including the Army Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. After separating from the Army Officer Gray received her Florida Law Enforcement Certification and was later hired by the Palm Bay Police Department. She continues serving her community, state and nation assigned to the Hostage Negotiations Team, Secret Service Task Force. Officer Gray is a Corporal in the Uniformed Service Division responsible for

the supervision, training, and mentorship on her shift.

The vehicle displays the American Flag with the Military logos of the six branches of service, dog tags, Veteran's Affairs logo. On the hood are the logos of the American Legion Family. The Rear sports the American Legion Department of Florida logo and A Thank You to all Veterans for their service.



**PROJECT:
VETRELIEF**
★★★★★



Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2021



//ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED////////



One of our largest fundraising events for PROJECT: VetRelief, the Annual Golf Tournament hosted by RL James, Inc., is scheduled for Monday, September 27th. This event is crucial to our program and without it would see a financial strain to our Emergency Assistance Program!

Golfers will enjoy a premier experience at the Bella Collina Golf Course, located in Monteverde, FL and should expect a day filled with fun and many chances to win some cool prizes while staying safe.

Although the tournament is currently SOLD OUT, you can still participate. We will feature the Silent Auction online again this year. You do not have to be present to participate and anyone can bid on these items. Check it out using the link below:

>> WWW.PVRGOLF.ORG <<

We have a few volunteer positions available. If you'd like to come and help out, please contact Jennifer Cooper at 407-295-2631. Volunteers can expect to help with golfer registration, work a contest hole, or assist with our silent auction. *Hope to see you there!*

THE BRANDT'S CHOOSE PVR

Newly elected Florida Legion Department Commander and Florida Auxiliary President, Jerry and Wanda Brandt, chose to support PROJECT: VetRelief for their fundraising efforts during their one-year term in office.

Both Jerry and Wanda are passionate about assisting Florida's veterans in all capacities! In addition to collecting funds, Commander Brandt would like to see our program enhance our directory of service organizations and ensure our Legion Posts have access to them. Although PROJECT: VetRelief has already started collecting this information, it's currently provided to Advocate Training Attendees only.

Please join them in their efforts in providing the

necessary support our veteran community needs. The Auxiliary has requested all Units to use the donation form when submitting your donations for President Brandt's charity. For those supporting Commander Brandt, please ensure your checks are made payable to PROJECT: VetRelief and "Commander's Charity" is marked on the memo line.

If you are planning an event, we would like to hear all about it so we can promote in our monthly newsletters, on the PROJECT: VetRelief website and Facebook page. We also have promotional materials that we can send for your events. Contact Jennifer Cooper by sending an email to jcooper@floridalegion.org with all of the details!

SUPPORT CASES

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

*Reflect PVR Cases ONLY



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News From The Detachment Commander

Brian Carter, Detachment Commander
detcommander@legionmail.org



As some of you may have heard J.J. has contracted this nasty virus with phenomena. At last update he is off oxygen and improving well breathing on his own. Ed has been in contact with Martha and may have more information in his report. Please keep J.J. and his family in your

prayers. J.J. get well soon we are all hoping to see and hear from you soon.

Just back from National Convention (it was a dry heat) and the Detachment of Florida shined once again. Our National Commander was unable to attend do to contracting the covid virus. However it was streamed live on Facebook and Commander Bolt made a speech before the convention Floor as we opened by our 5 national vice Commanders in his absents. I want to thank PNC Jim Roberts, NEC Bill Kelly, vice Commander Central Gerard Sambets, PDC Bernie Wildrick and PDC and now NECA Tom Klinger and Myself as delegates of our 49th National Convention. I believe we all had a good time.

I met a lot of good people this year hope to stay in contact with all of them. I did attend the 4 corners party put on by post 41. What great people and the know how to have some fun.

Tom Klinger accepted awards of the Arthur D

Houghton award for the highest percentage in membership increase in the 12,000 + category, Florida having 102%. The Udie Grant and the Garland Award for Florida's contribution to the Child Welfare foundation, as well as the highest per capita donation of \$3.10. Tom also accepted the best overall Children and youth for a squadron as well as the Southern Region which both went to Squadron 117 Palm Bay. All of you are what make this detachment the best and I am so proud to be a part of it.

