



FEBRUARY 2022

VOLUME XXX ISSUE 7

**IN THIS EDITION**

**Department Officers**

- 1 Commander            4 NEC
- 3 1st Vice Commander   4 Chaplain
- 3 2nd Vice Commander   5 Historian
- 3 3rd Vice Commander   5 Adjutant

**Area / District Commanders**

- 6 Central Area

**Membership**

- 6 Eastern Membership    15 Membership Report
- 7 Western Membership

**Programs**

- 8 American Legion Riders   10 Law & Order
- 8 Americanism            11 PROJECT: VetRelief
- 9 Florida Legion College   12 Legislative
- 9 Homeless Veterans       12 VA Entitlements
- 10 ROTC/JSSP

**Other**

- 13 Post 141 - National News
- 13 Post 392 - National News
- 14 How to Create a MyLegion Account
- 16 Central Area Ball
- 17 Eastern Area Ball
- 19 Children & Youth Picnic / Golf Tournament
- 21 Oratorical Contest

**Submit Articles at**

[floridalegion.org/submit](http://floridalegion.org/submit) or [legionlink@floridalegion.org](mailto:legionlink@floridalegion.org)

**Questions?** [legionlink@floridalegion.org](mailto:legionlink@floridalegion.org)

***A Message from the Department Commander***

**Jerry Brandt, Commander**  
[commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:commander@floridalegion.org)



To start with, THANK YOU; due to your efforts, we achieved the January 20th goal of 80%. Well done. Also, thank you to the Department Staff who work long and hard with National to resolve so many issues with the

MyLegion platform. We still have several problems we are working on to let you know, but it is paying out. If you have examples of existing issues still occurring, don't hesitate to contact our Membership Chairs, Bruce Thurber, and Randy Holeyfield, to let them know that we still need examples.

While traveling in January, I am happy to report almost every Post had a large influx of new members. In fact, on December 31st, our Department was number 35 within the National American Legion membership standing; on January 7th, one week later, we were number 22 within the standing. I believe this was partly due to the Department's work on the MyLegion, but it is mainly due to the hard work of you, at the Posts, in bringing in our members. Again, thank you.

With the District, Area, and Zone Commanders, we completed the visits to the

3rd, 11th, 12th, and 15th Districts. I want to thank the following for traveling with me on the visits: 15th District Commander Stephen Tyler, 3rd District Commander Stuart Scott, 11th District Commander Harry Malecki, 12th District Commander Dennis Mallon, Central Area Commander Bruce Carl, Northern Area Commander Troy Horsley, Eastern Area Commander Daryl Bass, Southern Area Commander Johnny Castro, Dept. 3rd Vice Commander Chris Hamrick, Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Michael Raymond, and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Eunice Butts. Great visits, and again, vital information was shared both up and down the chain of command. Thank you.

While traveling, we held round table discussions with the Posts; at one of these round tables, a member asked, "Why doesn't the Department set something up to help the Veterans in need." After clarification, we explained how PROJECT: VetRelief, is a program that assists Veterans needing financial assistance at home, those without a home, and those on the verge of suicide. Unfortunately, it seems we are not promoting our programs enough. Please get the word out about PROJECT: VetRelief and our other programs.

We also held a PDC Think Tank; The information shared by our Legion mentors is

*Department Commander continued on page 2 >>*



<< Department Commander continued from page 1 always greatly appreciated. Besides the Past Department Commanders in attendance, we also had our three Department Vice Commanders in attendance. When we had completed the Think Tank, all 3 of the Vice Commanders (they looked like deer in headlights) acknowledged the questions asked and the information provided, which was greatly appreciated and vital, not only for this year but also for this year for their upcoming years in service. Again, thanks to all the Past Department Commanders in attendance.

Members of the Florida American Legion also attended the March on Tallahassee on January 19th to have our State Representatives and Senators vote for upcoming bills that would help our fellow Veterans. A thank you to our State Legislative Chairman, Stuart Scott, for making this happen.

We ended the month of January with the Southern Area Ball hosted by American Legion Post 142 in Pompano Beach, FL. And then, the Four Chaplains Ceremony was held by the 9th District. Two great events, making the American Legion shine in South Florida.

This time of year kicks off election season for all posts in the Department of Florida. Each year people get elected to a position they have never held. Do these new officers know what a 990 is? How about the Corporation Papers, Liability Insurance, Sales Tax Certification, or a copy of the Post Constitution and By-Laws? Mentoring and training are always needed for those new officers, and if they miss the Convention, when will they be trained?

If the outgoing officers do not want to assist in mentoring or training the new officers, reach out to your District Commander, they will have access to someone to help train. In December, the Department had a "Train the Trainers" class. Participants were Legionnaires who had completed the National Legion College or Florida Legion College and were willing to help train within their Districts or Areas. So as an incoming Post Commander, reach out to the District Commander and request the needed training for your team. You can thank the trainers, and YOUR Post will thank you.

This is for the current Post Commanders and their staff, every year at Convention; we award those Posts who are above others in their performance. These awards cover a wide range of items, (See 2021-2022 Post Admin Manual, Pages 64 – 68, "The American Legion Department of Florida Convention and End of the Year Awards" for a listing of awards). However, over the last few years, the problem is that not enough Posts are submitting for those awards. Often, the award winner is the only Post who enters their name. Let us change that and award your team by putting them up for a Department award. Review the Post Administrative Manual, which can be found online at [https://www.floridalegion.org/resources/legion-post-documents/posts/under Post Manuals](https://www.floridalegion.org/resources/legion-post-documents/posts/under%20Post%20Manuals).

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

**DUTY\*HONOR\*COUNTRY**

FEBRUARY 2022	
1-28	Americanism Month
1-28	Black History Month
1	JSSP: 1st Targets Due to CMP
1	Youth Law Cadet: Registration Opens
1	Freedom Day
2	Membership 85% Goal
2	Groundhog Day
2-6	ALR Summit 
2-8	National Commander's Visit  
3-9	Central Area: National Commander Visit
3	Four Chaplains Day
4	USO Birthday
6	Four Chaplains Ceremony
6	Oratorical: District Competition Ends
9	Membership Renewal Cut-Off
10 - 12	Department Commander's Visit: District 1 
12	Lincoln's Birthday
12	Southwestern Area Ball
13	District 5: Meeting
14	Valentine's Day
15	Legion Link Articles due
15	JSSP: 2nd Round Targets Mailed Out
15	Central Area Visit: Post 139
15	Round Table Zoom Call 
16	Central Area Visit: Post 118
19	Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
19	Post 186: Adopt-A-Highway
20	Oratorical: Area Competitions End
21	President's Day
21	Department Headquarters Closed
21	Central Area Visit: Post 46
22	Central Area Visit: Post 3
24-26	Department Commander's Visit: District 9 
25	Renewal Date
25	Salute to Service
26	District 1: Meeting
26	District 9: Meeting
27	Post 24: Annual Pig Roast
27 - 2	National : Washington Conference 

 Commander Jerry Brandt's Attendance Tentative.  
 National Event

Events are subject to change. Additional details can be found at [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org). We share the information we are provided.

