



THE LEGION LINK

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PUBLICATION



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Submit Articles at

floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org

A Message from the Department Commander

Eunic Butts, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



Greetings, my fellow Legionnaires.

At the time of this reading, I hope everyone is well rested from the labor day festivities, Patriot Day, POW/MIA Day, AND OF COURSE "the 75th Birthday Of The Air Force".

The department commander's training was a great success. All training is complete, except the Key West area, which will be done by the training team at a later date. It is not fair to leave the ones in the Key West area out because of their location in the state. Nor is it fair for them not to receive training from the same team that everyone else had the privilege of having. Our main purpose was to present education and motivation to our audience. To have the audience ask questions without worrying because someone would look down on them. To better explain some things to them that the district commander did not know that they needed the knowledge. This is why it is extremely important for the district commanders to make two post-meeting visitations per year. You will see some of their needs and be able to enlighten them if they need help. Observation was also a part of the training. It was observed in all classes that the majority of you were not on your

cell phones if at all. It showed me where your attention span was. Congratulations you passed. The agenda was intentionally not printed and passed out. We have many new members, and some do not do agendas. Part of our program was to ask for an observation, for someone to tell us we had no agenda. To those who attended the training, we thank you. For those who sent comments of thanks and appreciation, we thank you. It was a joy to see you smile, laugh, and ask questions. Area and district commanders if your department vice commander or area is going to do a training and needs your help, please do not change their materials to fit your personal opinion, if you do not know the reason why.

Always remember to only speak for 15 to 30 minutes only on any speech or presentation. The audience gets tired and sleepy, and you lose your attention span.

Special thanks to Post 402, Palm Coast VFW, Post 57, 80, 72, and 113 for your gracious meals and hospitality. Special guests at some of the training were; The Department Of Florida Legislative Chairmen, Female Veterans Chairman, and Sgt-At-Arms. The American Legion Department Of Florida training team consisted of The Department Membership team, commander, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice Commanders.

I was honored to be invited to post 194

Commander continued on page 2 >>



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<< Commander continued from page 1

POW/MIA program and their grand opening of their "Veterans Centennial Park" Thank you for the invitation and the offer to speak. Keep up the good work.

Legionnaires, it is now time to start on my journey of visitations. I hope that I have your calendar of events by now. My goal this year is to visit small Posts and Posts that have no post homes as a priority. This can be done as I have done in The Department Of Florida on my own. District commanders speak with

your Posts and see if we can meet them at a specific location. I will also be visiting other Posts. District commanders send me your calendars commander@floridalegion.org.

I wish each of you a very fruitful and successful year. REMEMBER: As a leader, how you present yourself as a leader and officer of any organization lets your followers know that they can do the same because you only display the right way for one to carry themselves. Be careful how you speak and treat others. Especially in the public.

COMMANDER'S CHARITIES
PROJECT: VetRelief and Jackson InAction 83

Commander's Goal: \$50,000 (Current funds raised \$12,630.76)

SEPTEMBER 2022	
1-31	ALR: Merry-Go-Round
1-31	Disability/Employment Awareness Month
1-31	Breast Cancer Awareness Month
5	🍊 Florida Boys State Registration Fees Open
5	Chapter 136: ALR Mystery Ride
5	Chapter 136: ALR Meeting
7	Start of Operation Enduring Freedom (2001)
8-9	★ Youth Education Meetings
8	Post 108: Membership Early Bird Dinner
9	Firefighters Memorial Day
9	Flags at Half Staff
9	Child Welfare Foundation Board Meeting
9	Chapter 8: ALR Meeting
10-13	★ National Fall Meetings
10	Columbus Day
12	Chapter 136: ALR Mystery Ride
12	Chapter 35: ALR Meeting
12	Chapter 10: ALR Meeting
13	U.S. Navy Birthday
15	🍊 Halloween Safety Book Order Deadline
15	🍊 Legion Link Articles Due
15	Chapter 4: ALR Toys for Tots Run
15	Chapter 27: ALR Monthly Meeting
15	District 8: Picnic
15	Chapter 10: ALR Kissimmee Bike Night
16	Chapter 81: ALR Monthly Meeting
16	District 4: Meeting (meeting at Post 155)
16	Post 39: Gold Star Mothers BBQ
17	Boss's Day
19	Chapter 136: ALR Mystery Ride
20	Training the Trainers
21	Chapter 8: ALR Dinner Night
22	District 12: Picnic
22	Chapter 69: Meeting
23	Beirut Bombing (1983)
23	Chapter 189: ALR Breast Cancer Poker Run
24	★ Child Welfare Recipients Notified
25	Grenada Invasion (1983)
26	Day of Deployed
26	Chapter 136: ALR Mystery Ride
29	Chapter 197: ALR Masquerade Ball
30	Ms. Veteran America
31	Halloween

♥ Commander Eunice Butts' Attendance Tentative.
 🍊 Department Event
 ★ National Event
 Events are subject to change. Additional details can be found at www.floridalegion.org. We share the information we are provided.

Purpose Defined

Michael Raymond, 1st Vice Commander
1stvice@legionmail.org



After a very interesting and informative National Convention, I try to take away as much as possible to bring back to our Department. One of the things I heard from many speakers is the word purpose. I've used this word in many of my addresses and plan on making it a critical talking point in the future. Simply put, my use of the word is that all posts in our Department should have a purpose. Every Post should have a reason to exist. They should be a power in the community. The community must know that if there is a need, we are there for them. If there are questions concerning Veterans, we are there to answer them. If there is a Veteran project planned in the community, we want to lead it. One of our most important strengths is volunteerism. Our Posts wouldn't exist without it. Each Post needs to find their

purpose with Veterans in the community and build on it.

Another good example of purpose has to do with the National Commanders project "Be The One." As we all know, Veteran suicide is an epidemic in our country. One thing is very clear as we continue to find ways to deal with this issue. We need to give our Veterans a purpose in life before and after we serve. Many of these Veterans find that they no longer have a purpose after the military. That's where we come in. **Be the one** to reach out to these Veterans and offer your time. A phone call, a visit, or an invitation to your post function. Try to get them involved and give them that purpose that they so desperately need. **Be The One!**

BE THE ONE

Remembering Those in Need

Chris Hamrick, 2nd Vice Commander
2ndvice@legionmail.org



A quarter of our membership year has gone by already, and we're all busy in several directions. September has flown by so fast, and October is the same.

At National Convention, the "Be the One" campaign was presented. What is this you may ask? It's something that has been near and dear to me for 31 years. It's not a new concept at all. It is a simple but very effective way to save veterans' lives, possibly bring them into the fold among us, and strengthen our bond as brothers and sisters. ASK Veterans in your life how they

are doing... LISTEN when a Veteran needs to talk... REACH OUT when a Veteran is Struggling. Plain, Basic, and Simple. I would love to see how many of us can "BE THE ONE." Ask yourself who will fight the fight when the last warrior is gone.

For more information on this, go to:
<http://Legion.org/betheone>

October will bring our American Legion Riders Merry Go Round, different training for all levels all over the place, a National membership goal of 55%, and some anniversaries such as Grenada /Operation Urgent Fury in 1983, Marine Barracks Bombing in Beirut/1983, Operation Enduring Freedom/2001, Firefighters' Memorial Day Oct. 9th (Flags at 1/2 Staff Sunrise to Sunset),

among others. But also, on a lighter note, we have a Birthday salute to our US Navy on October 13th. We will end our month as always with Halloween and many posts that do wonderful things for our children (and Adults)! So, needless to say, this will be a hectic month indeed!

As our Department Commander's Area Training has been completed in September, I'm looking forward to being out on the road assisting and/or taking part with you. Let's remember the 10 points of our Preamble, practice them in our daily lives, and Have Fun doing so. Remember that we all make a difference in some way, good or bad. Let's make it for the Good side.

"Keep It Real"

Training Central

Jessica Moore, 3rd Vice Commander
3rdvice@legionmail.org



Welcome, October 1st! It's already been a busy year with trainings around the state and National Convention behind us.

It was a pleasure to see all in attendance at the Department Commanders' Training, and I

continue to see District and Area Trainings being scheduled around the state.

Training comes in many different forms. I see the light bulbs go off; I see the people want to learn, to receive the messages we are trying to send, and it's an honor to see this and be the messenger of this information. I felt inspired seeing the stares of intent while in these trainings. Energy is contagious, and I could feel the feedback.

