



JUNE 2022

VOLUME XXX ISSUE 11

IN THIS EDITION

Department Officers

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

Area / District Commanders

- 5 Central Area 24 Southern Area

Membership

- 8 Eastern Membership 14 Membership Report
- 9 Western Membership

Programs

- 5 American Legion Riders 9 SAL Advisor
- 6 Children & Youth 10 PROJECT: VetRelief
- 30 Disaster Preparedness 11 Scouting
- 6 JROTC/JSSP 11 VA&R
- 7 Law & Order 13 Women Veterans
- 8 Legion College 13 Youth Law Cadet

Other

- 9 Post 22
- 13 Post 390
- 15 Candidates
- 16 Post Pre-Registration
- 17 Commander's Polo Order Form
- 19 Banquet Tickets
- 21 Kick-Off Party
- 22 Convention Guide
- 23 Post 115 Golf Tournament
- 25-29 American Gold Star National Convention

Submit Articles at

floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org

A Message from the Department Commander

Jerry Brandt, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



Comrades, it's been another long month, beginning with the National Spring Meetings and ending with the Heroes Honor Festival, with a number of events in between. The year is winding down now, as we are busy preparing for Department Convention.

While attending the National Spring NEC Meeting, I learned important information I would like to share with you:

1. Yes, The American Legion Department of Florida is still on probation with National. However, that probation will be lifted at the Department Convention with the passing of Amendments by the Membership. Those Amendments were reviewed and forwarded by the DEC in April to membership. All our Posts should have received them for review and final vote on the Convention Floor.
2. Dues to National were discussed during the Spring NEC Meeting. The National Executive Committee felt that fundraising was doing well, and no increases in dues by National were needed at this time.

3. National feels that the recognition of The American Legion Racecar has been successful for membership, recognition, and donations. Studies are ongoing to determine exactly how this recognition is paying The American Legion back, through donations and new members. Currently, there is no deadline for the final report on this study.

The above three items are my top take-aways from the meeting, other items did come up about the VA. Increasing access for our sisters to obtain better treatment in the VA hospitals, and "Burn Pits" exposure veterans have experienced were also topics of discussion. Both topics will be front and center for the VA and Congress to fix.

I am proud of the work that The American Legion, on all levels, do on behalf of our fellow veterans. Let us continue this important work well into the future.

You may have been hearing conflicting reports about the NEC Meeting, but you can listen and watch the meeting yourself. Videos are available on YouTube, search "American Legion NEC Spring Meeting, 2022" and you should be able to locate and watch the meeting. The information about Florida's Constitution and Bylaws is about 1:32 hours into the presentation, with the vote about 1:50 hours in. Please watch, and then you

Department Commander continued on page 2 >>



<< Department Commander continued from page 1 will know without a doubt the correct information.

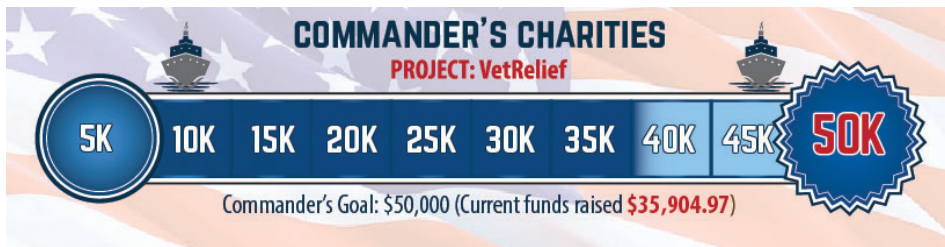
Regarding The American Legion, Department of Florida Constitution and Bylaws, the DEC has approved Amendments to bring us current for National. However, the Constitution and Bylaws are still confusing to read. Your incoming Department Commander will have a committee tasked next year to continue work rewriting the Department Constitution and Bylaws. Most of the work has already been completed, and the information can be accessed by the committee to continue working. If you are asked to assist, please do so.

I usually do not mention membership, however at this time, we are about even with our numbers from last year. Please remember, those you have transmitted in, will not count for about two weeks after the transmittal. I would like to thank the Department and District Membership team for their hard work. You have all achieved a lot over the last few years, despite our many challenges: new mylegion system, COVID lockdowns, lockdown of our VA hospitals,

war in Europe, high gas and food prices, etc. Even with all of our challenges, you, our American Legion members, are not only surviving, but you are growing with almost 10,000 new members. Approximately 20,000, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans account for membership in the Department of Florida, we are turning younger. Please welcome these new Veterans to The American Legion.

This is my last Legion Link article as the Commander of The American Legion, Department of Florida. This is a year I will always remember. All the Legionnaires and family members I have crossed paths with have made this year a memorable one. We have all worked together for common causes: PROJECT: VetRelief, Suicide Prevention, My Warriors Place, Ukrainian Relief, Special Olympics, Child Welfare, and many other programs of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion. There couldn't be a GREATER group of Floridians. Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of this process.

Please remember, we are brothers and sisters, in War and in Peace.



JUNE 2022	
1	Baseball: Late Registration Closes
1	Post Officer Reports Due
1	Post Certification of Officers Forms Due
4	District 2: Meeting
4	District 16: DCC
6	D-Day
8	ALR: Chapter 35 Meeting
11	ALR: Anaya Memorial Poker Run
11	Post 186: Adopt-A-Highway
12	Women Veterans Day
12	Post 108: Flag Retirement Ceremony
14	Flag Day
15	U.S. Army Birthday
15	Commander's Golf Tournament ☆
16	Legion Family Kick-Off Party ☆
17	Commander's & President's Banquet ☆
16-19	Department Convention ☆
18	Pride & Patriotism Raffle Drawing ☆
18	ALR: Chapter 27 Monthly Meeting
19	Father's Day
19-25	Florida Boys State
19	Post 81: ALR Monthly Meeting
20	Department HQ Closed
21	First Day of Summer
22-26	American Gold Star Mothers National Convention
27	PTSD Awareness Day
18	Operation Red Wing Observance
30-2	Leadership Retreat ☆

JULY 2022	
4	Independence Day
4	Department HQ Closed
10-15	Youth Law Cadet Week
13	ALR: Chapter 35 Meeting
14	Bastille Day
15-17	Baseball Area Playoffs
15	Legion Link Articles Due
15	Baseball Scholarships Due to Dept
15	CWF Grant Applications Due to National ☆
16	ALR: Chapter 27 Monthly Meeting
17	Post 81: ALR Monthly Meeting
19	Hiring Our Heroes
20-23	National JSSP Tournament ☆
20-24	Baseball Sr. State Tournament
22-30	Boys Nation ☆
23	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
24	Parent's Day
27-29	National Dept Service Officers School ☆
27	End of Korean War (1953)
28-30	National Membership Workshop ☆
28	Buffalo Soldier's Day
28-31	Baseball Junior State Tournament
29	U.S. Army Chaplain Corps Birthday

☆ 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.

Zone 1

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



Congratulations to all Area, District, and Post Commanders on a job well done in programs and membership. Congratulations to Joe Marcheggiani for his District being the first to make 101.81%

within The Department of Florida. The following Posts also made 100% and above,

with the highest post at 188.95%:

- District 6 Posts - 219, 403, 412, 35, 239, 243, 63, 18, 55, 80, 357, 109, and 183.
- District 11 Posts - 188, 62, 199, and 371.
- District 12 Posts - 177, 394, 117, 318, 81, and 39.
- District 14 Posts - 32, 145, 133, 154, 346, and 144.

Congratulations to Eastern Area Commander, Daryl Bass, for being in first

1st Vice Commander continued on page 3 >>



<< 1st Vice Commander continued from page 2
place as of May 13, 2022.

All of your hard work and efforts in membership have really paid off. I am very proud of all Officers, Posts, and Membership in Zone 1. Thank you. Thank you to all the posts I visited in the

Eastern and Southern Areas for gracious hospitality, for sharing your Post's History, and Programs.

By this time, all of your CPRs and Department Addendums should be turned in. Please apply for the various awards you may qualify for, you deserve the recognition. It has been

an honor and a privilege to work for and with you. I wish each of you a very, positive, and productive 2022-2023.