## COMMANDER'S CHARITIES

PROJECT: VetRelief



Commander's Goal: \$275,000 (Current funds raised **\$22,834.59**)



**Congratulations**

**Eunice Butts, 1st Vice Commander**

[1stvice@legionmail.org](mailto:1stvice@legionmail.org)



Congratulations to the posts that made 100% by December 31, 2021. A special thanks to all posts which made their goals on time.

The Districts that have

placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, keep up the good work.

I truly thank each of you for all the work that you have put into retaining and recruiting members. Let's keep up the Buddy Check and advertise our contributions within your individual communities.



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
**BUDDY CHECK**  
PROGRAM

**Where do YOU expect to be in 5 years?**

**Michael Raymond, 2nd Vice Commander**

[2ndvice@legionmail.org](mailto:2ndvice@legionmail.org)



As many of you know from the latest Department Commander visits around the State, there are specific questions that all Post Commanders are asked. "What can the

Department do to help you right now" and "where is your Post going to be in 5 years". Something to think about.

But one question I would ask is, "where do YOU expect to be in 5 years"? Are you

staying in your current office next year, or are you a one-and-done? If you plan to climb the ladder, that is excellent news, but you have to start mentoring your replacement without delay. It doesn't matter what position you are replacing; you must start now!

One of the most significant issues most Posts face is having inexperienced folks jump into the mix, immediately lost. One of the main reasons the past commander stays on at your post as a voting member is, for that very reason, experience.

Also, the District Commander is an excellent resource for help along the way. Most are past Post Commanders and have

experienced the same day-to-day issues that you may run into. And finally, training! A lot of discussions have gone into the training of Post Officers, but the problem is we're not getting to them in time. In the near future, both Area and District Commanders will arrange training early in the fiscal year so questions will be answered prior to the problems. Never too soon!

Check out [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) and [floridalegion.org](http://floridalegion.org) for answers. You may be surprised at what you find!

God Bless and see you in my travels.

**Mentorship**

**Chris Hamrick, 3rd Vice Commander**

[3rdvice@legionmail.org](mailto:3rdvice@legionmail.org)



Hello, once again, fellow Legionnaires. Happy New Year. As we are heading into the second half of the year, let me start off by saying, "Whew! Where did the first half of our membership year go?!!!" We've been very busy, and the best is yet to come! Many of our Programs will be coming to fruition over the upcoming months, and our Calendars are filling up at our posts very quickly as we do what we do. Let us not lose sight of our mission and goals. The theme so far this year has

been Training, Mentorship, and Continuity, pretty much in that order. We started the year off traveling to the different areas of our great State conducting "Area Training" and followed up with a session of "Train the Trainer Training." The latter was designed to train additional individuals from the various areas of the State to conduct training when needed, where needed, upon request.

Whether it be Post Operations Training, Leadership, Programs, Officer Training, etc., the concept is to be trained to do things the same way, from the same source, so that there is uniformity. By accomplishing this, we're passing this knowledge on to our successors Thus, building Continuity. Further, by educating ourselves on our history and Legacy, we will be much more effective

when speaking to our newer members or prospective members.

Many Posts have their Nominations beginning soon for their Post elections. This is a Primetime to reach out and request Officers Training or simply break out your Officer's Guide and brush up on Duties. Especially for those that are considering taking a position in your Post. The manual can also be found at the Department site at [www.floridalegion.org/resources](http://www.floridalegion.org/resources)

Mentorship. A lot can be said about mentorship in that we have all had at least one. I am fortunate to have had several along my journey. I would like to thank them for the positive influence, advice, and guidance

*3rd Vice Commander continued on page 4 >>*



<< 3rd Vice Commander continued from page 3

I have received over the years. I would also like to thank all mentors out there who have had the honor to witness being recognized at District meetings. There are many more unsung heroes out there still. Keep up the

excellent work. In closing, I encourage us to work our membership and Programs to their max. Remember our Preamble and break it down to what each part of it means. That's who we are and what drives us. Let us move into

these upcoming months with a renewed sense of mission and dedication to our Principles and keep up our momentum.

Keep it Real...

### National Emergency Fund

**Dennis Boland, NEC**  
[nec@legionmail.org](mailto:nec@legionmail.org)



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

catastrophe.

The American Legion's Disaster Relief Program worked with the Red Cross for about 50 years. Over that time, The American Legion, through local posts, assisted disaster victims with housing, food, supplies, and cleanup.

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

In 1989, When hurricane Hugo pummeled South Carolina, the NEF was revived. It continues to assist Legion Family members recovering from natural disasters. Grants of up to \$3,000 each are awarded to eligible individuals, with up to \$10,000 for posts.

Since the NEF's inception, more than \$9 million has been provided indirect financial assistance to American Legion and SAL members, as well as posts.

All contributions are deposited in a special account and used exclusively to meet a member's most urgent needs. Not one donated dollar is used for fundraising or administrative costs.

Again the NEF has been activated due to the horrendous Tornadoes that have devastated parts of the State of Kentucky. Once again, The American Legion has come to the aide of our Kentucky Legion and SAL family. Along with the massive destruction caused by the wildfires in the western United States, donations are needed more than ever before, Tax-deductible donations to the NEF can be made at [legion.org/donate](http://legion.org/donate). Learn more about the program at [legion.org/nef](http://legion.org/nef).

### 4 Chaplains

**Barry Roberts, Chaplain**  
[chaplain@legionmail.org](mailto:chaplain@legionmail.org)



In February, we observe Americanism month, Presidents Day, and our 4 Chaplains ceremony. On February 3rd, 1943, the four chaplains demonstrated a living example of John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this than a man lay down his life for his friends."

Their service and sacrifice demonstrated the condition of their hearts for loving God and loving others with the most intimate

sacrifice possible, their lives. We can learn much from the four chaplains, but there is an example of living their lives with an eternal perspective.

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 45 hours of online training, and the \$2400 tuition has been waived, so the only cost is a \$54.00 admin 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](mailto:bwroberts@rocketmail.com) or call me at 863-661-9999.

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

I am here for you, feel free to join and participate on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains](http://www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains)

**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**  
**John 15:13**

Sign up for TEXT ALERTS.  TEXT FAL to 74121

**Getting Started...**

**Historian, Philip Crouthamel**  
[historian@legionmail.org](mailto:historian@legionmail.org)



Greetings again to all my fellow Historians and fellow Legionnaires. I hope you had a Happy Holiday season. I am still "learning the ropes" on the Department Historian duties, so please excuse me if I do not get back to you right away.

At present, I am in the process of gathering the emails of all Post Historians. If you don't have an email, don't worry, I will send it to your Commander. I am doing this to keep you all in the loop of starting and maintaining a History (Scrapbook) or a Narrative book.

Some folks look at the Historian post as a "fill the position with anybody just to fill out the roster." That's not true! As the Historian of your Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter are the eyes and ears to the events happening in your community that affect your Post. You are the official witness for your Post. You should be present at every event that you possibly can attend. Take photographs. Write a short article describing what the event is. Assemble your articles in chronological order.