In order to be a great team, we need to be a knowledgeable team. Whether it's programs, membership, or Training, it's valuable information within your posts.

As one conversation led to many conversations, questions and feedback were well received and gave great discussions.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any additional questions you may have
#oneteamonedream

National Appointments

Jim Ramos, NEC
nec@legionmail.org



"How does a National Appointment work?"

We have National Commission and Committee Recommendations to consider.

NEC Guidelines are as follows: (just some, NOT all)

Appointments do not belong to the Department; they belong to the National Organization.

Consequently, recommendations for appointment are just that, recommendations. The National Commander may appoint whomever he or she desires, with the consent of the NEC, and call upon whomever they want for a recommendation.

If you do not have a current appointment on a committee or commission, you cannot recommend an appointment to that

committee or commission.

If you have a person with a current appointment and they cannot travel anymore for whatever reason, you should consider replacing them for the GOOD of the LEGION.

Read the following:

1. Charter of The American Legion, National Constitution and By-laws (revised Oct 2019)
2. Rules of the National Executive

NEC continued on page 4 >>

<< NEC continued from page 3

Committee of The American Legion
(revised Oct 14-15, 2020)

- Uniform Code of Procedure for The Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion (revised May 10-11, 2017)

Thank you All for letting me serve as your NEC for the Department of Florida.

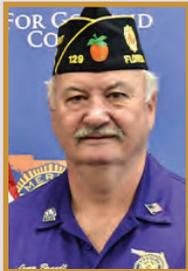
Please, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions come to talk to me.

Also looking forward to the Department Fall Conference on November 18-20, 2022

If you have any questions, call 352-226-4370 or email me at nec@legionmail.org

New Amendments

Jerry Brandt, ANEC
anec@legionmail.org



Hello, and thanks to all who attended the National Convention; it was an excellent turnout for Florida.

One of the items that came out of the National Convention

was the New National Commander's acceptance speech, in which he said, "My platform and No. 1 priority for my year as National Commander will be tackling the toughest challenge facing veterans: veteran suicide," I said in my acceptance remarks. The American Legion is asking you to 'Be the One,' and by you, I include every one of us, military and civilian alike. We all need to

'Be the One' to begin thinking, talking, and acting to save just one life."

National American Legion is pushing on how to prevent Suicide among the Active and former Military and Military families. Florida is already leading the way with our VET Relief and Challenge 22 programs. We now have a National Suicide hotline (988) and even a Chat or Text (838255) we can use. Please get the word out. We need to continue helping our Brothers and Sisters and their family who are in need.

My last newsletter article mentioned that the National Convention voted on Resolution 1. Subject Amend the American Legion Constitution and By-Laws to allow Multi-Year and Rolling Memberships. This Resolution was PASSED.

Please see Resolution on Pages 33-34

I want to thank PDC Dennis Boland for introducing NEC Jim Ramos and me at the NEC meeting on Thursday, the last day of the National Convention. Dennis is a standup man, and I hope he will continue to assist the Department of Florida in the future, as he has done for several years.

The next visit to the National will be from October 8th to the 13th for the National Fall Meetings; we will see what changes will be coming from those meetings. I will keep you informed.

Let me know if there is anything I can assist you with.

Historian Class Information

Phil Crouthamel, Historian
historian@legionmail.org



Got back from the National convention. Learned a lot and even had some fun.

Things right now are quiet. Hopefully, you are working on your history books. Remember,

this year, there will be only two categories: Narrative and Yearbook. Narrative yearbooks are defined by chapters, while a yearbook is a chronological order of your post events. If you need any training materials, please email me and I will send them to you.

manual, and you will find the Post Histories section starting on page 125. I will send updated Historian Manuals once it is updated.

I will teach a Historian class at the Department Fall Conference in November. I am working on updating the training material to be more informative and with more illustrations. The course is only an hour, and I believe you might find it informative. If you cannot attend, email me, and I will send you what you need. The main presentation will be in PowerPoint.

Again, if you need anything, get in contact with me.

"This we defend."

To get you started, go to the Post Officer's



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Buddy Checks

Jim Bowers, Northern Area

northern@legionmail.org



We are now moving into the 2nd quarter of our year. October is time to work on your post plans for Veteran's Holidays, Religious Holidays, and Legion programs. If you do not have plans yet, it is not too late.

Commanders meet with your officers and formulate plans for the next three quarters.

Remember our obligations to the community, state, and nation. Veterans Day is a great day to give back to legion members, educate the community and honor the nation's Veterans. Thanksgiving

and Christmas are a time to give to veterans in need, their families, and the needy in the community.

Do not overlook the small things you do to help each veteran and their family. I look forward to seeing all posts moving forward with plans to make this year a year of giving. I have found that by giving you feel better about yourself and your post. It should not always be about giving money. Sometimes all that is needed is your time. Food Banks, VA Clinics, and Hospitals, as well as Nursing Homes, need your time. These groups can always use assistance. Do not let your posts overlook these opportunities.

Now is the time to decide on your Buddy Check numbers. Call these regularly after you have a rapport built up. Whom should

these be? The pat answer is members you have not seen in a while. My answer is 19 members. Start with how are you doing? Can I help you in any way? Ask if they have not renewed, and ask if there is anything we can help with before asking for a renewal. You will be surprised to learn that they are housebound. If it is financial, see if you can have a service officer call. Last, expand your list. Work your list. Help others to set up their Buddy Checklist. Work with the adjutant and commander to build the list.

Now is the time to form a plan and begin working the plan. We are a group of veterans and veterans' family members. You are not alone, ask for help. Use whatever method you can to get members interested in helping others.

Training Our Future

Skip Felcita, Southwestern Area

southwestern@legionmail.org



All good leaders during their lifetimes have had the opportunity to observe, learn from, and be mentored by those leaders who came before. That is true whether it is leadership in the military, business, academia, or the

American Legion.

What about those who do not receive that opportunity, who do not have that previous leader to learn from and be mentored by?

That is why we provide District/Area training. We had an amazing Southwestern Area training on Sunday, August 21, 2022, held at Rotunda West, Post 113.

The training provided the Legionnaires with the following knowledge: duties of post officers, principles of leadership, Sgt-at-arms training, loss prevention, American Legion programs, women Veterans, analysis of post operations, and blueprint for the 21st Century. The trainers provided excellent guidance throughout their presentations, ensuring the attendees understood the information.

Please consider attending the next training

in your District when available or review the above training online at <https://www.floridalegion.org/resources/training-videos/>.

Finally, I am continuing to ask for your support with our ongoing membership drives this year. I am available to attend post and district meetings and functions. I am always available by phone or email, where every member can get a chance to ask any question you always wanted to ask but never did.

Thank you for all you do to support Veterans, their families, and the community!

2022 Season Wrap Up

Terry Phillips, Baseball

baseball@legionmail.org



Greetings All,

This past season brought us some very good baseball games, new teams, and new participants to the program; it also allowed

us to focus on a few things we will update as we prepare for the 2023 season. The Executive Baseball Committee will begin to address the 2023 season and Florida Baseball Manual within the next few weeks. We will present upgrades and corrections in some of the wording within our Manual that will be presented at the Baseball Meeting at the Fall Conference in Orlando.

For the Good of the Legion.



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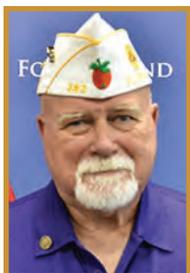
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Focus on Veterans

Sonny Decker, Western Area

western@legionmail.org



All the installations of officers for the Post were completed during the first two weeks of August. Congratulations to all the officers and the post. Now the work begins. Work the programs and grow your post. Working

the programs let your community and the Veterans know about your American Legion post. Actions speak louder than words.

August was another hectic month. I started on the first weekend of the month, having the Western area training. There were over 70 legionnaires in attendance, and the instruction was dead on point. Beneficial topics were explained to a lot of new officers. The feedback that I received was very positive from some that attended. This year, training will be an ongoing challenge,

moving down to individual post-training. The first district had its first quarterly meeting on the 20th; the attendance was perfect here. Mentor presentations and "Billy Awards" were given out, recognizing those who have given more of themselves than asked for. Have you volunteered around your post or community?

I want to thank my home post, Navarre post 382, for the support that enabled me to attend the National Convention. I am a member of the National Security Committee and was selected to be the representative for the Department of Florida on the Conventional Arms Forces subcommittees. There were 33 resolutions submitted to the National Security Committee, of which 24 were accepted. These resolutions state the American Legion's position on different topics, such as renaming forts and pay when congress is shut down. It is the Road map of how we want our elected officials in congress to vote on matters concerning veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families.