Now let's talk **Communication**. Last month several of you submitted articles to the source and I want to thank you all. I ask for this at the beginning of the New Year and you stepped up. Keep sending the information to help better the Detachment as we move forward and if didn't place and article there is always next month. Even if it is just to announce your events or functions every little bit can make a big difference. Christian has put a page for each district on the web page. Please to all district Commanders get with your parent (Legion) Commanders and get a list of your meetings if you will hold them together and add them there.. Use the calendar to add your dinners and events. If you post it they will come. By doing this and using the tools given to you your function could double the attendance.

I haven't been too far as no one has communicated what they're doing. I did attend several installations in the 17th and the 5th district's. I attended a day at the Legion Jr. Baseball tournament in Jacksonville were I was honored to throw out the first pitch. I also attended a Legion Officer training in the 17th

district. I will be in the 13th district on this Labor Day weekend and Attending Richard Duncan's Celebration of life on the 18th in Lady Lake.
Side line Pep Talk----- Communication is the key to success Call me or e-mail and let me know what is going on so I can come join in the fun at your Squadron or districts.

As for membership I did attend the membership meeting while at Convention. National didn't really have much to say other than they are working on it and they will get it out to us as soon as possible. This Detachment will be working closely with them for any update as they come about. I as well as all of you would like to see the numbers. Keep your teams motivated and let's not see ZEROs on the scoreboard.

Please do not forget to keep our men and women of our military in your hearts. Let us hope for peace and good will soon. I have seen multiple post do a tribute to the fallen 13. These were very moving thank you all for sharing on social media.

Let us never forget Sept 11th and say a prayer for all the families that lost someone on a most tragic day. Remember those who rushed in to search and rescue only to never come home. And to all those now suffering from illness because of this cowardly attack.

Everyone stay safe and out of harm's way in these uncertain times. Take care of your families and support you're Legion and Auxiliary with all your heart. Hope to see you soon on the field of play.

Scoring for Our Veterans by tackling their needs.

News From Your Detachment NEC

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



Alrighty Now...It's official, PDC Tom Klinger and I were sworn in as your Florida SAL National Executive Committee Man and Alternate for 2021-2022 by National Commander Michael Fox. We thank all of you for your support and we look forward to representing you with the National organization.

Attending The Sons of The American Legion National Convention in Phoenix, AZ. and even after 12 years leaves me awestruck and proud of our Detachment and Organization. When the National Convention is so far away our delegate

numbers are smaller but as always your Florida SAL Delegation is always strong and looking sharp dressed in our coats and ties.

The National Convention opens early on Friday morning August 27th with all the Convention Committees meetings to conclude their business from the year 2020-2021. This year was unusual without JJ in attendance. I was prepared to represent the Detachment with voice and vote at the Pre-National Executive Committee Meeting immediately before the opening of the Convention. PDC Tom Klinger attended even though he would not be sworn in as ANEC till the Post NEC Meetings attended so as to have a better understanding of how things work. PNC Jim Roberts attended the meeting to complete the FL NEC delegation.

This was my last National Legislative & Rules

Committee Meeting rolling off after my 3 + 1-year National appointment because of Covid. Our TAL National Legislative Committee is advising all SAL Members to contact their Congressman and Senators concerning House Bill 2372 and Senate Bill 952 The Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021. Tell them you are part of the Florida American Legion Family and you support Veterans and would like for them to support HR 2372 & S 952. Need help contacting your FL Congressman and Senator go to legion.org/legislative (Take Action)

The SAL National Convention was gaveled open by our 5 National Vice Commander's due to Commander Clint Bolt's absence because of Covid 19, promptly at 1 PM on Friday, August 27, 2021, in the Phoenix AZ. Convention

Detachment NEC continued on page 12>>





<< Detachment NEC continued from page 11

Center. Florida's Delegation included PDC Tom Klinger Delegation Chairman, PNC Jim Roberts Delegation Secretary, Current Detachment Commander Brian Carter, ANEC Bill Kelly, Detachment Vice Commander Central Gerald Sambets, PDC Bernie Wildrick, and Dule Member Jesse. This Sons of The American Legion National Convention was one of the 1st Conventions to be Live Streamed out to all our members.

My apologies if that information did not reach you in time to watch. The Detachment of Florida was seated right upfront due to your outstanding showing of 102%+ in Membership and the category 5, Author D Houghton Membership Award for the Largest increase of a Detachment 12,000+. Thanks to all of you for your hard work in pushing us over 20,000.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation President, our own FL NEC Dennis Boland displaying and wearing his FL SAL Squadron 323 cover. This was a great honor that one of our own Florida Legion Family Members presented The Detachment of Florida with the two highest CWA Awards. 1st The Udie Grant Award for the most contributions by the FL American Legion Family and The Garland Murphy CWF Award for the most money contributed to the Child Welfare Foundation by the Detachment of Florida.