Sometimes it can get tedious, especially if your Post is very active, but you are on the way to assembling your yearbook.

**Don't know how to get started? Find the latest Officer's Guide and turn to page #140 to get you on your way.**

Once I have the email list ready, I will send out more information, including a training PowerPoint to further guide you. My goal is to see that every Historian in the Department of Florida has the basic knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of a Historian.

I am still looking for a couple of former historians or volunteers to judge submitted History and Narrative books at the Department Convention in June.

So, in closing, feel free to contact me for any ideas or expedite my getting the training information sooner.

**"This, We'll Defend"**

**Post Elections**

**Bruce Comer, Department Adjutant**  
[bcomer@floridalegion.org](mailto:bcomer@floridalegion.org)



In my tenure as Department Assistant Adjutant and now Department Adjutant, election season has been one of the busiest times of the year for Department Staff and, more specifically, the Department and District Officers. Unfortunately, most of the increase in workflow stems from post complaints regarding Post elections.

We have found in the past that some Posts do not comply with their own Constitution and By-Laws (CBLs) as it relates to holding elections. With most Post elections happening over the next few months, the beginning of February is the time to dust off your latest Department approved CBLs and review your Post's election procedures. There is a wide variety of nomination procedures and voting procedures generally well outlined within the various Post CBLs.

**Saturday Breakfast at the Post**  
 Veterans Memorial American Legion Post 347  
 699 W. Lady Lake Blvd, Lady Lake FL.  
 February 12th from 7-11:00 am

**MENU**

**All You Can Eat - \$7.00**

Scrambled Eggs  
 Sausage  
 Plain & Blueberry Pancakes  
 Biscuits and Gravy  
 Coffee  
 Orange juice

And if that's not enough excitement,  
**"THE BIG RED BUS" will be there for the Post Blood Drive!**  
 Give a pint and receive a FREE BREAKFAST!

The department always recommends that post members review the details of their Post's nomination and elections procedures during the Months of January and February of each year to make sure everyone is clear on the election process. In general, the procedures are outlined in a few paragraphs that can be read in a matter of minutes but can save Department Staff and Officers hours if not days of research and working to correct elections that were improperly held.

DONATE BLOOD

**\$10 eGift Card**  


**Saturday, February 12, 2022**  
**7:30 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**American Legion Post 347-Lady Lake**  
 All donors will receive a OneBlood Blanket and a \$10 eGift Card! Plus, a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

Appointments are encouraged, please visit [www.oneblood.org/donate-now](http://www.oneblood.org/donate-now) and use sponsor code #9891

 **GIVE THE BEST GIFT - THE GIFT OF LIFE.**

oneblood.org 1-888-9-DONATE ID REQUIRED 

The election procedures outlined in your Post CBLs were voted on and implemented by the membership of the Post. Those procedures must be followed as written. If there are any questions or concerns related to your election process, please do not wait till your friend loses the election to contact Department. We are here to correct the issues before they become problems.



**Central Area**

**Bruce Carl, Central Area Commander**  
[centralarea@legionmail.org](mailto:centralarea@legionmail.org)



It is hard to believe that we are already into the second month of the new year. Where has the time gone?

The Central Area continues to be very busy with membership, programs, and community events.

The 15th District was paid a visit from the Department Commander at the beginning of the month. It was a privilege taking him around the District. In addition, I have been visiting more of the Posts in the Central Area. I was honored to have been able to attend the "frogman swim" at Post 138 in Tampa, as well as the 15th District meeting.

After the meeting, the 15th District was given a training class on the submission of the end-of-year reports! I was also honored to be able to attend the Southern Area Ball, hosted by Johnny Castro at Post 142 in Pompano Beach.

February will continue to be a hectic month

for both myself and the Central Area! Many of our ALR members will be attending the annual Summit in Orlando at the beginning of the month. The Area also has the honor and privilege of visiting our National Commander, Paul Dillard, from the 3rd to the 9th. Our entourage will be visiting all the Posts in the Area that have a Post home. If you do not have a Post home, please check the District Commanders' schedule and stop by one of the other Posts. We will also be dropping in at the Summit for part of his visit on Friday, Feb. 4th.

As the Central Area Commander, I look forward to a great time at the '80s themed Southwestern Area Ball, hosted by Jessica Moore! This will be taking place at Post 323 in Lehigh Acres.

The 7th District Commander and I will host the Department Commander, Jerry Brandt, on his 7th District visitation. The Central Area Oratorical contest will also be taking place. Best of luck to all the contestants from the three Districts!

I am extremely proud of the 7th, 15th, and 16th District Commanders and Vice Commander's dedication to their positions and how well they work with their Posts!

Membership is doing well, although some of the setbacks with National, fundraising for our programs is excellent and working with the community and doing projects.

Kudos also to all the program chairs in the Area, as they continue to promote and work their programs.

In addition to all my regular duties, I have also been busy visiting other Districts throughout the Department, as I am running for the high office of Department 3rd Vice Commander. If your Post or District has not seen me yet, you will before the Convention.

Please check the Department website and read my endorsement letter to see my qualifications for this position.

It is soon time for Post nominations to take place for new Officers. Please remember to follow the guidelines in your CB&L regarding nominations and voting.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this thought. If you are going to run for an office, remember it comes with responsibilities. If you just want a title, you may want to reconsider running.

**Getting and Keeping Younger Members**

**Bruce Thurber, Eastern Membership**  
[membership@legionmail.org](mailto:membership@legionmail.org)



We have now completed the First month of the Calendar year, and our numbers are not growing at a rate we would like. Some of the problems are the Pandemic scare, and some members

have decided they no longer want to socialize outside the home. Another issue is the supply chain problem that is cost many of our members much more than they can tolerate, so they are saving by not paying dues to fraternal organizations. I could go on with reasons, but the key I

believe that can help is Buddy checks. 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 can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

As you all know, there are many issues still happening with myLegion. With everything going on at the department attempting to work the issues, **I NEED A FAVOR**. Many issues can be handled without going through the staff. Most districts have very knowledgeable District Commanders, Vice

Commanders, and membership team members. Call me if this still doesn't help Districts 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 17. Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 15, and 16 Call Randy. EMAIL is the most efficient way to work it as with the details we can go on our computers and do a bit of research. Let's try and work it without tying up the department on the phone.

**Tips for getting and keeping Younger Members**

1. Be Honest and Transparent when sending out material to attract new members. Educate the younger generation by conveying to them what

*Eastern Membership continued on page 7 >>*



<< Eastern Membership continued from page 6

you have accomplished locally and nationally to ensure that veteran issues stay at the forefront of the discussion. Show them that you are making a difference. Let them know your whole organization, not just a narrow scope of membership and money.