A lot is going on in the Western Area next month. Kids with cancer, Fallen Warriors ride, Challenge 22, and the "Be the One" event. The Commander from Mayfield, Kentucky, will be here to thank the District riders and posts for their support after their town was devastated by tornadoes earlier last year.

I want to encourage every Legion family member to "BE THE ONE." This is Headquarters' new initiative to help prevent veteran suicide. Look how you can utilize the "Be the One" campaign with Buddy checks. Don't always have to call about membership; contact about their well-being and let them know there's somebody that cares and is concerned about the health and safety of a fellow veteran or their family member. "BE THE ONE"

Looking forward to seeing you all on the road as I travel our beautiful Area.

Impressive Year

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders

alr@legionmail.org



Wow, what an impressive group! I'm talking about The American Legion Riders, Department of Florida. Did you see the press release, "The American Legion Riders, Department

of Florida received the "Garland Murphy Award" from the "Child Welfare Foundation" at the National Convention. I want to thank Joe Marcheggiani for receiving the award on our behalf. What a year, we broke our funding record to PVR/SPI, are still growing membership, focusing on the Cause not the Applause, and enjoying every minute as a member of the ALR of Florida. Beverly and I would like to Thank all of you for the continued support and commitment to the ALR program.

Thanks to Denny Luke, our first event this year, the "POW/MIA" Seven Bridges ride in Jacksonville, was a success. We had approximately two hundred and thirty bikes with about 105 passengers. The Meet and Greet at Post 129 on Jacksonville Beach was well attended, along with the dinner at Post 137 after the ceremony. Thanks to all who battled the rain to support the POW/MIA remembrance weekend!

Fall Conference is right around the corner, and it's usually our goal to have everything set up for the balance of the year. I'm happy to report that it looks like everything is coming together. We will have a few things to discuss.

Update on activities.

- This is Merry Go Round month; good luck this month, let's see who rides for the Kids and wins the race.
- Summit, Jeff Hawk finished negotiations

on the hotel. Beverly, Kristi, Joe, and I will review last year's class attendance to see if we should change some classes. We will review the Survey Monkey as well to make sure we have your input on your suggestions.

- Children and Youth picnic, I may have missed it, but I didn't see the date posted on the calendar. I'll post it when I find out.
- In-State Unity Ride, Joe Marcheggiani and Zane Koonce are working on two routes, and Jason Skobel is working on the Western route. All three of the routes will end in Clearwater again this year.
- Bev & Wayne Wooten are working on putting the Rally together. If all the pieces come together, it's going to be the best Rally we have ever had.
- Don't know if I've mentioned this, but Bert's Barracuda Harley, which is next store to OCC, has donated a new 2023 Black Harley Davidson Street Glide at

American Legion Riders continued on page 7 >>



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<< American Legion Riders continued from page 6

cost for the ALR to Raffle off. The Raffle should go live this month.

That's the update for now; if you have any ideas or would like to become part of our volunteer team, please do not hesitate to let Bev or me know. We are always looking for help.

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

Your 2022 – 2023 Schedule

“Merry Go Round”

Month of October 2022

Fall Conference

November 18-20, 2022

Summit

Meet & Greet, February 8, 2023

Classes, February 9-11, 2023

“Round Robin”

Month of April 2023

In-State Unity Ride

Meet & Greet, April 16, 2023

Ride, April 17-21, 2023

Rally, April 22, 2023, Orange County Chopper Museum

If you have any ideas, please share! Thank You for what you do, and we are proud to be part of your Leadership Team of such an excellent group!

“For the Cause, not the applause”

Children & Youth Publications

Dianne Boland, Children & Youth

cy@legionmail.org



Greetings: I have started attending District Meetings. My goal this year is to promote Children & Youth activities and values and educate our legionnaires along the way. Last month (after this article went out), I virtually attended the National Children & Youth Conference. I will be sending along any new information on our program.

The web is your friend. Floridalegion.org and Legion.org have much information on Children & Youth. National publications can be found at legion.org/publications. Below is a list applicable to C & Y.

- April is Children & Youth Month
- Children & Youth Programs
- Gateway Drugs
- Make Halloween a Fun & Safe Night
- National Family Week
- Play it Safe
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation

- Warning Signs
- The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation brochure
- The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Awards brochure

I hope your post promoted Halloween Safety this month. Also, now is the time to start contacting local schools to promote our various C & Y Programs. Be sure to encourage any C & Y activities you may be having at your post, and remember, the Department Children & Youth picnic will be held on April 15, 2023, at Post 323 Lehigh Acres. More info to follow.

New Student Application 2023

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College

falc@legionmail.org



Florida American Legion College (FALC), New application is now on the website; just go to floridalegion.org and select (News & Event) and go down to (Florida legion College) click (Learn More) and go down to application and download and print the application and follow all the instructions and mail it in or email it, the

deadline is February 3rd, 2023.

Do Basic Training online by going to Legion.org and this must be done within 2 years of applying.

**What is your goal in the future for the American Legion Department of Florida? Or how can you assist the Department of Florida?*

**What can you do for the betterment of your Post, District, and the Department of Florida? You need to do Basic Training online before coming or applying to attend Florida American*

Legion College. (Attach a copy to your application) “Florida American Legion College is on Feb 16-19, 2023”

Make sure you have your email, phone number, and address so we can communicate back and forth. Also, when you send your application, with a check for \$200.00, we will let you know within 2 weeks that we have received your application and whether or not you have been accepted to attend the college. (If you do not hear from us within 16 days of you

Florida Legion College continued on page 8 >>



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<< Florida Legion College continued from page 7 mailing in your application, please call me.)

You must be ready to work hard and long hours each day and we are not finished until the homework and group assignments are completed then we are done.

Remember that FALC is \$200.00 to apply, and every application will be checked before you can attend. Please note it is required to have your home address, email address, and phone number for us to contact you. If you do not get an email or reply from us within 2 weeks after you sent your application to the Department of Florida, please call me at

352-226-4370 or email at FALC@legionmail.org

If you still have questions email or call me at 352-226-4370; I will answer your questions. FALC@legionmail.org

ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports Programs

Loretta Young, JRTOC / JSSP

jrotc@legionmail.org



Having a solid start with semester introductions for the ROTC/JROTC Programs is essential. By now, all schools are well into their program, and they usually have a hefty schedule with curriculum and after-school and weekend activities.

I would hope that some of the posts were able to participate in some of the 911 Patriotic Services held in your schools and communities. I had the privilege of attending the Coral Springs AFJROTC Patriotic Service by raising the flag and reading the Presidential Proclamation. It was an outstanding program arranged by the Cadets with the school, Principal, Staff, and Veterans in attendance. Several schools have these events throughout the year, and making yourself available is rewarding to both the Cadets and brings value to our Legion Posts. This starts with an email to your schools to let them know you are open to attend their functions, and in turn, they will be available to assist your posts and members. It's also not too early for you to let the Senior Instructors know that you will be supporting them with the Year End Scholastic and Military Excellence Awards in the spring. Remember to get the orders

into Legion Emblem Sales as soon as you know what schools you will be supporting—waiting until the last minute is not wise as there's usually a wait, and there are often backorders at the last minute.

The JSSP Postal Target Orders were online as of September 01. You can reach the link on the Department and National website for JSSP Programs/Club Registration for Postal Target Set Orders. The registration is the same as last year. All shooters must have a CMP Number, and everything is completed online. It is mandated by Legion National that there's the Annual requirement to pass a criminal background check and pass the Sexual Abuse Awareness course for each coach that is registering for the team.

The cost of the criminal background check with the Protect Youth Sports is \$22 and would be a cost that the post could reimburse the team along with the cost of the targets. Proof of each individual completing the risk management and background check must accompany the Post Affiliation form before the Post Commander signing. We have had questions from JROTC Instructors/Coaches asking if they are exempt, however, they are not. Please explain that this is a requirement of the Legion National Headquarters. I have had several requests from posts starting up a

Marksmanship Program within their post location. Thank you so much for stepping up, and if I could be of any help, please reach out to me. There are complete instructions on the website for starting a club and essential things you should cover before your startup. Wishing everyone a very successful year, and thanks always for your support of the Legion Youth Programs.