"Leadership is not about being the best. Leadership is about making and helping everyone else to be better."

Goals and Purpose

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



As we approach the final month of our Legion year, we think back to all the great times we've experienced, and the wonderful people we've spent time with. After completing a year each in both Zones 1 and 3, I finally got to spend a year in my home Zone, and I've enjoyed every minute of it. As

many of you know, this year has completely changed my life both personally and professionally, and I am so very thankful for the friends and family that have supported me over the past year. I will continue to give my all, as long as you will allow me to.

Through my travels, I have experienced a variety of Posts, all different but with the same goals and purpose. They all want to be successful! Our Legion goal is to serve. To serve our Veterans, our children, and our communities. As we serve, we must always

strive to grow. We grow by being involved in our community. We grow by working our programs. It sounds very simple, but it takes a little effort. I'm willing, are you?

It's election time and whether you win or lose, your talents are always needed. Whether it's Post, District, or Department there will always be a place for you to serve. All you have to do is ask. Thank you all for what you do. Let's finish the year off with a bang!

Many Thanks

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



Time truly flies, it seems like just last week we were beginning our year, and now we are at the end of it. Firstly, a big THANK YOU for all your hard work this year. We've had our challenges, but together we have worked through them. This has been an incredible journey, for me personally, and education

as well. Zone 3 is pretty much the upper half of our great state and brings its own challenges and dynamics to the table. There is lots of great Legion Family there to work with.

We've conducted a lot of training in the Zone, with your Area and District Commanders staying sharp and available to assist. I'm proud to have served as your Zone Commander. There is no doubt in my mind that your Posts in your respective Areas appreciate your efforts as much as I do.

I wish to continue my journey this upcoming year, as I am currently running for 2nd Vice Commander of the Department of Florida. I can assure my Zone that the candidates that are running are very competent, and Zone 3 will be in great shape with whoever wins the position.

Once again, thank you for a great year. We still have time to get our numbers up a little more. I look forward to seeing you on the road and at Convention.

Keep it Real!



REGISTER YOUR POST CERTIFY DELEGATES/ALTERNATES ONLINE

- REGISTER POST
- PAY FEES
- REQUEST MATERIALS
- UPLOAD PAPERWORK



**SAVE TIME
FORGET THE LINE**



Policy and procedures for the Temporary Financial Assistance Program

Dennis Boland, NEC
nec@legionmail.org



RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, IN, on May 4-5, 2022, that the statement of policy governing the Temporary Financial Assistance hereby remain as follows;

- A single one-time non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to \$1,500 may be permitted for the minor child(ren) of a qualifying veteran;

- A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces currently serving on federal orders under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components or any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion;
- A inquiry into and verification of the need, and cause of need, should be conducted by a personal visitation to the home or other whereabouts of such child(ren) by a competent investigator(s);
- Formal documentation and/or a signed written testament of an investigator's statement of findings is required as part of the Temporary Financial Assistance investigation process, and verification that all other forms of financial assistance

available have been sought and applied for, or have already been denied;

- Annual cumulative expenditures of Temporary Financial Assistance grants may not exceed \$700,000 without prior approval of each chairman of the Americanism and Finance Commissions and the national commander; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Committee on Children & Youth, with review and concurrence of the Americanism and Finance Commissions, develop, maintain in writing, and review biennially (every two years) the conditions, rules, guidelines, and procedures for managing administration of the Temporary Financial Assistance program.

June History

Barry Roberts, Chaplain
chaplain@legionmail.org



It's hard to believe that June is here and it is time for Convention again. As we remember our June history, D-Day is very significant. During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, lasting from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control.

Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, now known as D-Day. Some 156,000 American, British, and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a fifty-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history. By late August 1944, all of Northern France had been liberated. By the following spring, the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of the war in Europe.

Also, in June we celebrate Flag Day. Flag Day is celebrated on June 14, and commemorates

the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. We also celebrate Father's Day in June. Happy Father's Day to all of you Fathers!

I look forward to seeing you at our 2022 Convention!

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

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

History Books

Philip Crouthamel, Historian
historian@legionmail.org



Greetings to all my fellow Historians. This will be the final submission for the current membership year.

The Department Convention is upon

us and that means "Book Judging Time." Bring all History books for the competition to the **Department Convention at Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista; 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830.**

There will be a table set up in the Headquarters Office (**Grand 1-2**) for you to place your book on. Thursday night (June 16) The books will be taken to be

scored.

If you are unable to make Department Convention, you can mail your submission to: Department Headquarters at 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32819. Your submission must be received no later than June 7, 2022.

Historian continued on page 5 >>



<< Historian continued from page 4

DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH YOUR APPLICATION TO YOUR BOOK AND NOTE WHAT TYPE OF BOOK IT IS. History, Scrapbook, or Narrative. There are different judging criteria for each book.

Congratulations to the following posts over 750 for winning The American

Legion Media Alliance (TALMA) contest that ran from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021.

WEBSITE: Theodore Clark, Post 90, Cape Coral-**PUBLIC RELATIONS**-Theodore Clark, Post 90, Cape Coral

SOCIAL MEDIA: Ed Lewis, Post 273, Madeira Beach-**VISUAL MEDIA:** Ed

Lewis, Post 273, Madeira Beach

Finally, I will be conducting a Historian class on Friday, June 17, in the Fuchsia/ Gardenia room, from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm. This will not last more than 1 hour and I should have plenty of handouts.

"This We Defend"

A Wonderful Year

Bruce Carl, Central Area
centralarea@legionmail.org



Greetings everyone! The end is near, the end of the 2021-2022 Florida Legion year that is. By the time this article comes out, there will only be two weeks left until the Department

Convention. This year has been wonderful and rewarding for me as your Central Area Commander. I have visited all the Posts in the Area and seen so many wonderful things. It is amazing how Posts have adapted to their own specific needs for fundraising, programs, etc. I have learned many things this year and met so many fantastic people during my travels.

The Department Commander, the 2nd Vice Commander ("bacon man" Gambler), and myself spent a lot of time in the Central Area this year. There were three District visits, in addition to the National

Commander's visit. Many events were held in the Area, attended by all of us, from picnics to fundraisers, the Ball, and many more. The In-State Unity ride ended in the Central Area, and the State Rally was also held here.

There were some issues, but we were able to resolve most of them one way or another, without the intervention from Department.

I had the privilege and honor of working with a great District staff from all three Districts. Thank you to all of them for all their hard work and dedication this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all my Central Area Chairs who assisted me throughout the year. I would be remiss to not thank the Department Officers and staff for all their input and assistance. If you are going to Convention, please thank the Department staff for all they do when you see them.

The month of May has been busy. I have attended all three District DCCs. Congratulations to all the new Officers!

There were two Area training classes held on the responsibilities and duties of Post Officers. The training classes were well attended, and the feedback was all positive. I also had the honor of traveling with the National Auxiliary President as she visited the 15th and 16th Districts.

I would like to remind everyone to please get your CPR, addendum, and Officer reports turned in, if you have not already done so. Remember if you do not turn these reports in, you will not receive your new membership cards, and you will not be able to register for the Convention.

Thank you to Jerry Brandt for a great year!! I hope everyone will support all the new Officers that will be elected soon. I look forward to another great year from Team Florida as we move forward into 2022-2023. I have plans to move forward within the Department, but if things do not work out, I will still be available for anyone that needs assistance or training. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention!

Recap

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders
legionriders@legionmail.org



Wow, another year has gone by, but what a year! Now that COVID is mostly behind us, it was nearly normal again.

Our first ALR Department activity was the "POW/ MIA Seven Bridges Ride"

in Jacksonville. Great job by Denny Luke and his team! There will be another "Seven Bridges Ride", if you missed the last one, don't make the same mistake again, join us for a great ride. Details to be announced soon.

It was a record year for the "Merry Go Round", followed by a great picnic. It was a quick turnaround for many Chapters, with a lot going on that weekend.