2. Treat all veterans equally—both men and women who have served honorable in the Armed Forces. To assume only men deployed or served is backwards thinking and has no room in the American Legion Family.
3. Update posts with free WIFI, offer video gaming, install flat-screen TVs, and select programming such as sports that appeal to all ages.
4. Seasoned Veterans have life experience and perhaps a different frame of reference. We should never think the younger generation is any different. Welcome new ideas younger members are full of ideas. Embrace their energy and let them share ideas about improving the post. Be open to new ideas.
5. When you see someone, new walk-in

welcome them with open arms, make them feel like they are part of the post and have found new friends and family. Don't criticize the way they look or their time in service. If you are welcoming, they may overlook the stale beer smell and the nicotine-stained walls and windows and stay a while.

6. Keep meetings short and to the point. Assign younger members a task during the meeting and ask them to work with membership. Get them involved. The younger generation especially millennials like to solve problems by working and teaming with a group. This is a prime opportunity for leadership to mentor those younger members.
7. Turn your post into a community type of center. Our younger members want a place that includes their children or to do their homework.
8. Turn your post into a place where they can network the community. Invite local business owners, company executives, local college Veterans Representatives or members of the local Chamber of Commerce to speak at your meetings.
9. Don't be afraid to work with others

within your community. Build a strong support network.

10. If you have a post near a military base begin working with the transition office.
11. Introduce yourself to the local Guard, Reserve centers and Recruiters. Most of the members live, work and shop in the community.
12. Sign up and attend every veteran event that you can. Make sure the people in your community know that you are the person and post to contact when it comes to supporting veterans and their families.
13. It is time to do away with the Old Bar and Night Club look of the Post. Have it bright in the Day time and avoid loud music.
14. Entertainment should be a way to bring new members, avoid catering to your tastes or keeping something due to tradition try something new and advertise in local papers and through social media.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for the hard work during this crazy time. Happy Valentine's Day.

### Membership Numbers

**Randy Holeyfield, Western Membership**  
[membershipfal@legionmail.org](mailto:membershipfal@legionmail.org)



Central Area had the pleasure to have our Department Commander visits post around these parts. One crucial bit of news he shared was the mysterious vanishing members from post

rosters.

Yep, one week they are there, and the following week "poof" they're gone. But where did they go, well for one, their post really wanted to know. So after some lengthy phone calls from our Department Adjutant to National, then a couple of days later,

surprise! they were located. The answer from National was that 500 members were part of the mystery" nationally," what they did not want to convey was it was not a nationally across the board situation; it was "only Florida" that this happened to. And once these numbers were reassigned, the Department of Florida jumped to 22nd place, a miracle, right!

Therefore, with this anomaly being seen even after this correction, we ask all posts to watch their rosters real close. Use a previous roster and compare it to looking for losses. I did it to just one District and found several drops in its roster, just one, two, or three members, but that was a small comparison. So keep a close eye on your numbers, notify your District Commander, and forward it to

the Department.

I know we should not have to do this additional work with how much we already have on our plates, but this is one more glitch in the MyLegion program debacle. And membership is pinnacle to the lifeblood of The American Legion, plus National gauges Departments by them, even though National is to the origin point of the errors, what a tangled web we weave.

So there it is, though short, it's vital to get corrections that affect our posts' bottom lines on membership. You need to keep your eye on the ball and the umpire in this case. Because not only is this a fluid situation, but each team (post) needs to watch the one overlooking the game.

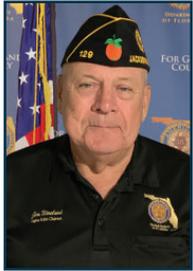


[facebook.com/floridalegion](https://facebook.com/floridalegion)



**ALR Summit**

**Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders**  
[legionriders@legionmail.org](mailto:legionriders@legionmail.org)



Welcome to the Summit; it starts tomorrow, February 2, 2022. We have reviewed the surveys and made changes where possible. The instructors have been selected, the material updated, and the complete schedule. The Summit hotel is all set up and ready to go. We have fourteen (14) different class titles, safety courses, and First Aid. One of the new classes this year is the food services certificate. We also have our night rides on Thursday & Friday and a live band for Saturday night. Please come and join us.

Joe has the Unity Ride all nailed down, and he's out checking it out. As you have seen, we had some real problems with the hotels when we started out. AAA is back in the

picture, getting them all lined up.

They have the hotels for Lake City, Tampa, and Clearwater; the small hotels want a guarantee on a block of rooms. As you know, we are not in a position to guarantee rooms.

I've been down at Orange County Chopper and Barracuda Harley in Clearwater; what a great place to have a Rally. Paul Teutul was at the store, and several of our riders took a few pictures with him. Between OCC and Barracuda, bands, vendors, and camaraderie, this will be the best yet!

Must give Joe Marcheggiani, our Road Captain, Assistant Chair, and Jeff Hawk, our Event Coordinator, a big "Hand" for all the dedication and work they have completed!

We are working on two items for the Summit discussion: the Future Ridership program and Rider's digital manual.

If you have any ideas, please share!

**Here is our tentative schedule for the upcoming year.**

- **Meet & Greet**, February 2, 2022
- **Summit**, February 3 - 6, 2022
- **Classes**, February 3, 2022
- **Safety Class**, February 6, 2022
- **Round Robin**, April 1 - 30, 2022
- **Children & Youth Picnic**, April 9, 2022 Post 1
- **Meet & Greet**, April 24, 2022 Post 57, Lake City
- **In-State Unity Ride**, 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 awesome group!

*"For the Clause. Not the Applause"*

**Americanism Month**

**Marie Conti, Americanism**  
[americanism@legionmail.org](mailto:americanism@legionmail.org)



February is American Legion Americanism Month. This is our moment to shine in the eyes of our Post and the eyes of our community. Everything that we do as The American Legion is linked to Americanism, including Oratorical, Boys State, Law Officer of the Year, Shooting Sports, and Scouting. (Note: Eagle Scout of the Year nominations are due March 1st).

I want to thank all of you for what you do. I look forward to reading reports from each of the Post and District Chairmen about their events and their nominations for the Americanism Program of the Year.

Important dates to remember.

**Important dates to remember...**

- **01 Feb 2022** - Posts can begin submitting Youth Law Cadet registration applications and fees. This is also the date that First Round Shooting Sports targets are due to be eligible for the Second Round.
- **06 Feb 2022** - District Level Oratorical Contests must be completed.
- **20 Feb 2022** - Area Level Oratorical Contests must be completed.
- **01 Mar 2022** - JROTC, Cadet of the Year, and Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship applications are due.
- **12 Mar 2022** - Department Oratorical Contest.

Nothing signifies Americanism more than the flag of our country. Flying the American flag proudly represents the symbolism of

freedom, our way of life, and a reminder of the sacrifices and bloodshed by those who serve to defend her. The US Flag Code dictates that unserviceable flags must be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

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. Please bring your grommets to Department Convention.