Coral Springs High School Cadets



UPDATE YOUR POST INFORMATION & AMENITIES

We're updating our online Post locator and our Post's pages. Please take a moment to provide additional information about your post, or submit any changes. Update online today!

www.floridalegion.org/updatepost



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"Be the One" Award

Bruce Thurber, Membership
membership@legionmail.org



Our Membership Year is off and running. What can I do to help you? I am available to speak at meetings, assist with membership drives, or attend one-on-one training. Let me know what you need. Below are a few of my thoughts:

Saying Thank You

Most Legionnaires are not here for the recognition; a mere Thank you is all they want. In membership, we like to thank them with a little token.

Membership Recruitment Pin

Each Legionnaire who recruits or reinstates Legionnaires between July 1 and the May 10 membership goal will receive one of the following pins:

- 3-9 members will receive the 2022-2023 Recruiter Pin
- 10-24 members will receive a Gold Membership Recruiter Pin*
- 25-49 members will receive a Gold Membership Recruiter Pin with a Sapphire Stone*
- 50-75 members will receive a Gold Membership Recruiter Pin with a Ruby Stone*

- 76 and above will receive a Gold Membership Recruiter Pin with a Diamond Stone*

*Will also receive 2022-2023 Membership Recruiter Pin

National Commanders Awards for Individuals

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will award his National Commander "Be the One" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2023 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2022 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

To qualify for National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola's V.E.T.S. (veterans, education, teamwork, and sponsor) expired membership incentive pin, American Legion members will need to reinstate five expired members into The American Legion for the

2023 membership year who were not a member during the 2022 membership year.

Please make sure that members have been processed before submission of this award. Pins will not be mailed until they are verified on the national database.

What Happens When You Travel Wearing Legion Clothing

Recently while traveling, I have found that many people don't understand the purpose of The American Legion. One young man I spoke to said that the local Post was the best place in town, then it closed. He said that they would go after work a couple of times a week and because they couldn't help out, he always bought into fundraisers as they saw it going to the community. I asked if he kept up his dues, and he said no I transferred to the AMVETS, and since they don't do anything, I gave it all up. As we went our own way, he said if it ever came back to town, he would check it out.

Give them a reason

As you talk with potential members, let them know how they can become part of A new campaign called "Be the One," which aims to change the conversation, reduce the stigma of asking for help with mental health and empower everyone to help save the life of one veteran.

What Can My Post Do?

Raymond Olsen, National Security
security@legionmail.org

What kind of events can you hold in support of National Security? In my first article, I mentioned the programs that fall under the National Security Pillar. You can check out the National CPR form to refresh your memory. What other things can we be doing to support National Security efforts? We need to support active duty families and our active duty members by ensuring they get paid during Government stoppages. We must ensure that they have adequate Housing and Medical Care. How can we do that? Letter-writing campaigns and phone calls to our elected members of

Congress are reasonable solutions. There are newsletters from National Security to which you can subscribe. There are email alerts that come from National Security and the Legislative commissions to which you can subscribe. The Department of Florida holds a March on Tallahassee every year, which you can support by contacting your state Representatives and Senators and those members of the Legislative Commission participating.

You can think outside the box. Look at some of our recent conflicts and how they escalated. Many more times than not, it was the result of a shortage of grains and food

that caused citizens to revolt against their government or countries to rebel against other countries. The first thing Russia did in the Ukraine was to shut down their ports so they could not import or export grain, fuel, etc. Ukraine has had no option but to respond in the manner they have. It will eventually cause Russia to lose the conflict, short of a nuclear option. What can we do as posts in America? Many posts near military installations have surpluses of MREs that they donate to Posts for disaster preparedness. There are many local food banks that we can support through voluntarism and contributions to ensure

National Security continued on page 10 >>



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<< National Security continued from page 9

that our needy veterans are served.

I am reminded of the George Washington quote (that did not really come from him, according to some sources) that I have heard throughout my time in the American Legion. "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve

in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive how the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." We have to ensure that our Veterans are cared for, their descendants and family members are cared for, and that they are respected and welcomed home. Otherwise, no one will volunteer for service to their country.

The more active our posts are in their community, the better our reputation will be and the stronger our National Security will be.

Thank you for reading. Email me if you have a program or event you would like to share with the Department or other Posts. security@legionmail.org

SAL Membership

Richard Smith, SAL Advisor
sal@legionmail.org

We are in October, and I am seeing zeros on membership reports for the SAL all over the Detachment. If you are one of those at a zero, do you need help? Is the squadron active? Do you have officers? All questions

that the SAL liaison should be asking. The officers should have paid their dues prior to installation.

If you need help, reach out to the SAL District Commander. If he can't help, please reach out to the Area Vice Commander. We can get to our goal with some effort on both sides.

Halloween is here. Are you holding a Halloween party or setting up candy for the local children? Have some fun and get the Legion family involved.

Have fun and a great month

American Legion Scouters

Chris Ragusa, Scouting
scouting@legionmail.org



American Legion Post 5-hosted Boys and Girls State Recognition Ceremony:

On August 31, 2022, American Legion Post 5...the U.S.S. Tampa...in District 15, hosted a Recognition Ceremony for the thirteen Boys State

delegates and two Girls State delegates that they sponsored this year. Why am I featuring this in the Legion Link Scouting section, and why are both professional and volunteer Scouting members present? Because this is a perfect example of the confluence of two of the Legion Family and Youth programs (Boys State/Nation and Boy Scouts of America). This year, five of the thirteen delegates are Eagle Scouts from four local Scouts BSA troops. Our Family and Youth programs continue to provide opportunities for our youth to achieve their potential, develop leadership skills beyond their years, and become the ethical and moral citizens and future leaders that we need. Pictured are Circuit Court Judge Tom Palermo (also a Scouting volunteer), Post 5 Commander J.R. Scoggins, Greater Tampa Bay Area Council

District Director Jeremy Twachtman, Judge Palermo's son, Scout BSA Troop 22 Scoutmaster Tom Knotts, Post 5 Scouting Chair Frank Smith, and five of the Boys State delegates from the Greater Tampa Bay area



Scouting Support to 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony:

To memorialize the victims of the NYC terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, and recognize the efforts of first responders to the incident, Scouts BSA Troops 431B and 431G participated in the 2022 City of Madeira Beach 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. American Legion Post 273 in Madeira Beach (District 16) hosted the Scouts at their post after the event.



February 3-5, 2023 Cub Scout Camporee

Reminder: The American Legion and SAL-chartered Cub Scout Camporee at MacDill AFB in Tampa, FL, will take place from Friday, February 3 – Sunday, February 5, 2023. This campout at Lewis Lake Scout Camp on MacDill AFB in Tampa, FL, is a two overnight Cub Scout Camporee specifically for American Legion Post, Auxiliary unit, and Sons of the American Legion Squadron-chartered Cub Scout packs.

This primitive camping weekend will be jam-packed with tours of the Air Traffic Control Tower and Flight Simulator, the base's Flightline Fire and Rescue station, Maritime Coastal Patrol hanger and dock, an Armory weapons orientation, and a 6th Security Forces Squadron Military Dog Handling unit demo. At the cost of only \$20 per participant, the event will include a cookout on the bay in a marina beach pavilion, a catered BBQ dinner, and campfires and s'mores to finish off the night.

The MacDill AFB Cub Scout Camporee Guide from the last event is available in the Resources folder at the Department Scouting site. I am the POC for this event - please spread the word to your Cub Scout packs to put this on their calendars!



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GOLF TOURNAMENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

The 9th Annual Golf Tournament was held on Monday, September 26th at the beautiful Bella Collina Golf Course in Montverde, FL. At approximately 8:30AM, attendees stood at attention as Post 35 member, Melanie Caputo, sang the national anthem. Then, roughly 120 golfers were on their way as they listened to Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA".

PVR Board President, Bob James, hosted corporate partners, vendors and friends to a fun filled day of golf. Participants were able to compete in new contests such as the scavenger hunt and best patriotic costume contest, and had an opportunity to take away \$10,000 cash for the hole-in-one prize. But, the most amazing part was that everyone came together for one sole purpose... **to support Florida's veterans and their families.**

Mr. James was able to surpass his fundraising goal,

and revealed a 'BIG CHECK' written for \$81,423 to PROJECT: VetRelief during the awards banquet! This is a record setting donation, and is ALL net proceeds that directly benefits our mission.

We are grateful for Mr. James and his wife, Rita, and the entire RL James, Inc. team for their continued support of our organization, as they have been a tremendous part of our program's overall success!