Next, is our Five State Ride. The best way to explain the ride is "ALR 5 State U-Turn dirt road Unity Fun Ride October 10-16, 2021, FL, GA, AL, MS, LA" which as most of you know. Now it is a patch "Proudly" worn by the participants. Great Ride, Fun Times!

The next rider activity was the Summit, New hotel, and new experiences. Based on Survey Monkey the overall rating for the Summit

American Legion Riders continued on page 6 >>



<< American Legion Riders continued from page 5
 was in the high nineties with few exceptions. The bad news is, that we may not be going back to that hotel. The hotel was sold, our hotel sales rep was out sick, and someone beat us to it. We are looking at a different location, but we may have to change the dates. One of the things we constantly shop for is the "Biggest Bang for the Buck", which is hard to find in the aftermath of COVID.

We wrapped up the year with In-State Unity Ride and Rally. Before I go any further, we must recognize the individuals that made it happen. What can I say, our man Joe Marcheggiani and his team did an outstanding job executing the routes. He also found another Department Road Captain, Zane Koonce. Our Department

Road Captain Team is growing, it includes Joe Marcheggiani, Tim Morse, Bobby Greer, Wayne Parrot, and Zane Koonce. It's a good thing it's growing, we may have three routes to pick from next year.

Thanks to all that participated, Ride Safe, looking forward to seeing you soon.

Your 2022 – 2023 Schedule

- **Department Convention**, June 16-19, 2022
- **POW/MIA Ceremony**, Jacksonville, September 17, 2022
- **"Merry Go Round"**, October 2022
- **Fall Conference**, November 18-20, 2022
- **Summit**, February 22-25, 2023*
 - **Meet & Greet**, February 22, 2023*

- **Classes**, February 23-25, 2023*
 - **"Round Robin"**, April 2023
 - **In-State Unity Ride**, April 16-22, 2023
 - **Meet & Greet**, April 16, 2023
 - **Ride**, April 17-21, 2023
 - **Rally**, April 22, 2023, Orange County Chopper Museum*
- *Tentative Dates

If you have any ideas, please share! Again, Thank You for all your Efforts!

Beverly and I would like to thank each of you for another great year and we are looking forward to next year. Thank You for what you do, and we are proud to be part of your Leadership Team for such an excellent group!

"For the Cause, not the applause"

Wrapping Up

Les Martin, Children & Youth
cy@legionmail.org



It's that time of year, and our Children & Youth Programs are wrapping up. The only things left are our Teacher of the Year Award, Best Post Children & Youth Program Award, and Post Best Children & Youth Chair Award. May 11, 2022 was the deadline to have these applications into the Department. The announcement of the recipients for these awards will be made at our Department Convention.

The Children & Youth Golf Tournament and Picnic went well, but not as well as hoped. We made just over \$15,000 for the two events. We had eleven teams for the Golf Tournament which was about twelve teams shy of what we needed to have a successful tournament. I have been told by the participants that attended that they had a great time, and we thank them for their support. The Picnic also had a lower turnout, but the Legion Family members that did attend had a good time. I would like to thank Post 1 for their great hospitality and for hosting the Picnic.

We have received seven Grant Applications for assistance from our Children & Youth

Fund. The applications are being reviewed by the Fund Committee members and a decision will be made at our meeting at the Department Convention.

I would like to close by saying I enjoyed the past three years as your Children & Youth Chairman. Thank you PDC Rick Johnson and Commander Jerry Brandt for appointing me to this position. I have gotten to meet many great legionnaires over the years and have been to many Post homes throughout the State. Each of the Post homes are unique in their own way, but they are all special, with one goal, to serve our Veterans and Active-Duty Personnel. Thank you all.

JROTC and JSSP Year End Wrap-up

Loretta Young, JROTC/JSSP
jrotc@legionmail.org



This is the busy time of the year with all the Year-End Award Ceremonies and Military Balls. I would hope that all programs have been supported by your posts and that the Legionnaires have had the opportunity to attend in-person to

make the presentation of the Military and Scholastic Medals and Certificates. I have had the privilege to attend several and am always impressed with our youth and all their accomplishments. I want to thank the posts that submitted any reports, articles, pictures, etc. throughout the year. This is the only way I have that enables me to know what is going on throughout the state. Without the input from our Legionnaires, I cannot possibly pass on all that they are doing for our veterans and the community.

I want to thank all the posts that have supported the JSSP throughout this past year. Although the State of Florida did not have a National Winner to qualify for the Competition, the teams and individuals have had a very active season. Many thanks again for Post 90 and their efforts to support the Army State Marksmanship Competition at Island Coast HS in Cape Coral. We look forward to seeing more teams compete next year and good luck to the seniors who will

JROTC/JSSP continued on page 7 >>



<< JROTC/JSSP continued from page 6
be moving on with their education. We hope they will be able to continue with this very worthwhile sport of marksmanship. There will be the final and last competition at the JSSP National Competition in Colorado Springs in July, and this event will be on

the CMP website to view. Information will be on the Legion.org website to follow and get the results. I will be a volunteer and attend as support staff and look forward to seeing some of our finest youth in the Marksmanship field. Please continue to promote and support this program as there

is a Scholarship First Place Award of \$5,000 for each Category of Precision and Sporter, along with a Runner Up Award of \$1,000. I want to thank Commander Jerry Brandt for giving me the opportunity to serve in this very worthwhile capacity of the JROTC/JSSP Programs.



Hollywood Hills JROTC Color Guard for Award Ceremony



Army State Marksmanship Competition at Island Coast HS, Cape Coral

Correctional Officers, The Unspoken Heroes

Daryl Bass, Law & Order
laworder@legionmail.org



So far in 2022, there have been one-hundred and five Correctional Officers killed in the line of duty across the Country. Thirty-three in the State of Florida, twenty-nine males and four females. Most of these cases were during the handling of inmates. Many of them were killed while transporting prisoners from one facility to another and even taking them to Court.

Some died in vehicle crashes, some were stabbed to death, and some (which is every Law Enforcement Officers nightmare) were killed with their own duty weapon. The difference between Correctional Officers killed in action and Patrol Law Enforcement Officers killed in action is the fact that the most danger they have on the street is the suspect having a hidden firearm. When that danger is over, and an arrest is made the suspect is transported to the correctional facility and handed over to the Correctional personnel. Law Enforcement Officer's job is over. Being in Jail now 24/7 means the inmate can plan ways to escape while attempting to a gain the trust of the Correctional Officers. This will many times

cause the Officers to "drop their guard". Things become routine. Thus, many surviving Corrections Officers state, "They never saw it coming".

I personally have never been a Correctional Officer but have learned to have a great deal of respect for them and the job they have chosen. Let us, as Legion family, and seek (by their uniform) a Correctional Officer out and thank them for their service too. They are to all of us "the unsung heroes" of the Law Enforcement Community.

Reference: Officer Down Memorial Page



— SHOW YOUR —
SUPPORT

The American Legion official license plate.



Coming 2023 and New Application

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College
deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



There will be a Florida American Legion College class in 2023, and we will have a new application available soon.

I would like to thank Department

Commander, Jerry Brandt, for allowing me to be your FALC Chair and implement training.

You can start getting ready for our next class now. You must first have completed National Basic Training online through Legion.org,

within the last two years. Here are a few topics to brush up on:

- Legion Protocol
- PowerPoint 101
- Resolutions
- Leadership and Mentor
- All Programs Overview
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Team building to set and accomplish the goal
- Developing, instructing, and supporting your District and Department level training platform

Please make sure you provide valid contact information on your application so that we are able to communicate with you. There is a

\$200.00 fee required when you submit your application. We will confirm receipt of your application and let you know if you have been accepted.

We will reach out to you by email within two weeks of receipt of your application to the Department of Florida. If you do not receive a notification, please call me at (352) 226-4370 or email to deptlegioncollege@floridalegion.org.

Be prepared to work hard and long hours. The day is not finished until the homework and group assignments are done. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions and/or concerns.