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



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

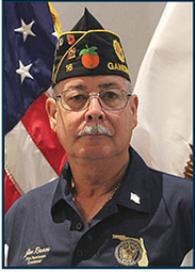
**floridalegion.org**

**NEWS, FORMS, VETERAN RESOURCES  
 UPCOMING EVENTS, AND MORE**



**Continuing to Help in 2022**

**Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College**  
[deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org](mailto:deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org)



"Always doing something better to help the District and your Post"

Congratulations to the following students at the Florida American Legion College class of

2021:

*Ronald Grove, Melanie Caputo, Brian Hancher, Charlotte Lechene, William Musto, Toshiko Moultrie, Darly Bass, Loreen Skobel, Joe Marcheggiani, Teddy Pomerantz, Jerry Harrold, James Waggoner Jr. Wade Foster, Rico Thomas, Stephen Tyler, Jessica Moore, William Ohara, Stuart Scott, and Calvin Thompson.*

How do we start doing good things and helping our comrades, our veterans, our families, and Legion Family? Start by doing some of the following:

1. Complete Basic Training online by going to [legion.org/alei](http://legion.org/alei) training
2. Read the *2022 Officers Guide*.
3. Attend District training on becoming a District chair
4. Go to Department training and get involved with Department programs
5. Ask your District Commander about training opportunities
2. Membership Manual
3. Training videos at [floridalegion.org](http://floridalegion.org) and [legion.org](http://legion.org)
4. Manual, forms, documents and other resources found at [floridalegion.org](http://floridalegion.org)

By learning more you can help your Post, District and Department to move forward by being educated on doing things the right way.

If you still have questions call or email me at 352-226-4370 | [deptlegioncollege@floridalegion.org](mailto:deptlegioncollege@floridalegion.org)

If you would like to become a Post Officer, now is the time to begin reading and learning about the duties of the position(s) you may be interested in. The 2022 Officers' Guide and Manual of Ceremonies is a great resource to familiarize yourself with leadership roles.

Below are other great resources to learn more about leadership roles with the Legion:

1. Adjutant's Manual



**Important Contacts**

**Arthur Dudley, Homeless Vets**  
[homelessvets@legionmail.org](mailto:homelessvets@legionmail.org)

ORGANIZATION	WEBSITE	PHONE NUMBER
County Service Officers	<a href="http://www.cvsoafl.org/">www.cvsoafl.org/</a>	
Red Cross	<a href="http://www.redcross.org">www.redcross.org</a>	1-800-733-2767
Salvation Army	<a href="http://www.salvationarmyflorida.org">www.salvationarmyflorida.org</a>	1-800-728-7825
Food Pantry's	<a href="http://www.foodpantries.org/st/florida">www.foodpantries.org/st/florida</a>	
Food Assistance		1-850-300-4323
Homeless Shelters	<a href="http://www.sheltersforhomeless.com">www.sheltersforhomeless.com</a>	
Volunteers of America	<a href="http://www.voafloida.org">www.voafloida.org</a>	1-703-341-5000
Florida Veterans Affairs	<a href="http://www.FloridaVets.org">www.FloridaVets.org</a>	1-800-488-4181
St. Vincents (Families)		1-813-955-6099
HUDVASH	<a href="http://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp">www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp</a>	1-877-424-3838
FL Veterans Support Hotline		2-1-1
Vet Relief	<a href="http://www.PROJECTVetRelief.org">www.PROJECTVetRelief.org</a>	1-407-270-9204
FL Dept of Labor	<a href="http://www.dol.gov">www.dol.gov</a>	1-800-204-2418
FL Veterans Crisis Hotline	<a href="http://www.cleanslatecenters.com">www.cleanslatecenters.com</a>	1-833-505-4673
Women Veterans	<a href="http://FloridaVets.org/our-veterans/women-veterans">FloridaVets.org/our-veterans/women-veterans</a>	1-727-319-7418
Legal Assistance	<a href="http://florida.freelegalanswers.org">florida.freelegalanswers.org</a>	
Veterans Affairs	<a href="http://www.Va.gov/homeless">www.Va.gov/homeless</a>	



**Deadlines**

**Loretta Young, JROTC/JSSP**  
[jrotc@legionmail.org](mailto:jrotc@legionmail.org)



There were only a few teams in Florida that we were able to complete the application form by the deadline on Feb. 1st for the JSSP Postal Target Orders. I had several last-minute requests for help, but they did not allow enough time with the online application process, including the Risk Management Course and Legion Affiliation Form. The forms that were completed to receive the Postal Targets must be fired and are due no later than Feb. 1st. This deadline is firm, and no extension of time is allowed.

After all, targets are scored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), the results will be posted on the Legion National website. Good Luck to our Florida entries.

The deadline for our JROTC Cadet of the Year Application is due back to Dept. Headquarters no later than Mar. 1st. These applications are available to the JROTC Units in the State of Florida at all accredited schools. The JROTC Senior Instructor selects the recipients. This is a First Place Scholarship Award: \$2,500, Second Place \$1,500, Third Place \$1,000, and 4th Place \$500. The recipient must be a high school graduating senior and is chosen by the JROTC Unit Senior Instructor.

The application and the requirements are

all on the Department website. All Post Chairmen should be reaching out to the schools now that you support them with this information so that we will have an outstanding response for our selection process for a winner. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We do not want to let any of our schools pass this opportunity by and have a cadet lose out on a chance to get a scholarship.

These are challenging times in our schools for participation both in class and after-school activities, and I want to thank all who take the time to help our youth programs and make a difference in their lives. Let's make 2022 a better year, and everyone, Stay Safe.

**Suicides Every 24 Hours**

**Daryl Bass, Law & Order**  
[laworder@legionmail.org](mailto:laworder@legionmail.org)



I am sincerely shocked about the suicides of our own 12th District St. Lucie County Deputies, both 24 Years of age Deputy Victoria Pacheco and Clayton Osteen. I cannot grasp in my heart why anyone would want to purposely remove themselves from what comes next in life. As I wander through the different stories that I see in the different publications, I am finding that more than 22 Veterans (including Young Police Officers and first responders) commit suicide every 24 hours in our World. I came across this story of

Officers Killed in the line of duty from Illinois that occurred this past week and felt the need to pass it on.

Bradley, Illinois: Bradley P.D. Sergeant Marlene Rittmanic (49 YOA) responded to a barking dog call for service. Upon arrival, she was fired upon and fatally injured. Killed responding to a report of a barking dog? Sergeant Marlene Rittmanic was a Military Veteran. She gave her life protecting us in the line of duty. What a severe tragedy.

We are experiencing many young first responders committing suicide during/after their Military Service, and we don't know why. Therefore, finding the cure is becoming more important as time goes by.

Please complete the application for Police

Officer/Fire Fighter/Paramedics/ and Nurse and Hospital Staff), which is a severe oversite needed to be educated on what our communities are forced to be dealing with in 2022.

Please pray for our Men and Women serving in the Military and serving as our Law Enforcement /Firefighter/ Paramedic and Nursing Services.

Please consider these facts when you are working your Law & Order Program. Be sure and complete your required applications for your choice in Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Fire Fighter/Paramedic of the year to the Department so that we can honor these Hero's at the Department of Florida Convention in June 2022.



— SHOW YOUR —  
**SUPPORT**

The American Legion official license plate.