Additionally, we are thankful to all the sponsors and players for their contributions to our mission. From the amazing volunteers who pitched in to the awesome Bella Collina staff, it sure was one successful event!!



HURRICANE IAN: LEGION'S SUPPORT EFFORTS

We hope that our friends and Legion Family was spared from the devastating storm that tore through Florida. However, we know that not everyone was lucky and some have experienced extreme damage and destruction to their homes and livelihoods!

Please utilize all resources available to you as you begin to recover and rebuild! PROJECT: VetRelief has designated Publix food cards for veterans and their families who have been displaced or damage to their homes. For information on how to apply, please contact our case worker, Lenora James, at ljames@floridalegion.org. **Stay safe and may God bless you all!**



!! DISTRICT ADVOCATES NEEDED !!

PROJECT: VetRelief is on the lookout for District Advocates! These Advocates will assist our program by reaching out to veterans who previously received financial assistance, or helping a veteran fill out our application. We would also like for Advocates to participate in events within your area, whether it be a Post fundraiser or community event raising awareness on our program.

During the upcoming Fall Conference, we will be having a special training and round table discussion on the full details of this revised Advocate role and introduction to our PVR/SPI Strategic Partners.

If you are interested in representing your District and supporting PROJECT: VetRelief, please contact Jennifer Cooper at jcooper@floridalegion.org.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE STATS: YEAR 9 JULY-AUG 2022

48 VETERANS ASSISTED

\$70,035 FINANCIAL AID AWARDED

"Be the One" Campaign

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements

benefits@legionmail.org



"BE the One" Campaign

I want to say I had a great time at National Convention in Milwaukee, and it was put out that the new National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola and the next four

National Commanders are promoting the "BE THE ONE" campaign. (Suicide Prevention)

How you can "Be the One"

(Came from the September 2022 American Legion Magazine)

The American Legion's "Be the One" campaign encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, service members, and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide. The program's primary goal is to reduce the number of veteran suicides. It will do so by destigmatizing the simple act of asking for mental health support, providing peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities, and educating people on how to "BE THE ONE."

For Veterans

- Talk with fellow veterans about how you're feeling.
- Ask for help when you think you need it.
- Know that millions of people are ready to help you.
- Remember that your family and friends care.

For non-veterans

- Ask veterans in your life how they're doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.
- Pledge to "BE the One" at betheone.org by signing up for email updates.

For American Legion posts

- Educate members on the "BE the One" campaign.
- Display resources at your post or in your community.
- Share events or success stories at legiontown.org.

"BE THE ONE"

To recognize the symptoms

(Recognize The Signs is from the VA's Suicide Awareness cards)

The presence of these signs requires immediate attention

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.

Mild signs

- Hopeless, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swing
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

Resources

If you are a veteran experiencing a crisis, VA has resources available 24/7:

- Call 988 or 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.
- Text 838255
- Visit veteranscrisisline.net

Strategic Partners with Project VetRelief

- 22 Zero (813) 221-6304
- Veterans Counseling Veterans (407) 516-8398
- First Counseling Veterans (407) 468-0004
- Paint 22 (727) 490-7338
- IGY6 Foundation (321) 505-9005

- SOF Missions (910) 382-6492
- K9 Line (386) 566-7438
- The Grey Team (561) 203-3815
- Liberty OVE (757) 778-5337
- Norman Bissel, LMHC (614) 259-7414

Vet Centers

If you have served in a combat zone, Vet Centers are in your community to help you and your family with readjusting counseling and outreach services.

- Clearwater Vet Center (727) 549-3600
- Clermont Center Vet Center (352) 536-6701
- Daytona Beach Vet Center (386) 366-6600
- Fort Lauderdale Vet Center (954) 714-2381
- Fort Myers Vet Center (239) 652-1861
- Gainesville Vet Center (352) 331-1401
- Palm Beach Vet Center (561) 422-1201
- Jacksonville Vet Center (904) 399-8351
- Jupiter Vet Center (561) 422-1220
- Key Largo Vet Center (305) 451-0164
- Lakeland Vet Center (863) 284-0841
- Melbourne Vet Center (321) 254-3410
- Miami Vet Center (305) 718-3712
- Naples Vet Center (239) 403-2377
- Pasco County Vet Center (727) 372-1854

VA Entitlements continued on page 13 >>



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<< VA Entitlements continued from page 12

- Ocala Vet Center
(352) 237-1947
- Orlando Vet Center
(407) 857-2800
- Bay County Vet Center
(850) 522-6102
- Pensacola Vet Center
(850) 456-5886
- Pompano Beach Vet Center
(954) 984-1669

- Sarasota Vet Center
(941) 927-8285
- Okaloosa County Vet Center
(850) 651-1000
- St. Petersburg Vet Center
(727) 549-3633
- Tallahassee Vet Center
(850) 942-8810
- Tampa Vet Center
(813) 228-2621

"BE THE ONE"

Take a look at the Departments Web site for upcoming Suicide Awareness Events.
VA Entitlements Chairman
Project VetRelief Chairman
(850)718-7773
E-mail: gunhunter1966@yahoo.com

THE VETERAN PEER SPECIALIST ACT OF 2021

Deanna Hall, Women Veterans
womenvets@legionmail.org



"I am a woman. I am joining the military. I can do everything a man can do, and I can and will protect this country."—anonymous

The Veteran Peer Specialist Act of 2021 would amend the VA Mission Act and expand the peer specialist program to all VA medical centers. According to Senator Richard Blumenthal, "This bill builds on the success of the peer specialist program by connecting more veterans to life-saving mental health support resources." Peer specialists have been essential to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mental health programs. To ensure minority veterans, such as women, have a point of contact in a system that may seem bureaucratic and unresponsive to their individualized needs. Peer specialists can provide personalized Women Veterans' care by establishing goals, increasing engagement, sharing their experiences, and serving as role models.

As a female veteran, I know it can sometimes feel lonely in a world where no one understands what happened to you in the military. Also, it can be harder to connect with non-Veteran females. The American Legion Department of Florida has heard you. We are conducting District/Area

wide Women Veteran Forums throughout Florida to ensure we listen to women veterans and understand their challenges. The forums are open to any female veteran; they do not have to belong to the American Legion.

The following is the schedule:

- 8:00-9:00 am Breakfast. Everyone is welcome to come and support female veterans.
- 9:00-9:30 am Introduction of guests.
- 9:30-11:00 am Female Veterans Forum (FEMALE VETERANS ONLY)

Our following two forums are:

1. Women Veterans Forum
October 1, 2022
8:00-11:00
American Legion Post 321
9081 SW 51st Street
Cooper City, FL 33328
2. Women Veterans Forum
November 5, 2022
8:00-11:00
American Legion Post 26
2207 W, Baker Street
Plant City, FL 33653

3. Women Veterans Forum
November 9, 2022
8:00-11:00
American Legion Post 69
1301 W. Bell Stree
Avon Park, FL 33825

WOMEN VETERANS' MANTRA: "JUST BREATHE"

When you feel angry, sad, frustrated, anxious, depressed, or need a moment to "JUST BREATHE."

Please repeat your mantra as many times as needed:

You are "Brave"
You are "Resilient"
You are "Essential"
You are "Amazing"
You are "Timeless"
You are "Heroic"
AND YOU ARE "ENOUGH"

"Just BREATHE"! Thank you for supporting Women Veterans!



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Florida Legion Riders received the Child Welfare Foundation's Garland Murphy Jr. Award

During the 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Florida Legion Riders received the Child Welfare Foundation's Garland Murphy Jr. Award. Joe Marcheggiani received the award on behalf of the Florida Legion Riders.

The Child Welfare Foundation presents awards annually for significant contributions to the foundation. The American Legion Riders are strong supporters of the Foundation, which grants to nonprofits

that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children.

To qualify for the Garland Murphy Jr. Award, the department must be the most active in the nation, based on actual contributions received during the year. One department from each of the Family organizations is recognized.

Congratulations and a huge "Thank You" to the American Legion Riders for their

dedication and never-ending support of our programs. A special mention to Chapter 110, who pushed us over the top for the win.



Chapter 237 Riders Take Top Honors Again

By MARGO WILSON For the Chronicle Jul 28, 2022 ~ It's not the first time, nor the second ... but for the fifth year in a row, the over 100 motorcycle riders of Beverly Hills Post 237 of the American Legion have earned the title of "Riders Chapter of the Year," outpacing the state's other 138 American Legion Riders' chapters with a total of 10,000 riders.