The American Legion Children & Youth Committee presented to our Past Detachment Commander Klinger and he accepted the outstanding Children and Youth Squadron Awards for the Southern Region and The National Children & Youth Squadron of the Year award both for Florida Squadron 117 in Palm Bay. Outstanding Job 117.

Day 2, Convention delegates presented all the Resolutions stemming from the Legion Act passed several years ago and approved by the Legion/SAL NEC. All changes to the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution must be approved by the National Convention to be finalized. The delegates also presented a Resolution that would allow National reimbursement to the NECs for the National Convention, since they do have two meetings at Convention. This only affects the smaller Detachments without the resources to provide reimbursement.

The next and final day of the convention the elections were held and Michael Fox (CA) was elected National Commander and Jason Roberts (GA) was elected by the Southern Region National Vice Commander.

The Post NEC Meeting occurs almost immediately after the installation of the National Commander and Vice Commander's to make all the appointments for the National Organization in the upcoming year. This is very similar to our Detachment Convention. I was proud to be appointed to one of only two Committees that an NEC may be appointed to. My National Committee appointment is to the National Sub-Committee on Resolutions. I will proudly represent The Detachment of Florida to the best of my ability.

At The NEC Meeting seated between PNC Jim Roberts and ANEC Tom Klinger I asked under New Business National Commander Fox if we could make it a priority this year to solve the SAL portion of the MYLEGION.ORG problems, I informed him that our Squadrons had not received a Squadron Membership Report since April. He wrote a note to himself at the podium and said he would personally look into this matter. We now have this matter in the minutes and on the official record. The Sons of The American Legion 49th Annual

National Convention concluded on Sunday, August 29, 2021. We thank the Arizona American Legion Family for their hospitality, we all made our way back home to Florida.

Finally, on Sunday, August 7th at the FL TAL 5th District Meeting I was the proud recipient of the Department of Florida Mentor's Pin from Department Commander Jerry Brant and his thanks for mentoring him. This program is meant to recognize and facilitate members of our Florida Legion Family to help them in the learning process about all of our American Legion Family programs and our organization by mentoring that individual. Now that segways into the point that almost every one of our SAL Officers and Chairman has a counterpart in the American Legion Department of Florida i.e. my counterpart is TAL FL NEC Dennis Boland and you should know your counterpart and be working with them and assisting that Legionnaire Officer to better our SAL program by Scoring for Veterans by Tackling Their Needs. Let's all try to make contact with our FL Legion Counterpart by Fall Conference and find a Squadron Officer, or another SAL Member who thirsts for knowledge and help them quench their thirst for knowledge by mentoring them. It's as easy as giving a Squadron Member a SAL Squadron Handbook.

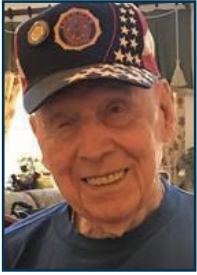
Don't forget I'm always available to talk with any member in the Detachment about a SAL matter but if it is a problem it needs to follow the standard operating procedure i.e. Squadron Members need to talk to his Squadron Commander, Squadron Commanders speak to your District Commanders, District Commanders speak to Detachment Vice Commanders. Problems following these SOPs will get solved quicker.

Post 316 presenting the Children & Youth Fund grant to Helping Enrich Autistic Lives (HEAL)





POST EVERLASTING



Robert C. Schmidt

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past Northern Area Vice Commander Robert C. Schmidt of Citrus Springs, Florida, who passed away on June 22, 2021 at the age of 98. He is survived

by his wife, Barbara; daughters Mary (Ron) Brown of Nashville, IL; Ruth (Ron) Wilton of Carlinville; Nancy (Norman) Shade of Chesterfield, IL; Carol (Billy) Rivers of Bolton, MS; Sandra Thacker of Carlinville; Clara Hicks of Citrus Springs, FL and son Robert T (Lori) Schmidt of Ocala, FL; 17 grandchildren especially his granddaughter, Heather Fritz; 42 great grandchildren; and 15 great-great grandchildren; brothers Rev. Carl Schmidt of Effingham, IL, Joseph Schmidt of Quincy, IL and sister Virginia Drew of Quincy, IL; several nieces, nephews, and many other relatives. 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.