Training Tuesday

Bruce Thurber, Eastern Membership
membership@legionmail.org



As we finish our Membership Year, I would like to thank everyone for the help you have given in taking on "BATTLE MEMBERSHIP". There are a few of you that need a commendation medal for your efforts: Ronnie Glover, Steve Mears, Victoria Ziegler, Doug Hockenberry, Mike Garcia, Peter Gregory, Nancy Thomas, Skip Felicita, Judith Richards, Harry Malecki, Herm Remus, Gary Cardenas, Eric Nestler, and Jim Bowers.

During this year we have had many

obstacles, many still unresolved, however, progress is being made. Each month National holds training. Tuesday on the April 26th training on the following topics were covered:

- MyLegion.org – Getting Started
- MyLegion.org – Group Administrative Tasks
- MyLegion.org – Manage Groups
- MyLegion.org – Member Overview
- MyLegion.org – Process Membership

To find this training, go to Legion.org, in the search bar type in "Training Tuesday", and a list will appear. Click on the item you are interested in. So far this is the best instruction that has been put out to help us.

In the effort of increasing connectivity with

post 9/11 Veterans in and outside of your membership try using a simple approach: cater an evening around these veterans and invite them to the post to learn about The American Legion, what you are doing in the local community, and how they can be a part of it.

While all veterans and their families are welcome, the focus of the night is to connect with post-9/11 veterans, enjoy camaraderie, networking, and have a good time with one another. Have members take a moment to briefly highlight what the Post is doing locally, both independently as well as in collaborative work with other veterans/non-veteran organizations throughout the community, and how the post-9/11 generation can become involved.

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.

QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE
YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



www.legion.org/renew




Transfers

Randy Holeyfield, Western Membership
membership@legionmail.org



In the past few years, Department has been encouraging the transfers from National's DMS program. In Florida, we assign them to Post 400, and any post can authorize the automatic transfer to their post.

This allows direct transfers, transfers first that require proof of honorable active-duty service, and posts can opt-out of auto-transfers altogether.

At the start of the year, there were 12,670 members in Post 400, currently, there are 12,857. Since the start of collecting data on membership stats this year (September 9th), there have been 2,844 transfers from Post 400. Of that, some districts have refrained from accepting these Legion members that are in Good Standing which in and of itself is perplexing.

Why would posts be reluctant to accept these Legionnaires? They are American Legion members, why are they shunned? There is a 1% variance of National's DMS members who will not be honorable discharged, but you're still checking every one of them.

Some state when asked: "I do not know them." Others claim: "I cannot be sure they are Honorably discharged."

Unfortunately, neither of these are valid answers. How can I say that? Do you know every veteran who walks through your front door at your post? Do you know every veteran you meet around town or at Publix and Lowe's? That answer is a big fat, NO!

What is it? Because every veteran that comes in your post is going to have their discharge checked, just like anyone from around town.

So now what is it? "I cannot be sure if a Post 400 is Honorable Discharged." Are you not checking those first three categories? This one is no different, except they are already in the Legion, and in Good Standing. I've taken all your excuses away, right? "No, because there are not any of these veterans around my post or my District?" Let's see how true that really is, as I have been told this.

I did a random district from one area that made that statement, let's just say their transfers are low for Post 400. I pulled (tediously) all the zip codes for that district. I discovered they had 974 Post 400's available, many were AD's (those count to goal now). Therefore their statement did not hold water. This one, like many other districts, needed help. You say, "yea, they were only around larger populated areas." No, they were scattered in both large and small-town/cities. But you cannot catch a fish without casting for them. Yes, it requires effort, and yes, some if now several will say no, but you must ask to get a no.

We started the year off promoting transfer

with the DMS Preemptive Strike as a Jump Start attempt for transfers, but few answered the call. Well, I will give credit where credit is due.

Great job to these post that stood out this year:

- Post 219 with 269 transfers
- Post 35 with 179 transfers
- Post 63 with 78 transfers
- Post 347 with 79 transfers
- Post 4 with 50 transfers
- Post 117 with 98 transfers
- Post 318 with 69 transfers
- Post 152 with 103 transfers
- Post 334 with 50 transfers

District 6 had the most transfers, with 670, and this is why they finished top at 101.25%, as of June 5th's report. The DMS put them there, and it can do it for your Post and/or District, but you must embrace it this coming year.

Also, don't forget about Post 208 (Cyber Post), you can get transfers from them as well.

Thank you for all the effort and hard work, each and every post expended. This was a most challenging year, with so many problems with MyLegion, it caused many more hours to be dedicated to membership. Let's pray for next year to be lighter work. I thank you for all the welcoming wherever I traveled across the state, you're the greatest and many thanks.

Thank You

Richard Smith, SAL Advisor
sal@legionmail.org



I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to the Commander, staff, and to all the posts in Department for allowing me to serve you in this position.

POST 22 Revamped and Non-Smoking
Brad Parsons, Post Commander

The Indian River Post # 22 in Florida has had some major overhauls this past year. We have put on a new roof, added a beautiful deck on the east side. Best of all, we went NON Smoking on February 1st. Our membership has grown considerably. We have repaired our air conditioning units and are also in the process of replacing all electrical panels

in the building. We are having dinners and entertainment every weekend. Stop by and see us when you are in the area.



**PROJECT:
VETRELIEF**



Bulletin

JUNE 2022

PROJECT:
A PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
projectvetrelief.org

FLORIDA LEGION RIDERS... ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE

The Florida American Legion Riders **CRUSHED** their goal again... They more than surpassed their \$100,000 goal for our Suicide Prevention Initiative!! Although the final total will be announced during Convention next month, we are always in awe of what they are able to accomplish year over year.

For those of you who created a fundraising page and collected donations to earn the cool prizes, we appreciate your efforts by encouraging your friends and family to contribute to our unified mission, ending veteran suicide. Those items can be picked up in the Legion Riders hospitality suite at the Department Convention. If you are unable to attend, items will be taken back by the ALR District Chairman.



ADVOCATE REDIRECTION... CONVENTION CLASS CANCELED

We have had a hard time to get volunteers involved as VetRelief Advocates since the COVID-19 pandemic. This gave our organization a chance to step back and evaluate our process.

In spirit of continuous movement and growth, we will be restructuring our VetRelief Advocate role. Therefore, we will canceling the PROJECT: VetRelief Advocate Training Class that is scheduled for this year's Department Convention this month, June 16th-19th in Orlando.

In the meantime, our Team will be identifying a number of interested individuals per District that would be willing to assist our program with this redirection. If you would like to learn more information or tell us you are interested, please contact Jennifer Cooper at jcooper@floridalegion.org or 407-295-2631.

THANK YOU, JERRY + WANDA!!

Congratulations to the two of you on your service to the Florida American Legion Family as Department Commander and Auxiliary Department President. We appreciate ALL your support you provided to our program and are grateful you each chose PROJECT: VetRelief as your fundraising project for the year! **THANK YOU!!**



THE DATE IS SET

PVR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Monday, September 26th

WHERE: Bella Collina Golf Course

TIME: Registration 7:00AM
Shotgun at 8:30AM

We always look forward to this annual event hosted by our Board President, Bob James, and his company, RL James General Contractor!



SUPPORT CASES

JULY 2021 - APR 2022

*Reflect PVR Cases ONLY



158 FAMILIES
ASSISTED



\$164,286.29

AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED

f facebook
@ProjectVetRelief

1912A LEE RD, ORLANDO • 407-295-2631 • WWW.PROJECTVETRELIEF.ORG

Chartering and Sponsoring

Chris Ragusa, Scouting
scouting@legionmail.org



Join us at the Department of Florida Convention from June 16-19, 2022! During the Champions session in the program on Saturday morning, June 18th, we will announce our Department Eagle

Scout of the Year, Mr. Erik Dyer of Lithia, FL (District 15), and present him with his \$2,500 scholarship. And as part of the Program Review session, we'll also recognize three of our posts with the Outstanding Post Scouting Program Award! This award is bestowed upon Department of Florida posts with the most involvement in the Scouting program. Involvement can consist of both chartering BSA units, sponsoring the activities of BSA units, or both (see below). The three posts will receive a Department of Florida plaque that acknowledges this

achievement for display at the post. I will be there Friday and Saturday (18th and 19th), and if anyone would like some of my attention then, please reach out in advance and we can schedule a time to get together!