"It's phenomenal," said rider Bo Boden, who was attending a July 23 celebration at the post. "It's a lot of hard work by our leader, John (Roby)."

Roby, who's directed the Beverly Hills riders group since it was founded in 2012, told the partygoers, "It's not about one individual. It's about all of you."

He saluted members who have passed away and dedicated the event to them. He also thanked the veterans' and other community groups and individuals who support the post and vets.

"In April 2012, there were 20 members," he said. "We were the little kids on the block.

We had to go out and earn respect," Roby said.

Since then, the riders have logged over 1 million miles for charitable causes.

"We've gone out over and over and over again," Roby said.

Those rides have earned over \$350,000 for veterans' and community projects and racked up over 1 million hours of community service.

Last year, the riders rode over 300,000 miles, raised \$48,425, and tallied about 300,000 hours of community service.

Some of the groups and causes to which they donate include the Race for Fallen Veterans, the Special Olympics, Toys for Tots, Project Vet Relief, Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast, Veterans for a Cause, Gold Star Families, the VFW, Am Vets, other American Legions, female veterans, and homeless veterans.

They accompany the Vietnam Traveling Wall.

The riders frequently escort, to Bushnell National Cemetery, veterans who've passed away. This past year, they placed 5,000 flags at the cemetery.

On "Red Shirt Fridays," they ride to other American Legions and VFWs to show their support of their fellow veterans.

On Veterans Day, they visit comrades at assisted living sites.

They support veterans' suicide awareness projects.

Member Alan Oscarson, a Vietnam veteran,

said the award and the riders' group and Post 237 "mean the world to me. When I came home from Vietnam in 1971, I got spit on at the airport. There were protestors outside. ... I felt it was a waste of my time being in the service until I came down here."

Oscarson said after he moved to the area, he was out for a motorcycle ride one day and Post 237 riders cruised past.

"I followed them," he said.

He pulled up to Ray Roby, who was commander of the post, and asked him what was going on.

"We're doing a ride for charity," Roby said. "It's a veterans' ride, too."

"I'm a Vietnam vet," Oscarson said. Then, Roby reached over, shook Oscarson's hand, and said, "Thank you for your service and welcome home."

Oscarson joined the post that same day.

Greg Olynyk, the assistant director of the riders group, said he participates because "I do it for the vets. And I like to ride."

Danny Elsass, of S&S Electric, donated \$500 toward the celebration and has supported the post financially many times, according to John Roby.

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Elsass said, "I love this group."

David Herrington, who met his wife at the post and married her June 27, said, "It's a nice, small group, a fun group. They do a lot for the community."

Herrington's wife, Sgt. Maj. Rose E. Gonzalez-Herrington, who has volunteered with Vets for Vets and other groups in Ocala, not only praised Post 237, but her spouse.

"My husband has a big heart," she said.

She was not the only spouse singing the praises of his or her significant other.

John Roby praised his wife, Karon, who is treasurer and membership chair of the post's 210-member Auxiliary. She also designed the cake served at the celebration.

And Karon praised John, as well as the members.

"It's about dedication and camaraderie," she said.

Bucky Palmer said winning the award "is a great amount of work for the commander and post. ... You've got to be good."

Marie Jones said she would echo what Palmer had said, but added, "It's the friendliest American Legion. It's very family-oriented."

Kathleen Moran, the riders' secretary, said, "No one supports vets like we do. This post is a family."

Andrea Bolden, an Auxiliary member, whose father, mother, and brother are veterans, said about the award, "It's fantastic when you think about our little town, and there is Miami, Jacksonville and Tampa. It's great."

Veteran John Ferris said, "The people are so fantastic. I'm very proud to belong."

Ralph Hanks, who served in the Army in Germany from 1966-69, said he loves riding his motorcycle and supports the causes of the riders' chapter.

"I wish I could do more," he said. He mentioned the riders have supported hospice programs. Hanks' wife died in hospice. He credited John Roby for his

leadership and said Roby "is probably one of the biggest reasons" for the riders' success.

David Fredericks, a Vietnam-era Marine, said the riders and post "do a lot of public service for the community."

Robin Fredericks said the work the post does is "for God and country. ... We're small but mighty."

Dee Collins said, "We love our country."

Her husband, Ron, who served in Germany with the Army, said, "We've been doing hard work."

But in the end, as Director John Roby said, "Awards don't make us any better. We're just committed to our mission."

For information about the post or riders' group, call 352-897-4776, or stop by the post, 6726 N. Lecanto Highway. The post is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Talk to the bartender, and he or she will put you in touch with Roby.



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Hurricane Relief Efforts - How YOU Can Help!

We are forever grateful for the outpour of support that we have received in the wake of Hurricane Ian. We know you want to help! We just ask that you please be patient with us as we work through the logistics. Getting supplies to affected areas takes extreme coordination to ensure the safety of all. Rest assured, we are working closely with local officials to get these details confirmed as soon as possible.

In the meantime, here's what you can do to start making your impact...

The Department of Florida utilizes our Hurricane Relief Fund to distribute funds and purchase items for affected Posts, members, and local communities. We encourage you to donate to this effort so that we can ensure we have the necessary funding to support these areas. Donations can be accepted through our website ([floridalegion.org/aid](https://www.floridalegion.org/aid)) or mailed to our Department Headquarters using the address below. Please make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Florida, and include "Hurricane Relief" in the memo line.

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

Monetary donations can also be made through our Department website using this link: <https://www.floridalegion.org/aid>

Department Headquarters will act as the initial collection site of donated items. Once locations have been established near the affected areas, we will release exact addresses to expedite items to individuals.

Below is the list of items and delivery instructions so that you can start gathering these necessities.

Hurricane Ian Relief Items

- Water
- Non-perishables (canned food, dried meats, hard candies, granola or power bars)
- Dry goods (crackers, nuts, dried fruit, trail mix)
- Peanut butter
- Hand can openers
- Hygiene items (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, etc.)
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Infant Supplies (diapers, wipes, food, formula)
- Feminine products
- Pet food
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Flashlights
- Solar lights
- Battery operated fans
- Pocket juice battery chargers
- Camping stoves
- Propane
- Charcoal grills
- Cleaning supplies (disinfectant wipes, dust rags, dust masks)
- First aid items (bandaids, antibacterial ointment, gauze, medical tape, aspirin, rubbing alcohol, etc.)
- Chain or hand saws
- Utility gloves
- Packaged undergarments (all sizes)

Donations can be shipped or dropped off during business hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm) at the same address above. We will collect items at this location until official areas have been designated.

Relief Assistance / Resources

We have compiled a list of organizations and resources that can assist individuals in various capacities. Please visit and share the link if you, or anyone you might know, needs any form of assistance.

GET HELP: www.floridalegion.org/relief

We are no strangers to these devastating storms. Our Legion Family is eternally grateful for your willingness to step up and help rebuild in the aftermath. Thank you all in advance for your patience and your continued support during this time!

Post reporting Heavy to Moderate Damage as of October 3, 2022.

Heavy: Post 11 - Arcadia, Post 25 - Lake Placid, Post 110 - Port Charlotte, Post 136 - St. James City, Post 274 - Fort Myers, Post 303 - Bonita Springs, Post 120 - Holly Hill
Moderate: Post 309 - Palmetto, Post 163 - Melbourne, Post 171 - Fort Pierce, Post 187 - Deland



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September 22, 2022 Membership Target Report (50%)		
4	John Bennett	57.92%
1	Ronnie Grover	53.22%
7	Burl Thomas	52.65%
17	Bruce Howe	52.16%
9	Geo Bograkos	51.15%
2	Roger Hewitt	50.27%
6	Joe Marcheggiani	50.23%
5	Lena Heredia-Perez	49.71%
16	Eric Nestler	49.24%
8	John Rauh	48.53%
11	Harry Malecki	47.73%
14	Angela Glover	47.70%
3	Stuart Scott	47.66%
15	Victor Kelly	47.39%
12	Wayne Mulligan	45.80%
13	Bud Boyer	45.15%
Western	Sonny Decker	52.78%
Northern	Jim Bowers	51.85%
Central	Bob Matheson	49.22%
Southern	Johnny Castro	48.83%
Eastern	Dennis Mallon	48.26%
Southwestern	Skip Felicita	46.65%
Post 400		50.83%
Post 208		48.02%



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

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

Next Membership Goal 2022-2023:
November 2, 2022

65%



PLEASE SUPPORT
PROJECT: VETRELIEF

GOD ♥ FAMILY ♥ COURAGE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



THE AMERICAN LEGION

FLORIDA

FALL RAFFLE



\$500
FOURTH-FIFTH
PRIZE

\$2.5K
SECOND PRIZE

\$10K
GRAND PRIZE

\$1K
THIRD PRIZE

\$100
SIXTH - TENTH
PRIZE

WINNERS DRAWN
AT FALL CONFERENCE
CARIBE ROYALE ORLANDO

GET TICKETS BY
MAIL



Your 2022 Fall Department Raffle is on its way. Return completed tickets to:
The American Legion, Dept of FL
Attn: Raffle
PO Box 547489
Orlando, FL 32854

Return tickets by November 10, 2022.