Robert was a U.S. Army WWII Era Veteran and a member of Dunnellon Post 58 with 51 continuous years of membership. Robert served as Post 58 Commander (1973-1978 & 1993-1997), 4th District Commander (1981-1982 & 1993-1994) and Northern Area Vice Commander (1996-1997).

In lieu of flowers, please donate to a Veteran's organization of your choice. Condolences for the family can be left at www.robertsofdunnellon.com.

Weekly Membership Reports

National is currently experiencing issues, and expects a resolution in the next week. Until the issue is resolved, membership reports will not be available. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience.

Next Membership Goal: October 5, 2021 55%

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www.thelit.com



American Legion Department of Florida 11th District Annual Roast



OCTOBER 23, 2021

6:30p : Reception

7:00P: Dinner

7:45P: Program

American Legion

Rood-Williams

Post 271

775 US Hwy One

Tequesta, FL 33469

RSVP NLT

October 10, 2021



DIANNE BOLAND
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER 2018-2019

**Guest Of Honor— Past Department Commander
Dianne Boland**

Dinner and Entertainment to be Announced.

Tickets: \$35.00

**Payment by Zelle using # 410-610-9263, Cash,
or Check**

Make Checks Payable to: SAL SQ 47 (in notes put District Roast)

**Mail to: 1309 Crestwood Blvd. Lake Worth Beach, FL
33460**



SPACE COAST

Honor Flight



Saturday, 18 September 2021

STARS & STRIPES

An evening honoring Veterans at the



3500 Sarno Rd., Melbourne FL 32934
Enter from Club 52/Melbourne Greyhound Park Entrance on
Sarno Rd. or Wickham Rd.

View one of the largest collections of cars and the largest
100% solar-powered car museum in the world

- *Museum campus is smoke-free and vapor-free*
- *Must be 16 years or older to enter this event*
- *Business casual attire*

Tickets:

- \$200 Donation 5:00pm VIP Entry & Private Tour
- \$100 Donation 6:30pm General Admission Entry

All tickets include hors d'oeuvres, beer/wine, soft drinks

Order Tickets:

Online: www.spacecoasthonorflight.org

Email: treasurer@schonorflight.org

Phone: 321 759-1063

All proceeds benefit Space Coast Honor Flight, Inc. a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation. Suggested donations are tax deductible



**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 11am

Coast Guard Station, Dania Beach, Fl

**Featuring Sounds by
"Don't Stop the
Music"**

**Program
advertisement TBD**

Cocktail hour 5pm

**Dinner served at
6pm**

**Admission ticket:
TBD**

STERLING MCCLELLAN

American Legion Post 142

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

Questions please contact

Johnny Castro

Guamwarrior60@outlook.com



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
LEGION COLLEGE

**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



THE AMERICAN LEGION

For God and Country

31 August 2021

Greetings,

As you know, Florida has experienced several devastating storms over the past few years that has caused a lot of damage to not only property belonging to our members, but our Legion Posts. During those times, we have always been able to rally the troops to collect and distribute goods and funds to the affected areas. However, it usually takes time for those donations to come in or items be delivered before we are able provide the necessary assistance.

In 2017, the Department of Florida created a Hurricane Relief Fund to distribute donated funds for disaster related expenses: water, food, paper products, etc. With the catastrophic damage that was created from Hurricanes Michael, Matthew, and Irma, the Department has used most of these funds to assist our Legion Family as they rebuild their homes, and livelihood that was taken from them.

Without the generosity of other Legion Departments, Posts, and individuals, we will not be able to continue our efforts through the next hurricane season. It is my personal goal and mission to be prepared for the upcoming year and I am asking that you and/or your Post contribute to Florida's Hurricane Relief Fund.

Just think, if another storm moves through the great state of Florida and causes damage, wouldn't it be reassuring to know that you can count on your Department Headquarters to quickly assist you in your time of need?

If you would like to contribute to our Hurricane Relief Fund, donate on the Department of Florida's website at <https://www.floridalegion.org/resources/hurricane-relief/> or send checks or donations to the Department Headquarters at the following address:

The American Legion, Department of Florida
Attn: Hurricane Relief
1912A Lee Road
Orlando, FL 32810

Please make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Florida and include "Hurricane Relief" in the memo line.

We can only be there for you if the funds are available and hope that you will help us be prepared for another hurricane season.

For God and Country,

Bruce Comer
Department Adjutant