



# THE LEGION LINK

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA PUBLICATION



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#### Submit Articles at

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

## A Message from the Department Commander

**Eunic Butts, Commander**

[commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:commander@floridalegion.org)



Congratulations to Florida for receiving 100% in CPR reporting for the 2021-2022 membership year. Let us continue to turn in our CPRs and Addendums on time, as these are very important.

The past two months have been very busy, yet rewarding, with our 2022 Department Commander's Training sessions being a great success.

As your former Vice commander, I made a promise to you to be fair and address your issues to the best of my ability. Our Department training team was assembled to answer some of your questions and provide you with a merge of old and new knowledge of The American Legion, on both National and Department levels. This training is not meant to take away from the required training of the Area and District Commanders. The Northern Area training

was divided, and the Southern Area will be divided, if necessary, as well. This was to help make the training more accessible and manageable.

Let's continue our Buddy Checks this year. Please use the Officers Guide, as it contains valuable information and many changes. Now is also the time to work on your DMS lists. Congratulations to our Posts who have attained their 50% or more in membership! As I write this article, Post 121 is at 114.29%!

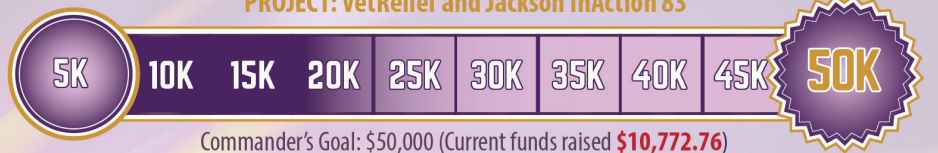
Thank you for volunteering and all that you do, but please don't forget to have fun doing it.

*"The most powerful way to heal someone is to listen. Don't think or judge, just listen. People start to heal the moment they feel heard. You can't be a healer if you refuse to step outside of your own emotions and view things entirely from the perspective of the other person."*

Let's strive for 50% in membership by September 8, 2022. Have a wonderful Labor Day and be safe.

## COMMANDER'S CHARITIES

PROJECT: VetRelief and Jackson InAction 83



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**What's Your Leadership Style?**

**Michael Raymond, 1st Vice Commander**  
[1stvice@legionmail.org](mailto:1stvice@legionmail.org)



Anyone that served in a leadership position in the military should be familiar with the three leadership styles. To survive in an all-volunteer organization, like the American Legion, we must be very careful

how we treat our members, especially our volunteers. The three leadership styles according to Kurt Lewin, a German/American psychologist, are autocratic, democratic, and laissez-faire. Each comes with its own advantages and disadvantages.

The autocratic leadership style is a style we see way too often at Post level. These leaders are not interested in sharing the decision-making process with the general membership, which according to our Constitution and By-Laws, is required. Instead, they choose to bear the leadership completely on their own, making important decisions that affect the entire organization.

They expect their members to basically follow orders. This style usually leads to animosity and dissension among other officers and members. We must always try to avoid this type of leadership in the everyday operation of our Posts. There are occasions when this style would be advantageous, and that would be at a time of crisis or when an immediate decision must be made.

In my opinion, the democratic style of leadership is the perfect style to practice as a Post Commander. This style encourages ideas and makes people feel they are part of a team. A democratic leader allows people to feel appreciated, accomplished, and important to the success of the Post. Drama within the Post will diminish, and membership retention will improve.

All leadership styles depend on the leaders' personalities. Unfortunately, not everyone is cut out to be a leader. Choose wisely and we will be successful. The success of our organization depends heavily on how we treat our members and volunteers. God Bless

**Moving Forward**

**Chris Hamrick, 2nd Vice Commander**  
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We're up, running, and progressing already. As I write, most, if not all, Post installations have been completed. The month of August is full of activity all over the State.

The Area Training sessions have been successful, and have caused quite a stir, in a great way. The turnout has been phenomenal at each location, and the feedback extraordinary. Your constructive questions have demonstrated your willingness and desire to know more to make our great organization stronger than ever. Thank you to everyone who attended. Now its time for you to take this knowledge

back to your Posts, and build upon it with more District and Area Training.

As this edition of the Legion Link releases, we should be finishing up with National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Congratulations to our new NEC, Jim Ramos, and our new ANEC, Jerry Brandt. A big "thank you" to outgoing NEC, Dennis Boland, for the MANY years of service to our National Executive Committee Member. Thank you to PDC Art Schwabe for his outstanding service as our NECA these past years.

Moving into September, we're building momentum, and there is activity around every corner. Our Programs are kicking off to a good start, District meetings and training are underway, as well. Training is