Chartering Versus Sponsoring A BSA unit.

The terms chartering and sponsoring of Scouting units are often used synonymously but are distinctly different. **CHARTERING:** Chartering...a formal charter between a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) council and a chartered organization (place of worship, school, veterans service organization or other community group) ...entitles the organization or group to conduct the Scouting program with adult leadership that they approve to accomplish its mutual objectives and to serve the organization's and community's youth and families. Having a charter with the BSA is very similar to being awarded a business franchise. TAL charters all its 55 Departments to deliver the American Legion programs. Each Department then

charters Posts to do the same. Similarly, the BSA charters 253 Councils nationwide to deliver its youth programs. The Councils then partner individually with Posts to jointly charter Scout units. This charter is renewed every year and is codified through an "Annual Unit Charter Agreement" which must be signed by the Post Commander. This agreement outlines the conditions under which the Post is to conduct and deliver its youth program through Scouting units. This chartering procedure supports an important legal relationship. **SPONSORING:** Sponsoring is the less formal support of a Scouting unit. It often involves donating money, providing opportunities to earn money, and allowing post property to be used for activities, Courts of Honor, service projects, or meetings without that formal agreement that a charter codifies. Posts can provide this type of support to as many Scouting units as it can reasonably handle. **SUCCESSFUL AND ENGAGED AMERICAN LEGION POSTS BOTH CHARTER AND SPONSOR BSA UNITS!**

Announcements and New Programs

Alan Cohen, VA&R
var@legionmail.org



As we approach our Department Convention in just a couple of weeks we look back with a sense of pride over the past year. While the COVID pandemic isn't completely behind us

we've powered through, working every day to fulfill our commitment to fellow members of the veteran community. In connection with that our VAVS volunteers have continued contributing their time and efforts in new ways and we thank them. I'll share some bittersweet news, Ted Costello, our long-time representative at the Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin facilities will be retiring this month. A salute and handshake to Ted for over 20 years of service. We wish you happiness and good health in your retirement.

After continuing efforts, the VA announced the launch of a canine training pilot program. Five VA medical centers have been chosen to offer this program and the West Palm Beach VA hospital is one of them. Once dogs are trained they will be adopted by veterans who meet the necessary criteria: be enrolled in the VA healthcare system; be diagnosed with PTSD and be recommended by a VA mental healthcare provider/clinician. June 27th is PTSD Screening Day and veterans can take an important first step by self-screening. This can be done at: www.ptsd.va.gov/screen.

Along with this article, you'll find a form that every Legionnaire should be aware of. Part of our mission is to reach out to all veterans, Legionnaires or not. This form can be used by anyone should they become aware of a veteran or veteran's family in need of any kind of help and it gives all of us the opportunity to reach out.

I'm anxiously looking forward once again

to our upcoming Convention in just a couple of weeks. Registration is still open for the 2-day Post Service Officer class and the application can be found on the Department website. Posts can now send two individuals so don't wait until the last minute because this class is filling up quickly.

A bit of a departure from usual business: I had the pleasure to speak with the owner of the Tampa Bay Inferno, a women's professional tackle football team, and among other things learned that almost 20% of their roster are either veterans or active-duty personnel. This is their 11th season with games played at Sickles High School in Tampa. Take a look at their website and go out to enjoy a fun day and support them!

In closing, I'd like to extend thanks and appreciation to Department leadership for their tireless efforts over the past year in "steering the ship".



Do you know a Veteran who needs help?

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Veteran Assistance Referral Form

The Veteran Assistance Referral Form can be used by veterans or anyone else to seek help or assistance from a American Legion Post Service Officer. If you know a veteran or family member who needs assistance or may have questions pertaining to eligibility for veterans benefits, simply complete and present this form to a local American Legion Post or mail to Department Headquarters, Attn: Programs Director, and we will do the rest. Neither the Referrer or Referee has to be members of The American Legion to receive assistance from our Department.

Your Name:	Telephone Number:	Date:	
Person whom we should contact:			
Street address of person we should contact:		County:	
City:	State:	Zip Code:	Telephone Number:
Best time to contact:		Email:	
If the person does not have a telephone number, what other means may we use to contact:			
What assistance does this person need?			
Form can be mailed to: The American Legion Department of Florida 1912A Lee Road Orlando, FL 32854 Attn: Programs Director		Toll Free: (800) 393-3378	

Women Veterans Day

Deb Wheeler, Women Veterans
womenveterans@legionmail.org



Congratulations to all! Another year is coming to an end, but the great news is another year awaits. I want to say a great job to the Officers of the Department of Florida and the staff. Let's not forget to thank the Area and District Staff either, as they all work their tails off!

I understand the importance of educating the public about the issues and extensive

problems that occur after military service. It is a challenge that will be ongoing for years to come. I'd like to acknowledge all women Veterans who made the commitment to serve our military. Many servicewomen achieved great heights with exceptional results. We have all served proudly and respectfully did our specific jobs. Women were the minority in service, striving and improving their skills. Many of us completed our time in service, while others made a career of it.

We are all proud of what we've accomplished, many of us overachieving, gaining immense knowledge, and becoming expert multi-taskers. We are proud Veterans of The

American Legion, Department of Florida, and many of us have become leaders, officers, etc. We still strive to help our fellow Veterans and families.

June 12, 2022 is Women Veterans Day. Please take a moment to Thank all women Veterans for their Service, perhaps even hold a special celebration of event for your women Legionnaires.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for their service and congratulations to a great year!

Aim High!

Cadets Needed

Bob Brewster, Youth Law Cadets
youthlawcadet@legionmail.org



Currently, we have three Cadets already set to attend the Cadet Program this year. We expect four to six more candidates from the 5th District to add to this total. We need at least

ten more candidates from across the state to be able to hold this Program. Twenty-four other states have this program up and running in their Departments.

We have not had a single Cadet say that they did not enjoy participating. In fact, many wanted to come back again.

Time is wasting away, so let's get started contacting the schools, especially the ROTC

Programs, and also contact your local police departments to find kids who want to participate. We furnish three counselors from the 5th District.

Department has brochures and applications, for those interested. If you have any questions, contact me at 904-272-1619 or my cell phone at 904-635-4492.

New Members

Post 390, Wellington, FL

Having brought on nearly 45 new members since the beginning of 2020, Adjutant, John Shwiner, thought it only fair to conduct a group Initiation Ceremony, as they did not have the opportunity during COVID. Nearly half of the new members (18) showed up for the ceremony.

Utilizing the "New Member Package" purchased through Flag & Emblem, and conducted by Post Commander, Jay Froehlich and Chaplain, Allan Ziker, the members were staged by District 11 Sergeant-at-Arms,

Edward Manak. Among the new members were James Sparrow, Sergeant-at-Arms – Post 390, Anthony Tahan, Finance Officer and Laurie Horan, first female Marine Officer.