SUPPORT FLORIDA
VETERANS



Our Department Raffle proceeds go toward helping our Florida Veterans, their families, and their communities through more than twenty-seven programs. Visit our website for more information at floridalegion.org.

Thank you for your support.

GET TICKETS
ONLINE



Didn't get a packet in the mail? No worries you can enter online at:

floridalegion.org/raffle

YOUR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS
PRESENT



HILLBILLY HOEDOWN

COME DRESSED AS A HILLBILLY!
JEANS—OVERALLS—STRAW HATS
USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

SATURDAY JAN 21, 2023
STARTING AT 12:00PM



LIVE MUSIC BY LAST CALL BAND

RAFFLES!
DINNER!
& MUCH MORE!

TICKETS:

\$25/PERSON \$40/COUPLE

CONTACT A VICE COMMANDER FOR TICKETS

MICHAEL: (618) 616 - 2753

CHRIS: (321) 313 - 3469

JESSICA: (239) 839 - 0602



AMERICAN LEGION POST 117
189 VETERANS DRIVE PALM BAY, FL

PROCEEDS
BENEFIT



PROJECT: VETRELIEF
They Fought for Us. We Fight for Them.

**American Legion
Hillbilly Hoedown**

Advertising Agreement

YES! I want to advertise in the American Legion Department of Florida's Hillbilly Hoedown

Program Book.

Full Page \$50.00

Half Page \$25.00

Business Name: _____

Point of Contact: _____

Phone#: _____

E-mail: _____

Amt. Paid _____

Cash: _____

Check # _____

Must be submitted by December 30, 2022.

Business Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Make Checks Payable To:
American Legion Post 117
261 Comet Ave SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
Memo: Hoedown Ad
E-mail ads to:
J_moore71@yahoo.com



THE HOLIDAY RAFFLE

31 WINNERS DRAWN IN DECEMBER is BACK

GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON...

31 CHANCES TO WIN & UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This December, The American Legion, Department of Florida Holiday Raffle will provide 31 lucky winners a cash prize, one on each day of the month. To maximize the success of this program, we truly need every District and Post to participate.

Here's what you need to know:

- The requested donation for each raffle ticket is \$5. Posts can pre-order tickets \$3/ticket **The Post keeps ALL proceeds from their efforts!**

JUST THINK - IF EVERY POST SOLD JUST 4 BUNDLES OF TICKETS, THERE'D BE A TOTAL PRIZE POT OF OVER \$28,000 IN CASH PRIZES AND OVER \$100,000 RAISED FOR DEPARTMENT AND POST PROGRAMS!



- **Tickets will be available exclusively at Florida Legion Posts** through October 31, 2022. Online tickets will be offered from November 1 through December 30, 2022 at midnight.
- **Posts can pre-order tickets NOW** in bundles of 25 through November 25th. Actual tickets will be shipped in late September.
- **Posts still receive credit for online tickets.** Be sure to request individuals to put the Post number on the entry form. Posts will receive \$2 per ticket for every online donation using their Post number. Funds will be given to the Post within 14 days after the Holiday Raffle is complete.

- **Tickets can be picked up at Department or shipped** for a flat rate with tracking information to the Post contact provided using a priority service.
- **Return tickets to Department before December 1st** to be entered into the drawing.
- **Department will handle the promotion** of the Holiday Raffle through the website, social media, and emails.
- **Marketing materials are available** (posters, business cards, tabletop displays, etc.) for Posts to highlight the program, upon request.
- **Use the link below or enclosed form** to pre-order tickets or view the full list of rules.

www.floridalegion.org/holidayraffle

5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE:

1. More funding for your Post
2. Ability to support Florida's Veterans at a higher levels
3. Chance to engage your local community and potentially bring in new members
4. Department eases the heavy lifting by providing materials and promoting the campaign
5. It's just plain FUN!





Post Ticket Request HOLIDAY RAFFLE

Pre-order your tickets now.
Actual tickets will be delivered in late September.

Post # _____

Your Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Post Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Tickets _____

Delivery Method

Ship to Post (\$7 Flat Fee) Pickup - Dept HQ (Free) Pickup - Fall Conference (Free)

Total Amount ($\$3 \times$ Number of Tickets + Delivery Fee) \$ _____

Payment Method: Check Cash Credit Card

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Office Use Only _____

Delivery Method: Pickup at Headquarters Mailed to Post Pickup at Fall Conference

Date Sent: _____ Sent by: _____



Student Application
February 16-19, 2023
Department Headquarters, Orlando

Section One – Personal Information

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email Address _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

Section Two - Military and American Legion Service

Branch(es) of Service _____ Dates of Service _____

Year Joined Legion _____ American Legion Post # _____ Membership ID _____

List American Legion Offices previously/currently held and when:

Date Completed The American Legion Basic Training (Copy of Certificate Required) Month _____ Year _____

Section Three – Education and Career Information

Educational Background (Check highest level achieved)

_____ High School Diploma _____ Technical/Trade Degree _____ Some College

_____ Associate Degree _____ Bachelor’s Degree _____ Postgraduate Degree

Professional Background (Briefly describe your job and how long you have been in that position)

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

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

FLALC Selection Committee Letter

The FLALC Selection Committee will review applications and make the final selection by February 3rd, 2023. In 300 words or less, tell them why you want to attend the Florida American Legion College and how you would apply the knowledge you will acquire and will help your District and the Department of Florida. This is an important part of the selection process and it is an opportunity for you to present yourself in your own words. Your comments must be typewritten (use pages 3 & 4).

Last Name _____ First Name _____

February 16-19, 2023

Member ID _____

Section Five – Lodging and Accommodation Information

Courtyard by Marriott Orlando-Altamonte Springs Maitland is located at 1750 Pembroke Dr, Orlando, FL 32810, located near Department Headquarters. Lodging is provided to the students during the authorized dates. Students are recommended to share a room with another Legion College Student. **If student would like their own room, an additional charge of \$193 will be necessary.** Each student will be responsible for additional charges (such as phone calls, internet service or room service) during the week. All telephone calls, including local or toll-free calls, may have access fees and will be charged to the student’s account.

Check with Department Headquarters for hotel special accommodations, such as handicap accessibility or special dietary needs (please list on a separate page what those restrictions or special needs might be). Any outstanding charges must be cleared at checkout with the hotel. **A \$200 Registration Fee is required for rooms, coffee, and lunches. The Fee MUST accompany the application.** Changes to hotel location will be communicated by email. For those students that don't require a hotel room, your registration fee will be \$100.

Preferred Hotel Roommate _____

I have read the prerequisite requirements and desire to attend The Department of Florida American Legion College.

Signature _____ Date _____

Section Six – Area Commander Recommendation (at least two signatures required, print name & title and signature)

1. Provide six words that best describe this candidate (i.e. forceful, energetic, dedicated, etc)

(a)	(b)	(c)
(d)	(e)	(f)

2. What are the candidate’s goals for advancement in The American Legion?

(a)	(b)	(c)
-----	-----	-----

3. Why do you believe this candidate should attend the Department of Florida American Legion College?

(a)	(b)	(c)
-----	-----	-----

4. What might this candidate be doing for the American Legion in:

One year at District Level:	(a)	(b)	(c)
Five years at Department Level:	(a)	(b)	(c)

5. Within the next five years, might you comfortably elect this candidate as your (Check all that apply):

_____ Department Membership Chair	_____ District/Area Commander	_____ Department Officer
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

Post Commander / District Commander/ Area Commander or Higher (Print & Signature) **Date**

Post Commander / District Commander/ Area Commander or Higher (Print & Signature) **Date**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

February 16-19, 2023

Member ID _____

HOW TO SUBMIT:

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

No later than January 31, 2023. Registration fee MUST accompany the application and essay.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

February 16-19, 2023

Member ID _____

HOW TO SUBMIT:

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

No later than January 31, 2023. Registration fee MUST accompany the application and essay.