**PROJECT:  
VETRELIEF**



# Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2022



## PVR/SPI EVENTS... ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE! // // // // // // // // //

One of PROJECT: VetRelief's goals is to help End Veteran Suicides. The Suicide Prevention Initiative focuses on working with our verified Strategic Partners by training or mentoring veterans through their existing mental health treatments, programs or processes to avoid suicide. Whether it's a ruck walk, educational seminar or speaking engagement, there's no shortage of opportunities to alert our communities through our **PVR/SPI** Challenge 22 events on this serious issue our veterans are facing.

**These events are designed to encompass fundraising, creating awareness and educating our communities on the importance of mental health within our veteran communities and understanding the severity of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).**

### >>RECENT EVENTS

American Legion Post 69 in Avon Park hosted their Veterans Expo in early January. Not only were they able to raise funds for our **SPI** program, but they engaged their local community to give veterans the opportunity to see all resources within their area. Check out our Board Member, Larry Roberts article on page 12 for all the details.



### >>UPCOMING EVENTS

Ocean Beaches Post 129 is hosting a PVR **Challenge 22 Walk & Event** in Jacksonville Beach on Saturday, March 26th. Registration is open for attendees to join for \$22/walker, or add-on the official event shirt for \$35/walker. For more details, visit: <https://give.floridalegion.org/Challenge22Jax>



The Florida Legion Riders is gearing up to Ride for the 22 during their **Round Robin** and **In-State Unity Ride** events. Chapters are encouraged to put together a Unity Ride during the month of April for the cause. Then, from April 24-30, Riders will join forces as a State on two-routes raising funds and awareness to End Veteran Suicide.



## thank you, sentry management!

Sentry Management, Inc. hosted their annual golf event last November, and PROJECT VetRelief was honored to be their charity of choice. They hosted their tournament at Heathrow Country Club in Lake Mary. The morning started off with local artist, Rexine,

singing the National Anthem and the Nation's colors parachuted in from the skies above. Through their efforts, they brought in over \$50,000 for Florida's veterans and their families!

Last month, Board President, Bob James, and Seamus Devlin from RL James General Contractors, Inc. provided lunch to recognize them and announce Sentry's GOLD LEVEL SPONSORSHIP! We also awarded Patriot Awards to their CEO Bradley Pomp, Mary King, Matt Walker, Deanna Sims, and Pam Flack. Please help us show our appreciation for their support!!



**SUPPORT CASES**  
july 2021 - DEC 2021  
\*Re ect PVR Cases ONLY



**90** families assisted



**\$95,248.57**  
amount distributed

**f facebook**  
@ProjectVetRelief

1912A Lee Rd, Orlando • 407-295-2631 • [www.ProjectVetRelief.org](http://www.ProjectVetRelief.org)

**March on Tallahassee**

**Stuart Scott, Legislative**  
[legislative@legionmail.org](mailto:legislative@legionmail.org)



The legislature is in full swing, and there have been over 3,500 bills filed. Of those bills, several have gained our attention, and we are steadily tracking them for you. Please ensure that you have

signed up for the mailing list to know what legislation The Department of Florida is tracking and what you may be called upon to assist.

On January 19th, the American Legion Department of Florida had their day at the Capitol. The teams began meeting at Post 13 for a “Know before you go” briefing, and you could tell that they were excited to

hear what the day would entail. The teams were met by Rep. Anthony Sabatini, District 32, Lake County, who gave them some energy for the day by briefing them on what he was doing on behalf of veterans in the great state of Florida.

As the teams ascended on the capitol building, they were assigned to meet with several legislators, where they discussed veteran issues and sought information about what each legislator was doing for veteran-related issues. The teams were able to provide a history of the American Legion to each legislature member. It was beneficial for both the American Legion and each legislative member.

This year’s session has a primary focus outside of the mandatory budget: redistricting. We also are interested in

redistricting as this might add or subtract members from our own geographical areas. We will continue to monitor the legislative process through the conclusion of the 2022 session (ending on March 11th) and provide weekly updates. If you have specific questions concerning certain bills, please feel free to contact me.

Stay tuned for more updates in your following Legion Link or through the weekly email. Stuart Scott



**Veterans Expo Results**

**Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements**  
[veteransbenefits@legionmail.org](mailto:veteransbenefits@legionmail.org)



One of my duties and responsibilities as the VA Entitlements Chairman is to plan and execute veterans’ benefits fairs, and to help other American Legion Posts do the same thing.

My American Legion Post 69 just hosted an event called Veterans Expo for eighth year. 2022’s event was a Veterans Benefits Fair, (Challenge 22) Veterans Suicide Awareness. Included this year was a car, truck and bike show, a Riders Poker Run, the Mobile Vietnam Veterans and Global War of Terror Wall and Thunder the bald eagle.

A special thanks to my Post Family for their support they gave me, or this event would never have happened.

**Thank you to the following organizations and individuals as well.**

Department Officers, area Commanders, District Commanders (District Officers), and Department Chairman’s. | Dee Bell, American

Legion Auxiliary VA&R Chairman | Charlotte Bass, Auxiliary Children and Youth Chairman | The Patriot Riders who brought the Mobile Wall to the event. | David Wrede who brought Thunder (Bald Eagle) | Adam Martin from Black Bird Anthem who provided the entertainment. | Avon Park/Sebring JROTC who presented the colors. | \*Brenda’s store of Variety Plus Venders Mall | Who provided the 22 pair of boots.\* | VFW 4300 Honor Guard | Avon Park Fire Fighters | One Blood mobile blood bus | Tony Williams Veterans Counseling Veterans | National Veterans Resources | K9 Line | K9 Partners for Patriots | Wolfhounds Legacy | Chris Snow, VA Suicide Prevention | Norman Bissel, CODE H.O.R.S.E. | Kurt Gies Challenge 22 | Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) from Miami | Hands For Homeless | Jim Burk | Sebring VA Clinic | Sebring DAV | Good Shepherd Hospice | Comfort Keepers | South Florida State Collage | Grey Team | I Got Your 6 (IGY6) | Highlands County Sea Service Museum | Camaraderie Rescue Mission INC | Sebring Rotary Club Freedom Flight.

**Here are some of the results from this year’s expo:**

- Over 300 Motorcycles and 50 Cars /Trucks escorted the Mobile Vietnam Veterans and Global War on Terror Wall.
- The Patriot Guard estimated 2,500 people visited the Wall.

- Over 10,500 Facebook views of the Wall arriving at Post 69.
- American Legion Post 69 is the Official Retirement location of the wall.
- FDVA was able to submit 37 fully developed disability claims and started 25 more.
- Hands for Homeless got three homeless veterans off the streets.
- Veterans Counseling Veterans assisted 50 veterans process paperwork needed to get assistance they needed.
- K9 Line, K9 Partners for Patriots, and Wolfhound Legacy were able to provide ten veterans service dogs they needed.
- South Florida State College enrolled 20 veterans using the GI Bill.
- Blood One was able to collect 25 pints of blood.
- Debbie Wheeler, American Legion Department of Florida Women’s Chairman, talked to 20 female veterans learn that were entitled to benefits.
- Dee Bell, provided 25 thank you gifts to Veterans Care Givers.
- Raised \$8,000

Please reach out to me if your post would like to host an event like this I would be more than glad to assist you and post in planning an event like this.