NEW MEMBERS INITIATED

Emmanuel Ardouin, Robert Chenoweth, Lolito Gapud, Michael Gauger, Pete Granata Jennifer Huntington, David Michaels, Keith Norwood, Laurie Horan, Fred Pullen, Bill Richards, David Roman, Lazaro Sed, James Sparrow, Anthony Tahan, Craig Turner

POST OFFICERS

Jay Froehlich – Commander, Allan Ziker, Jim Napuli – Past-Post Commander, Larry Williams – 2nd Vice-Commander, Henry Tocci – Past-Post

Commander, Tom Wenham – Past-Post Commander, Edward Manak, District 11 Sergeant-at-Arms



May 19, 2022 Membership Target Report (100%)		
6	Joe Marcheggiani	102.61%
16	Robert Matheson	99.66%
1	Sonny Decker	99.37%
13	Harold Boyer	99.06%
9	George Bograkos	98.02%
8	Skip Felicita	97.61%
3	Stuart Scott	96.88%
7	Burl Thomas	96.47%
5	Lena Heredia-Perez	95.99%
12	Dennis Mallon	95.95%
14	Thomas Frank	95.40%
17	Jim Bowers	93.54%
4	John Bennett	93.41%
15	Stephen Tyler	92.10%
2	-	91.87%
11	Harry Malecki	86.94%
Eastern	Daryl Bass	99.55%
Southwestern	Jessica Moore	98.41%
Western	John Edens	98.21%
Central	Bruce Carl	96.98%
Northern	Troy Horsley	94.96%
Southern	Johnny Castro	92.43%
Post 400		82.18%
Post 208		79.02%



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



Next Membership Goal:
May 31, 2022

100+1%

www.thelit.com

DEPARTMENT

CANDIDATES 2022-2023

COMMANDER	Eunice Butts	SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Troy Horsley Les Martin
1ST VICE COMMANDER	Michael Raymond	HISTORIAN	Philip R. Crouthamel
2ND VICE COMMANDER	Chris Hamrick	CENTRAL AREA COMMANDER	Robert "Bob" Matheson
3RD VICE COMMANDER	Daryl G. Bass Sr. Bruce Carl Jessica Moore	EASTERN AREA COMMANDER	Dennis Mallon
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Dennis Boland Jim Ramos	NORTHERN AREA COMMANDER	Jim Bowers
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALTERNATE	Jerry Brandt William "Rick" Johnson	SOUTHERN AREA COMMANDER	Johnny D. Castro
CHAPLAIN	Barry Roberts Willie W. Branch Jr.	SOUTHWESTERN AREA COMMANDER	Angelo "Skip" Felicita
		WESTERN AREA COMMANDER	Sonny Decker

Endorsements on file as of May 26, 2022.

*****Department officer nominating and acceptance speeches will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022 during Department Convention.*****



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT OF FLORIDA
P.O. BOX 547859
ORLANDO, FL 32854



POST REGISTRATION

Certify Delegates / Alternates
Pay Fees
Turn in Paperwork
Request Materials
<https://bit.ly/378AYeE>



MATERIALS REQUEST

Let us know what you need ahead of time and we will have it ready when you arrive.
<https://bit.ly/3y6srEh>



MORE INFORMATION

For more details and information visit our website at floridalegion.org.
<https://bit.ly/3o3WR2U>

REGISTER YOUR POST

CERTIFY DELEGATES/ALTERNATES ONLINE

- REGISTER POST
- REQUEST MATERIALS
- PAY FEES
- UPLOAD PAPERWORK

**SAVE TIME
FORGET THE LINE**

CONTACT US AT

membership@floridalegion.org
www.floridalegion.org
(800) 393-3378

For more info
Scan here!





COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM

2022-2023



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

Name: _____ Post: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DELIVERY METHOD

Pick Up at HQ Orlando Delivery*

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

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

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SHIRT OPTIONS

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

TOTAL

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

DELIVERY FEES*

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

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

PAYMENT

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters:

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

Cash Check # _____ Credit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

P.O. BOX 547859
ORLANDO, FL 32854-7859

www.floridalegion.org

TOLL FREE (800) 393-3378
FAX (407) 299-0901



COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM

2022-2023

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

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PRESENTS

BANQUET

Commander's & President's



ENTERTAINMENT BY

DJ

Shawn E Step

subject to change

17 JUNE 2022

19:00

*Cocktail
HOUR
18:00*

Cocktail Hour starts at 18:00. Wear your favorite 80s style.

Order your tickets online or mail check or money order to:

The American Legion, Dept of FL, PO Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854

HILTON, 1751 HOTEL PLAZA BOULEVARD, LAKE BUENA VISTA / TICKETS \$55

WWW.FLORIDALEGION.ORG/BANQUET



BANQUET

Commander's & President's

DINNER MENU



Starter

Garlic Bread Stick

Salad - classic caesar salad: romaine hearts and ribbon cut romain, shaved parmesan cheese, with our house made caesar dressing



Main Course

Mediterranean Chicken - free range chicken breast with tomato olive fondue

Green Beans

Cous Cous - all spice scented toasted almond and raisin



Dessert

Key Lime Pie - signature key lime pie with graham cracker crust and fresh whipped cream

GET TICKETS ONLINE: www.floridalegion.org/banquet

Join us, June 17, 2022, Department Convention at Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista.

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

of Tickets _____ X \$55 each = Total Due \$ _____

Payment Type: Check Money Order Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Yes, I authorize my card to be charged for the total amount above.

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration: _____ CVV: _____ Signature: _____

All tickets must be purchased in advance, quantities are limited. Tickets will be available for pickup during Convention located in the Headquarters Office.

Please mail to: The American Legion, Department of Florida, Attention: Event Coordinator, P.O. Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854

103RD ANNUAL
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
HILTON ORLANDO
LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL



ENTERTAINMENT BY
DJ SHAWN ESTEP

06.16.2022
06:30 PM

POOL SIDE PARTY

FREE ADMISSION. FREE BEER AND REFRESHMENT, WHILE
SUPPLIES LAST. CASH BAR AVAILABLE. EVENTS ENDS AT 8:30 PM.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY HUMANA AND THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Humana



2022 CONVENTION GUIDE

JUNE 16-19, 2022 | HILTON ORLANDO LAKE BUENA VISTA



✓ BEFORE YOU GO

MORE INFORMATION AT FLORIDALEGION.ORG

01 Reserve your spot

Register for Service Officer School
Food Handler's Course

02 We need your support

Pride & Patriotism Raffle
Vendor Exhibition

03 Know before you go

DCC Meeting Schedule
Post Pre-Registration
Materials Request
Rules of Procedure
Voting Guidelines
Endorsements
Convention Deadlines

04 Special Events

Commander's Golf Tournament
Legion Family Kick-Off Party
Commander's & President's Banquet
SAL's 50th Convention Celebration

05 Show your Legion pride

Convention T-Shirts
Incoming Commander's Polo
Emblem Sales Order Pickup

✓ WHEN YOU'RE THERE

MORE INFORMATION AT FLORIDALEGION.ORG

Headquarters

Post Registration *Grand 1-2*
Agendas
Membership & Program Materials
Patriotic & Patriotism Raffle Tickets
Drop off Post History Books
General Inquiries

Emblem Sales

Emblem Sales Orders Pickup *Grand 4*
Banquet Tickets Pickup

Pre-Con: Wednesday

Special Event

Commander's Golf Tournament (Falcon's Fire)*

01 Day 1: Thursday

On Arrival

Emblem Sales
Parking
Mobility Scooter Rentals
Accessibility Needs
Property Maps
Nearby Attractions
Dining

Classes

Service Officer School Part I*
Post Membership
Food Handler's*
Buddy Check
Fundraising
Post Operations

Meetings & Business

Department Finance Committee Meeting
Internal Affairs Commission
Department Executive Committee Meeting
Legion Riders Chairmen Meeting

Special Events

2022 Legion Family Kick-Off Party (Poolside)

02 Day 2: Friday

Classes

Service Officer School Part II*
Post Commander's
Post Historian
Post Sgt-at-Arms, Color & Honor Guard
Post Chaplain's

Meetings & Business

Legion General Session Part I
Nominating and Acceptance Speeches
Area Caucuses
20/4 Echelon 30 Meeting
FALPA Executive Board Meeting
FALPA General Meeting

Special Events

Cocktail Hour
Commander's & President's Banquet*

*Check our website at floridalegion.org for deadlines, pre-registration requirements, and additional information.

All information is subject to change.