The Future is in our Hands, Please help The American Legion Post 108 family as we work to create a "Brighter Future for veterans and our community" sm



1st Annual American Legion Post 108 Golf Tournament
Plantation Palms Golf Club, located in the heart of beautiful Land O' Lakes Florida.
November 18, 2022 Friday 7:30 am Breakfast 8:30 am 21 Gun Salute Start

Championship Golf

This David Harman design and Ace Golf owned facility provides every golfer with a challenging and rewarding golf experience and is the only golf course that the legendary designer created in the Tampa Bay area. The true-rolling, elevated greens offer a unique challenge to every golfer.

Great Golf, Drawing for Dormie Luxury Golf Getaway (*package value \$3,8000.*) \$20,000. chances for Hole in One, \$5,000 on 4 Par 3's. Putting Contest and a lot more. Benefit for The American Legion Post 108 for our veterans and their families. Check out all the details via the QR code below.

Early Bird Registration \$350 Tax Deductible Donation

End Registration @ 11:59pm on October 31, 2022

*** \$50 off team registration if you sign up prior to 1st November 2022.**

Foursome after Nov 1, 2022 is a \$400. Tax Deductible Donation

The future is in our hands. Please help the American Legion Post 108 family as we work to create a Brighter Future for veterans and our community sm.
Players, Sponsors, Volunteers: Join in today



Join Vet's & their families, 4th Monday of each month @ Plantation Palms Golf Club
23252 Plantation Palms Blvd. Land O' Lakes 34639
5 pm Auxiliary Meeting - 6 pm Social - 7 pm Legion Meeting
www.americanlegionpost108.org

An American flag is draped across the left side of the page, with the stars in the upper left and the stripes in the lower left. The background is a light, textured surface.

VETERANS DAY *Celebration*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022, 10:00 AM

First Orlando, Worship Center, 3000 South John Young Parkway, Orlando, FL 32805

The First Academy is proud to honor all the men and women who have served our country. This year our special guest is Medal of Honor Recipient, United States Army Staff Sgt Sal Giunta (Ret.).

For Veterans and their spouses, there will be a continental breakfast meet and greet with the Medal of Honor recipient at 8:45 am in Faith Hall.

For more information, please call 407-206-8643

POST SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Dept. Fall Conference Registration Form 2022

This course is filled based off first come, first served interest. REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: FL Zip Code: _____

Email (required): _____

Phone number: _____

Post number: _____ Member ID number: _____

By signing this document, you are stating that you have been appointed as the Post Service Officer by the Post Commander to attend this course as stated in the Department Constitution and By-Laws Article X, Section

**** A Post can only send TWO PEOPLE to attend the course
due to the limited seating! ****

Service Officer Signature

Date

Commander Signature

Date

Return this form to:

Florida American Legion, ATTN: Programs, PO BOX 547859, Orlando, FL, 32854-7859

OR

Email: btibbs@floridalegion.org

OR

Fax: 407-299-0901

This Form **MUST** be submitted and received by Department to reserve a place in the class

****Registration by phone will NOT be accepted****



SAVE THE DATE!

Class Name: FL American Legion **Post Service Officer Course**, Dept. Fall Conference 2022

Dates (Must Attend Both Days): Friday, 18 November; 8AM – 4PM
Saturday, 19 November; 8AM – 1PM

Note: Training by The American Legion is **valid for one year**

Room Name: Grand Sierra B, Caribe Royale Orlando

Hotel Reservations: Caribe Royale Orlando – (800) 823-8300
8101 World Center Dr. Orlando, FL 32821

****Be sure to tell them you are with The American Legion to receive our special rate****



**The American Legion, Department of Florida
FALL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 18-20, 2022
CARIBE ROYALE ORLANDO
8101 World Center Drive. Orlando, FL 32821**

Standard King Rooms, Single & Double Queen Rooms are still available!

Call [800-823-8300](tel:800-823-8300) to make your reservations. Be sure to mention The American Legion!

Book online via the booking link, please visit:

<https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/fall-conference/hotel-information>

NOTE: All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or one night's deposit by check or cash. Cancel without penalty up to five (5) days prior to arrival.

A \$25 hotel fee is waived.

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE: October 28, 2022

The discounted block may fill before the cutoff date

For the 2022 Fall Conference agenda, please visit:

<https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/fall-conference/event-agenda/>

MEMMO

Fall Conference Parking

Please be advised that all registered guests attending the American Legion Department Fall Conference will receive complimentary parking.

Overnight guests may use their room key to gain access in and out of the parking lot at any time. Your final bill will reflect a zero parking charge.

Day guests will pay \$14/day. Day guests will need to have their ticket validated at the Grand Caribe Convention Center registration desk. You must let them know you are with The American Legion. Payment by credit card must be made at the payment kiosk in the Convention Center or at the gate prior to departure. No cash will be accepted

If you have any further questions, please contact the Events Coordinator at 407.295.2631 ext. 232.

It's time to

ROCK N' ROLL!

at the 2022 President & Commander's show

Special Musical Guest:
Billy Lindsey

Tailgate at 6pm
Jam session at 7pm

Buffet Menu:

**Deconstructed Caesar Salad | Baked Ziti | Chicken Parmesan |
Angel Hair Pasta | Market Fresh Vegetables | Rolls & Bread |
Mini Tiramisu Desserts**

Fall Concert Series

1 night only

| Saturday, November 19, 2022

| Palms 2

Attire: Jeans and your favorite Classic Rock Group t-shirt

Tickets: pre-sale* \$55 \$65 day of event
***available until 11/8/2022**

Ticket site: alafl.org/banquet

Tickets available at the box office (ALA Store)

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 30, 31, September 1, 2022**

Resolution No. 1: Amend American Legion Constitution and By-Laws to Allow Multi-Year and Rolling Memberships

Origin: Resolution No. 1 (NEC) May 2022

**Submitted by: Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments
(As Amended)**

WHEREAS, The American Legion is very careful and cautious in the drafting of its National Constitution and National By-laws; and

WHEREAS, A recent ad hoc Committee to Study Membership Processing for the 2022-23 Year found that there was a strong desire to allow for multi-year memberships of three or five years; and

WHEREAS, That same committee found that the current practice of having all memberships run concurrently regardless of when an individual joined The American Legion is cumbersome and confusing; and

WHEREAS, This often resulted in members receiving a renewal notice within days or weeks of having initially joined; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 30, 31, September 1, 2022, That the National Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion be amended to allow for multi-year and rolling renewal dates for individual memberships; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion Constitution Article IV, "Eligibility," Section 2, currently codified as "There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life," be amended to state that, "There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually, for multiple years, or for life."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That there be added to the American Legion Constitution Article X, "Finance," Section 2.1 to state that, "Dues paid for multiple years, but for less than life, shall all be paid at the rate of the annual dues for the first year of that term."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion Constitution Article X, "Finance," Section 4, currently codified as "Annual dues shall be payable October 20 of each year, for the succeeding calendar year." be amended to state that, "Upon expiration, annual dues shall be immediately payable for the succeeding year."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion By-laws, Article IV, Section 4, "Discipline of Post and Post Members" be amended to read as follows:

Section 4. A member whose dues ~~for the current year~~ have not been paid on the member's renewal date ~~by January first~~ shall be classed as delinquent. If their dues are paid within 30 days of expiration, ~~on or before February first~~, the member shall be automatically reinstated. If the member is still delinquent 30 days after expiration ~~after February~~

first, the member shall be suspended from all privileges. If the member is still under such suspension 120 days following expiration ~~on June first of such year,~~ their membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues ~~for the year in which the reinstatement occurs;~~ however, the Posts, Departments and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That passage of these recommended amendments to the National Constitution and National By-Laws by the National Convention shall not create either multi-year and/or rolling memberships but permits the National Executive Committee to investigate and implement any changes through the normal legislative process.



WOMEN VETERANS FORUM

**NOVEMBER 18, 2022
3:30-4:30 PM**

**American Legion
Department of Florida Fall Convention
Caribe Royale Orlando
8101 World Center Drive
Orlando, Florida 32821
Room: Curacao 3-4**

Opportunity to voice concerns/ask questions

**For more information:
Deanna Hall, American Legion Department of Florida
Women Veterans Chair, 239-264-9164
womenvets@legionmail.org**