**Buddy Check results: appreciation, sense of pride, renewals**

**Post 141**

*National Article, January 19, 2022*



Ron Rising, Ph.D., read about The American Legion's Buddy Check program in a recent issue of The American Legion Magazine.

His response

to the article was, "Our post should do that." So during a meeting at American Legion Post 141 in West Palm Beach, Fla., he brought the Buddy Check idea up to members and "it was unanimously approved," said Rising, a post service officer.

Rising reviewed The American Legion's Buddy Check Toolkit to get started on how to conduct Buddy Checks. "It provided me

with a clear and concise approach to getting a Buddy Check program accomplished," he said. He then asked the post adjutant for a list of Post 141 members and made a database of phone numbers from the list. "Once I started calling our members, I soon found out that it was quite time consuming for one person," Rising shared. "I solicited help from our post members and put together a team of eager volunteers. Using the Buddy Check script, we called our members.

"Our response from the contacts we made was overwhelming. Many were ecstatic to hear from us. Nobody was unreceptive. Most were glad that we made an effort to call them. The feedback from the post team members was a sense of accomplishment and pride in a job well done. Not only did we get an idea of the health and needs of our

membership, we also were able to clear up discrepancies in our membership roster."

Rising said some members of Post 141 had passed away while others moved out of state, and there were incorrect phone numbers or disconnected telephones. He added that a lot of voicemails were left, which he attributes to caller ID and members not recognizing the caller.

"Overall, the mission was accomplished. Not only did we get a gauge of our post's health, but we were also able to get a more precise snapshot of our post member database," Rising said. "We did get quite a few renewals and members saying they would try to stop by the post more often.

"It was a great experience, and we plan on making a regular effort in the future."

**Fundraiser for local hospice facilities 'ingrained' in Florida Legion Riders chapter**

**Post 392**

*National Article, January 20, 2022*

Since 2009, Paul W. Airey American Legion Riders Chapter 392 in Panama City, Fla., has staged what it calls the Hotzee Run, a ride and event designed to raise funds for local hospice facilities.

But the ride took on an even more personal meaning for Chapter 392 in 2015, when one of their own, Mark Long, had a stroke on the ride and would later pass away. Prior to that, though, he used hospice care; Chapter 392 arranged for its members to ride by the hospital where Long was staying so he could hear the roar of their motorcycles.

After that, the Hotzee Run was renamed the Mark "Flash" Long Memorial Hotzee Run and has continued to raise money – now well over \$130,000. Not even the pandemic could stop the Riders from fulfilling what they view as a mission.

"It never crossed our mind not to do the Hotzee Run," said Chapter 392 Director Darlene Brock, a member of Auxiliary Unit 392. "It's ingrained in what we do. It's in the fabric of what Post 392's Riders are about. There's never been a question that we wouldn't do the event.

"It is a premiere event for (Bay County). We get so much support from the bike community from all over the county, and from (American Legion) District 1. And we had people come from Michigan to see this event, because they're so astounded by what we're doing and what we're doing it for."

ALR 392 Assistant Director Suzanne Patterson, who served as the coordinator for this year's ride, said planning starts in October with establishing a team of Riders, supports and other members of Post 392's American Legion Family.

"It's everything from figuring out where the stops are, to getting a list of community businesses that will donate or have donated in the past, to seeing who can go out and solicit to or create solicitation letters," Patterson said.

"It's figuring out who's going to breakfast or who's going to do dinner. And this year we did something new. One of our members put together a looping slide show that gives credit to the local hospice programs and also showed pictures of all the members that we have lost who were affected by hospice at the end of their lives. There's just so much going on."

Before the pandemic, the Riders would stage registration and the start of the ride at the

Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans Nursing Home in Panama City. But for safety reasons, the ride again started and ended at Post 392.

This year's ride took place Jan. 15 and had around 170 motorcycles taking part. It was open to the public and featured multiple stops where participants played a Yahtzee-type game. Each participant paid a \$10 entry fee; in addition to motorcycles, cars and trucks also were welcome to participate.

A breakfast kicked off the ride, while participants were welcomed back to Post 392 afterward, where a dinner, raffles, silent auctions and live music took place. Everyone who donates to the effort receives a certificate of appreciation from Chapter 392.

With money still coming in, this year's Mark "Flash" Long Memorial Hotzee Run raised \$24,000. All the money goes to Covenant Care and Emerald Coast Hospice in Panama City.

Patterson and Brock said Post 392's entire American Legion Family assists with the effort, noting Sons of The American Legion Squadron 392 provided the food for both the breakfast and dinner this year.

*Post 392 continued on page 14 >>*



<< Post 392 continued from page 13

For Patterson, who serves as second vice commander for Auxiliary Unit 392, the ride is an opportunity to thank those who help some veterans through the final stage of their lives.

“My father was a Vietnam veteran, and I joined The American Legion because I wanted to serve the veterans in our community,” Patterson said. “Covenant Care and Emerald Coast Hospice affect the end of life of many veterans in this community. At the end of your life, if you don’t get anything else you need to be treated with dignity. That’s what Covenant does and that’s what Emerald does. And they work with volunteers, just like we do. Because we believe in what they do, we want to be able to support them and continue supporting, even when times are tough.”



Members of Post 392’s American Legion Family put together items for a raffle and silent auction for the Mark “Flash” Long Memorial Hotzee Run.

### How to Create a MyLegion Account

Jennifer Cooper, Dept Fundraising Director

**Step 1:** From your computer or mobile device, go to your web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, etc.) and type www.mylegion.org