03 Day 3: Saturday

Classes

Post Judge Advocate
Legislative
Homeless Veterans
Veterans Benefits
Post Finance Officer
Baseball

Meetings & Business

Legion General Session Part II
Electronic Voting
Legion Riders General Session
Installation of Officers

Special Events

SAL's 50th Convention Celebration

04 Day 4: Sunday

Special Events

Religious Service
Executive Committee Meeting

Heading Home

Check-Out
Drive Safely
Submit Feedback



407.295.2631

mail@floridalegion.org

PO Box 547859
Orlando, FL 32810

www.floridalegion.org



THE AMERICAN LEGION FLAGLER POST 115



2nd ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 3, 2022

MONDAY

7:00 AM REGISTRATION & GAMING OPEN
9:00 AM SHOTGUN START SCRAMBLE FORMAT
1:00 PM AWARDS LUNCHEON & AUCTIONS



500 Riverfront Dr. Palm Coast, FL 32137

\$100

18 HOLES OF GOLF
RANGE TIME
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
AWARDS LUNCHEON
AND PLAYER PRIZES

LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS
RAFFLES & GAMES OF CHANCE
OPTIONAL GAME DAY PACKAGE
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

REGISTER NOW

CALL / TEXT GARY M. OWENS @ (386) 585-5302

or visit www.flaglerpost115.org

Standdown in the Southern Area**Johnny Castro, Southern Area**southernarea@legionmail.org

With Memorial Day fast approaching, let us remember all our brothers and sisters who are no longer with us. I hope everyone finds peace and solace on this special day which started 151 years ago. I'm always reminded on how I can create a positive impact to the memories of my battle buddies no longer with me. Last September, I was fortunate to meet up with Jo Ann Maitland, American Gold Star Mothers National President, and Martin County's resident. After a zoom call in January, on how the American Legion can support the AGSM's National Convention this month from June 22-26, it was agreed by their Board members that a Standdown will be held on the 25th at the Hilton by the airport in West Palm Beach, the site of their convention.

Fast forward to today, along with Jo's husband, Frank Maitland, past 11th District Commander, we came up with a program based on AGSM's project of supporting our Homeless Veterans and Veterans in need. Along with the Vietnam Memorial, 9-11 First Responders, and Global War of Terrorism Walls being displayed at the hotel, the Woody Williams Memorial display, Wreaths Across America tractor/trailer, and a static display of military vehicles will be on site as well. Mission BBQ has graciously donated 200 meals that will be used to feed our Homeless Veterans. Food trucks will be available for our public. There will also be shower on wheels and barbers available to support.

More importantly, the VA will be on site to provide triage, enrollment, along with social workers and HUD-VASH representatives. They have also agreed to support the few that weren't Veterans that may come through that day. The Homeless Coalition and Palm Beach County Services will be there to support our non-veteran community. Service Officers will be available to assist our Veterans in beginning and/or completing their disability claims application process and other Veteran organizations will be available to support our Veterans in the communities in South Florida.

A golf tournament will be held at the Madison Green Country Club in Royal Palm Beach, the same day as the Standdown, where the proceeds will go to Stand Down, an initiative of Faith Hope Love Charity, Inc founded by Roy Foster, a Veteran himself. Throughout the year, where they may not have room at their facilities, they housed homeless Veterans in hotels in the county.

Other events during the Convention will be the arrival of the Walls on the 22nd, which will be set-up for the public to view 24/7 throughout the Convention, the Opening Ceremonies on Thursday, the 23rd, where several Veteran Organizations will be laying a wreath at the Vietnam Memorial Wall led by American Gold Star Mothers and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). The AGSM Gala will be held Saturday evening, the 25th on the last night of the Convention.

We are looking for support from our Legion Riders to escort the Walls on June 22nd and volunteers to man the RV and assist the public which will be on site 24/7. For the Riders, you may contact Stan Brown, 11 District Rider Director at 561-781-4701. For any other questions, please contact me at 561-290-9980 or email at: southernarea@legionmail.org.

Remember, regardless of the numbers being said, one suicide in our community, Veteran or not, is just way too many. Let's create an impact to stop this and support those in need.

Note: Thank you Larry Roberts, Chair, Project Vet-Relief for sharing your notes with me.

For more information on American Gold Star Mother's National Convention, The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, and Standdown see pages 25-29.





American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

National Headquarters
2128 Leroy Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-265-0991

Organized 4 June 1928
Incorporated 5 January 1929
Chartered by Congress 12 June 1984
Founded by Grace Darling Seibold

Dear Friends of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.:

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., is a 94-year-old Congressionally Chartered 501(c)(3) Veterans Service Organization comprised of Mothers whose child has died while in military service. Each year, our members, volunteer thousands of hours to support Veterans, current Military Service Members and their Families. Our 85th National Convention will be held in West Palm Beach June 23-26, 2022. I am asking for your assistance as a sponsor as we welcome these Gold Star Mothers to the Sunshine State.

While all donations are appreciated, specific sponsorship levels include:

Supernova (A Luminous Stellar Explosion) \$1000 or more - includes your logo on signage throughout the Convention, full-page advertisement in our Convention Journal, and recognition on Sponsor listings

Polaris (The North Star) \$500-\$999 - includes full-page advertisement in our Convention Journal and recognition on Sponsor listings

Sirius (The Brightest Star in the Night Sky) \$200-\$499 - includes half-page advertisement in our Convention Journal and recognition on Sponsor listings

Vega (The Swooping Eagle Star) up to \$199 - includes recognition on Sponsor listings

Sponsor donations will be used for:

- Our Convention service project, assembling backpacks of Veterans Basics, (socks, toiletries, first aid kits, flashlights, sunglasses, bug spray, etc.) will be provided to Veterans in need. If you would like to donate specific items for the Veteran backpacks, please contact our National Service Officer, Lee-Ann Forsythe at NSO@americangoldstarmothers.org. or locally in Palm Beach County to American Legion Southern Area Commander Johnny D. Castro at southernarea@legionmail.org.
- Sponsorship of Gold Star Mothers who may need financial assistance to attend the 2022 National Convention. These funds will help pay for air, hotel, and transportation costs.
- Planning and implementation of the business of Convention.

Additionally, the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall will be present at the 2022 National Convention and will be open to the public. We will host additional exhibits to honor Veterans and educate the public about the cost of freedom.

I look forward to including your organization in the success of the 2022 American Gold Star Mothers Convention in West Palm Beach. The spirit of our Fallen will always be honored in knowing that "Freedom is never free."

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Maitland
National President
772-215-1330

Website: www.americangoldstarmothers.org

To donate online: www.americangoldstarmothers.org
EIN# 52-6045308



*American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
2022 National Convention*

Proudly Presents



THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL ®

Join Us

22- 26 June 2022

Hilton Palm Beach Airport

150 Australian Way, West Palm Beach, FL

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Arrival

11:30am Wednesday 22 June 2022

Public Welcome

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Opening Ceremony

6:00pm Thursday 23 June 2022

Public Welcome

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall

Global War on Terrorism Memorial

9/11 Memorial

Static Display of Military Vehicles

Wreaths Across America Education Trailer

Hershel "Woody" Williams Educational Trailer

Vendors, Exhibitors, and Food Trucks

Open 24 Hours Wednesday through Sunday 22-26 June

2022 Open to the Public

For more information go to: AmericanGoldStarMothers.org

Thank You Exhibitors!



Thank You Volunteers!





PALM BEACH COUNTY VETERANS STAND DOWN

Hosted by: • **American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.**
• **American Legion Southern Area** • **VA Healthcare System**

- **Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall**
- **Global War on Terrorism Memorial Wall**
- **911 First Responders Memorial Wall**

- **Ground volunteers to support both foot and vehicle traffic**
- **Escorts to walk the visitors from the Locator Tent to other areas**
- **VA Healthcare-PACT, Social Workers, VA Enrollment, etc.**
- **HUD VASH Social Workers to assist Homeless Veterans**
- **Service Officers to aid in preparing claims packages**
- **Backpacks handed out to Homeless Veterans**
- **Showers on Wheels** • **Food Trucks** • **Concession Stands**
.....and Much More!

When: **Saturday, June 25, 2022**
8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Where: **Hilton Palm Beach Airport**
150 Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL33406

For More Info: Johnny D. Castro
561-290-9980 • southernarea@legionmail.org

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc & American Legion Southern Area Golf Tournament



REGISTRATION

Benefiting the Southern Area Veterans Programs and Charities

Date

Saturday June 25, 2022

Time

Check-in: 7:30 AM

Shotgun Start: 8:30 AM

Lunch: 12:30

Place



Madison Green Golf Club
2001 Crestwood Blvd. N
West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Questions

Phone: 561-290-9980

Email:

southernarea@legionmail.org

Sponsorships

Check the sponsorship(s) of
your choice:

- Tournament Sponsor **\$250**
- Tee Box Sponsor **\$200**
- Hole Sponsor **\$150**

*All proceeds to support
Homeless Veterans and
Veterans in need.*

Contests

Closest to the Hole

Longest Drive

Bazooka Hole in One

50/50 Raffle

Red, White & Blue Silent Auction

Completed Form and Check Are Due by June 11, 2022.

Your Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

Foursome

Team Name: _____

Player 2 Name: _____

Email: _____

Player 3 Name: _____

Email: _____

Player 4 Name: _____

Email: _____

Please provide an email address for each player.

This will be the main contact method used.

Fees

- Individual \$150
- Team \$550

Donation \$ _____

Sponsorship(s) \$ _____

Mulligans \$5 each limit 4 per person & 16 per team ____ x \$5 = \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

***Checks payable to American Legion SAC. Mail form with check to:**

PO Box 211782, Royal Palm Beach, FL. 33421 or...

***Zelle payment to 561-631-3059. Include your name or team name or...**

***Credit Card payment. Call 561-290-9980**

Registration fees include green fee, cart fee, Lunch, range balls,

And chances to win GREAT prizes!!!



Registration
template provided by
Golfballs.com. We specialize in
easily, quickly and affordably
personalizing golf gifts and gear.



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
2022 National Convention Service Project
Homeless and Veterans in need Backpacks
Suggested Donation List

**Note: Items need to be delivered Wednesday June 22nd, 2022
to Hilton Palm Beach Airport, 150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach, 33406**

Questions or Shipping Information please contact

Lee-Ann Forsythe, National Service Officer: nso@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org

Or locally to: Johnny Castro, Southern Area Commander: 561-290-9980

southernarea@legionmail.org

**(Backpacks will be provided to Homeless and Veterans
in need at the Standdown Saturday 25 June 2022)**

- Backpack
- Socks
- Plain T-Shirts (Dark Colors)
- First aid kit
- Sunglasses
- Bike light / headlamp / small flashlight (rechargeable)
- Earbuds
- Travel size shampoo
- Travel size body wash
- Bath Soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Lip Balm
- Laundry Soap Small Size
- Dish Soap Small
- Snacks (Dry)
- Foiled Protein Packs (chicken, tuna, etc.)

Hurricane Season 2022

Bill Hoppner

disasterprep@legionmail.org

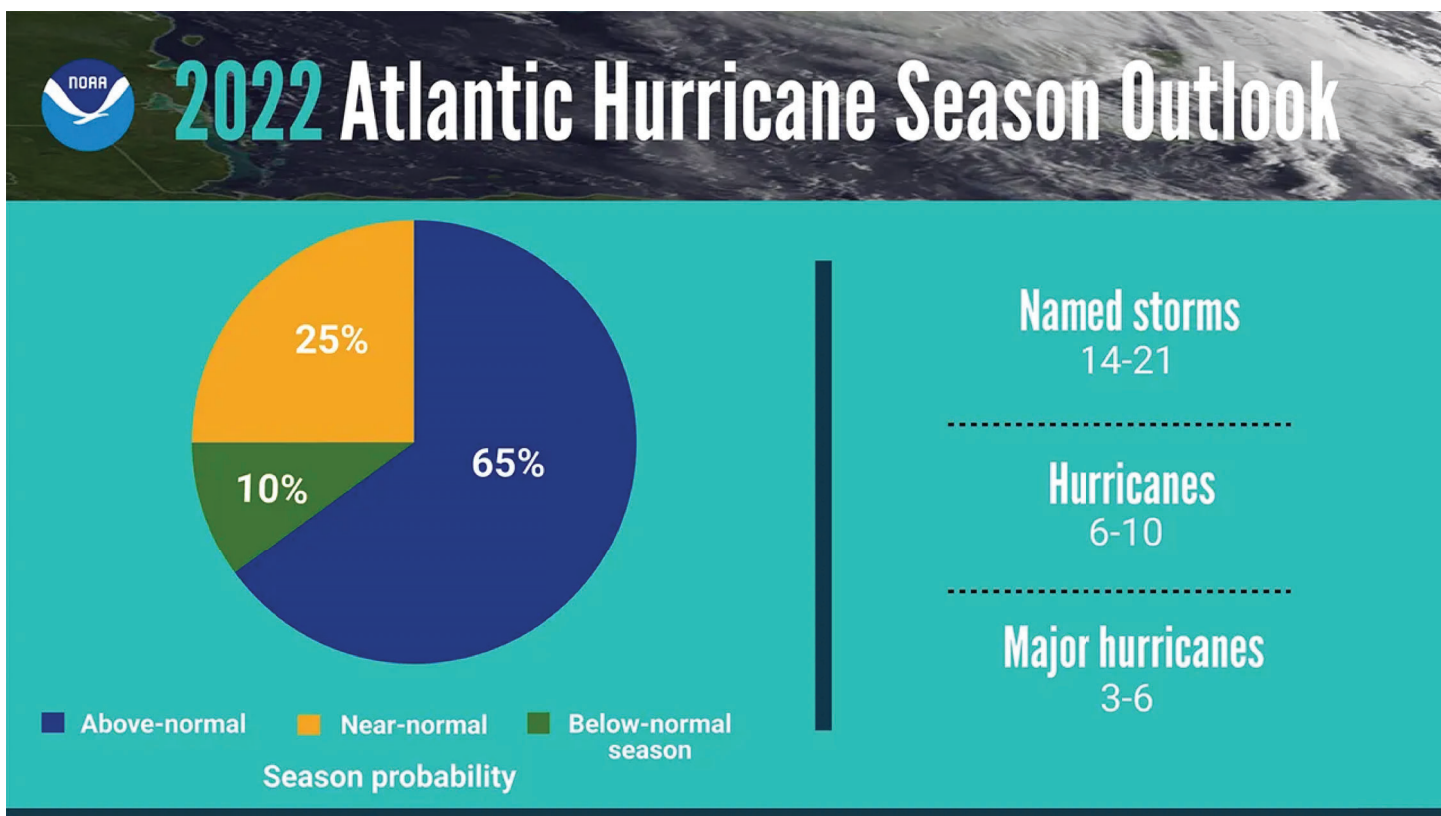


Greetings Legion Family I hope all is well. Once again it's Hurricane Season, from June 1 to Nov 30. In receiving a print out of all the posts there were only 50 posts out of 300+ that had chairman for disaster prep. In order to get the material from department you have to send in a chairman's name. I discussed with Bekki the time frame for sending them out.

This is the time to check your portable generators, chain saws and any other equipment that is deemed necessary for clean up after a storm if the time arises. Also check to see if you have your Hurricane survival kit up to date from last year and restock ideas if necessary. Check your insurances to make sure their up to date.

To give you an idea of what this year will be like. Early tropical storm forecast are predicting between 16 and 21 named storms with six to nine hurricanes, with three to five being major hurricanes.

In the past seven years there has been pre-season storms in the month of May. As time progresses there will be a more accurate prediction. This should give us incentive to get things ready. Also to be aware of things to come. I will keep in touch with everyone by email, Facebook or by phone. My email address is gonepost1@aol.com or by phone 305-968-7979. I also did a live steam on face book. Since the pandemic there have been a lot of people moving to Florida that have no idea what Hurricanes are and what damage they can cause. So I think a live cam would be beneficial to all.



 <p>Use MEMA's interactive map to find out if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone</p>	<p>Know Your Zone</p>	<p>Make a Plan</p>	<p>Have a predetermined emergency plan tailored to your family's needs</p> 
 <p>Build an emergency kit that can sustain you and your family for 3-5 days</p>	<p>Build a Kit</p>	<p>Stay Informed</p>	<p>As a storm approaches, closely monitor media reports and promptly follow instructions from public safety officials</p> 