**Step 2:** Select ‘REGISTER’ in the top right-hand corner (Photo 1)

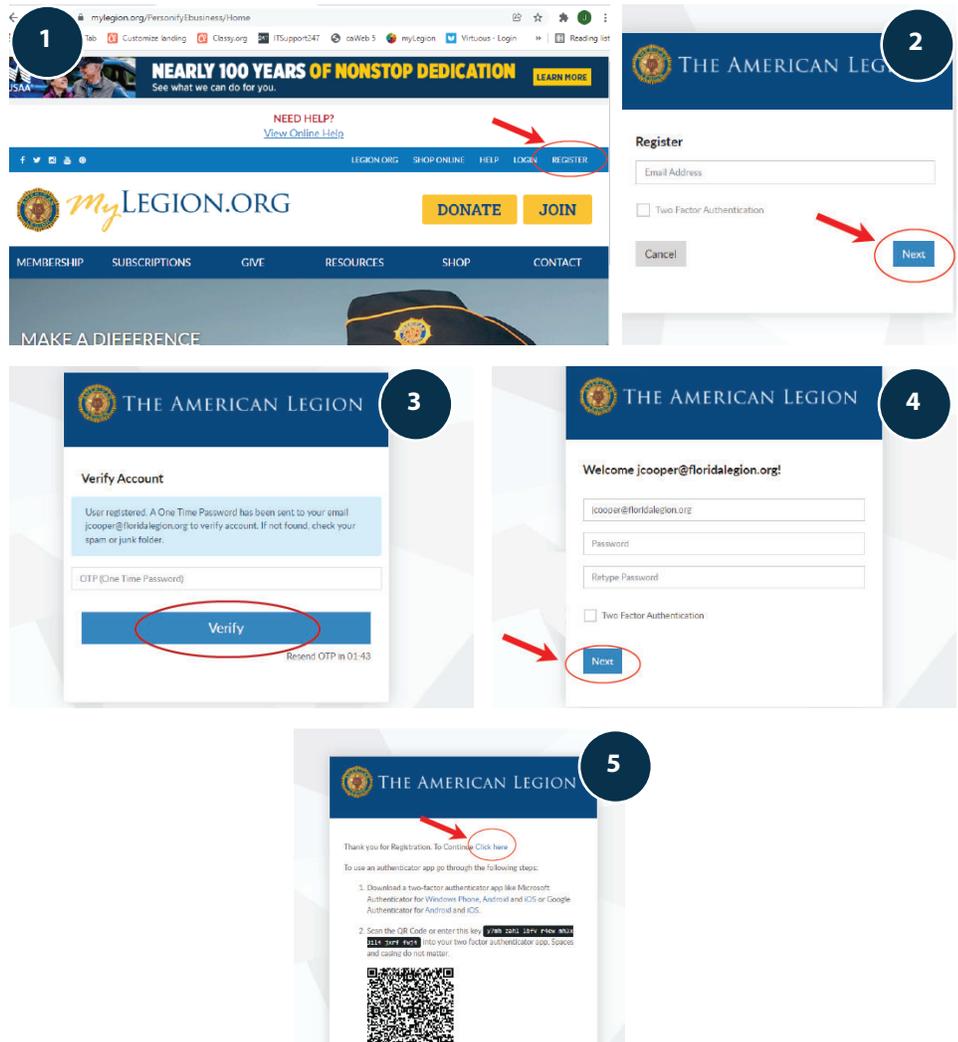
**Step 3:** Input your email address. Be sure you use the same email you provided for membership so that it links in the system. If you do not know what email you provided, please contact your Post or Department Headquarters office. (Photo 2)

**Step 4:** A One-time Temporary Password (OTP) will be sent to the email address you provided. If the email is not in your inbox, check your junk or spam folder.

**Step 5:** Type in the One-time Temporary Password (OTP) and click ‘VERIFY’. (Photo 3)

**Step 6:** Create a password and click ‘NEXT’. (Photo 4)

**Step 7:** It is not necessary to complete the authenticator app portion. Simply select ‘CLICK HERE’ in the first sentence to take you to your myLegion account. (Photo 5)



January 20, 2022 Membership Target Report (80%)		
6	Joe Marcheggiani	87.55
9	George Bograkos	84.64
16	Robert Matheson	84.14
1	Sonny Decker	83.61
7	Burl Thomas	83.60
8	Skip Felicita	82.54
17	Jim Bowers	81.19
13	Harold Boyer	81.15
12	Dennis Mallon	81.02
14	Thomas Frank	80.38
3	Stuart Scott	78.89
4	John Bennett	78.87
5	Lena Heredia-Perez	78.37
2	Steve Mears	76.41
15	Stephen Tyler	73.72
11	Harry Malecki	73.60
Eastern	Daryl Bass	84.56
Western	John Edens	82.49
Southwestern	Jessica Moore	81.78
Central	Bruce Carl	81.01
Northern	Troy Horsley	79.14
Southern	Johnny Castro	78.66
Post 400		75.70
Post 208		77.78



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

**DEPARTMENT TRUSTED.  
LEGIONNAIRE APPROVED.**

We provide a wide range of benefits designed to protect you, your family and your health.



**From Your American Legion Department**

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



**Emergency and Accident**

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



[www.thelit.com](http://www.thelit.com)

Next Membership Goal:  
February 2, 2022

**85%**





# Central Area Ball

**March 19th 4 - 9 pm**

**Post 252**

**11433 Park Blvd  
Seminole, FL**

**Tickets \$35 per person  
Couples \$65  
Contact Steve Tyler for tickets  
tylersf@hotmail.com  
813-857-3671**

- \* Raffles**
- \* 50 / 50**
- \* Cocktail Hour 4 pm**
- \* Dinner 5 pm**
- \* Specialty Drinks**

**~ Menu ~**

**Hawaiian Chicken**  
**Hawaiian BBQ Pork**  
**Rice**  
**Vegetable**  
**Green Salad**  
**Fruit Salad**  
**Pineapple Upside Down Cake**  
**Hawaiian Delight**



**Entertainment  
7 - 9 pm  
Billy "Elvis" Lindsey**



All proceeds to benefit Project Vet Relief and My Warriors Place



# EASTERN AREA BALL

COUNTRY & WESTERN STYLE

## APRIL 30 @ 1 PM

FEATURING

**PULLED PORK & CHICKEN & ALL THE**

**FIXIN'S \$30 PER PERSON**

**RSVP BY APRIL 15**

**LIVE MUSIC ! RAFFLES ! LAKESIDE @ AMERICAN**

**LEGION OLD GLORY POST 183 - 2706 WELLS**

**AVENUE FERN PARK, FL 32730**

**THE FINE PRINT DETAILS:**

**RSVP TO DARYL BASS: 407-738-3357 - MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DARYL BASS EASTERN AREA COMMANDER - 3014 DIAMOND LN ST CLOUD FL 37721**

**PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS AND NUMBER OF GUESTS ATTENDING**

**HOTEL ROOM BLOCK: HILTON ALTMOANTE SPRINGS -\$119 PER NIGHT AVAILABLE APRIL 29-MAY 1 MENTION ALA22 OR ONLINE AT :**

**[HTTPS://WWW.HILTON.COM/EN/ATTEND-MY-EVENT-ALA22-04292022-0502202](https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event-ala22-04292022-0502202)  
CUT OFF DATE MARCH 30 2022**



**EASTERN AREA BALL**  
**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**At**  
**American Legion Post 183 Fern Park**  
**2706 Wells Ave**  
**Fern Park, FL 32730**

**PROGRAM ADS**

<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>½ PAGE</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>BUSINESS CARD</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>

**COMMENTS**

---

---

---

---

Send pictures and comments by e-mail to: [cmariebass27@outlook.com](mailto:cmariebass27@outlook.com)

**CUT OFF DATE FOR AD IS: March 30, 2022**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS TO:**

**Daryl Bass**  
**Eastern Area Commander**  
**3014 Diamond Lane**  
**St. Cloud, FL 34772**

**(407) 738-3357**

# 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) 201-7283



The American Legion  
High School Oratorical  
Scholarship Program

Support Your Area's Competitor  
at State Finals

March 12, 2022  
Competition begins at 9:00 am

Dept. of Florida HQ  
Orlando, FL