*2nd Vice Commander continued on page 3 >>*

SEPTEMBER 2022	
1-30	National Disaster Preparedness Month
1-30	Suicide Prevention Month
1	JSSP 1st Round Targets ★
1	Post Program Chair Forms Due 🍊
2	V-J Day (1945)
3	ALR: Chapter 166 Monthly Meeting
4	ALR: Chapter 104 Monthly Meeting
5	Labor Day
5	Dept Headquarters Closed 🍊
7	ALR: Chapter 136 Mystery Ride
7	ALR: Chapter 136 Monthly Meeting
10	Area Training: Southern Area 🍊 ❤️
10	District 12: Meeting
10	ALR: Chapter 10 Fallen Heroes Ride
10	ALR: Chapter 152 Poker Run
11	Patriot's Day
11	Emergency Responder's Day
11	Flags Half Staff
11	Grandparent's Day
11	ALR: Chapter 8 Monthly Meeting
14	ALR: Chapter 136 Mystery Ride
14	ALR: Chapter 35 Monthly Meeting
14	ALR: Chapter 10 Monthly Meeting
15	Legion Link Articles Due
16	POW/MIA Day
16	American Legion Day
16	Post 194: Anniversary Weekend
17	Constitution / Citizenship Day
17	Women Veterans Forum
17	ALR: POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride
17	ALR: Chapter 27 Monthly Meeting
18	U.S. Air Force Birthday
18	U.S. Air National Guard Birthday
18	ALR: Chapter 81 Monthly Meeting
19-23	Americanism & Children/Youth Conference ★
21	ALR: Chapter 136 Mystery Ride
22	First Day of Fall
24	Annual Hawg Daze
24	ALR: Chapter 69 Meeting
24	District 14: Meeting
24	Post 81: Fall Festival 2022
25	Gold Star Mother's Day
26	RL James / PROJECT: VetRelief Golf Tournament
28	ALR: Chapter 136 Mystery Ride

- ❤️ Commander Eunice Butts' Attendance Tentative.
- 🍊 Department Event
- ★ National Event

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



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<<2nd Vice Commander continued from page 2

paramount to our success... Remember that even in the military, no matter what else we may have done, we trained... and trained... and trained... FOR THIS MISSION. Knowledge is power, experience is priceless. Our mission is to our Veterans, our children, our communities, state, and

nation. I ask that we work together as a family unit.

The last statement of our Preamble is: "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Set high standards. Set high goals. Work

together to reach them. I'll close with a quote from a song by a dear friend and mentor, Michael J. Martin: "The Difference we Make may be just what it takes; Maybe we Will Prevail I look forward to seeing you on the road."

**KEEP IT REAL.**

**Key Points**

**Jessica Moore, 3rd Vice Commander**  
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Greetings my brothers and sisters. As you're reading this, we are finishing up our last day at National Convention in Milwaukee. I'm extremely excited to attend, as this is my first. I'm sure I've posted numerous pictures on Facebook and on the Department of Florida Facebook page. I'll also have many memories of my time here.

We have finished up most of the Department Commander's Training with the Southern Area being in September.

**Key points I want to share with you:**

- All officers should read the new Officer's Guide Posted on our website. Read and understand your charge for the upcoming year.
- Post Commanders, the script in this manual is easy to follow and gives you exact verbiage and direction to hold a proper Post meeting.

- The guidance of this script sets the tempo for your year. To show the membership in that meeting it is business and should be conducted in a proper format.
- Know the value of your members, and understand that the American Legion is a family, and our family is here for us.
- Each and every member oversees membership.

All slides used during these training sessions have now been added to our department website [floridalegion.org/resources/training-videos/](http://floridalegion.org/resources/training-videos/)

**First Day as NEC**

**Jim Ramos, NEC**  
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Hello, to All The American Legion members of the Department of Florida.

Sept 1, 2022 is my first day as your National Executive Committee Member (NEC). Thank you all, for your confidence in me to do the right thing as your NEC.

I am learning the National protocol and would like you to all familiarize yourselves as well by reading the following:

1. Rules of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion (Revised Oct 14-15, 2020)
2. Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion (Revised May 10-11, 2017)
3. Charter of The American Legion National Constitution and By-laws (dated August 27-29, 2019)

The three manuals are available online at [legion.org](http://legion.org), search for manuals, and download.

Remember, as your NEC for the Department of Florida I represent ALL the members of the Department of Florida.

Integrity, Honesty, and Loyalty are the characteristics that I hold true. I will stand with you always to better service our Veterans and their families.

Many thanks to you all! If you have questions, please follow the chain of command, but if you still don't get answers call me at 352-226-4370. I will do my best to help answer your questions or provide you with assistance.



**Congress & Resolutions**

**Jerry Brandt, ANEC**

[anec@legionmail.org](mailto:anec@legionmail.org)



First off, let me thank you for electing me to the office of Your National Executive Committee Alternate. It has been a privilege in serving you this past year as Department Commander and allowing me to continue to represent you at National.

Thanks to you, the Pact Act was passed in the United States Congress. This Act was designed to assist our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans from the disease and illness they have or may have received from the Burn Pits. On bases established for America's post-9/11 wars, the U.S. military's trash was often burned in huge, open-air lots on the perimeters of the overseas outposts. Items burned includes but not limit to: used medical supplies, computers, jet fuel, paint thinners, etc. The toxic smoke that came out of the burn pits affected not only the crew burning, but often the entire base.

As you know there was a delay in the Senate in the passing of this bill, however thanks to the Grassroots Action of the American Legion, this bill was approved and signed by the President.

**Number of Calls received by our Senators:**

- Florida – 4,728 calls received
- Texas – 1,664 calls received
- Pennsylvania – 1,652 calls received
- New York – 1,652 calls received
- California – 1,628 calls received

Thank you again for those who took the time to reach out to our Senators to assist in this action.

Another Item that is coming up at the National Convention, is Resolution No.

1. Subject: Amend American Legion Constitution and By-Laws to allow Multi-Year and Rolling Memberships.

The Resolved Clause indicates the following:

RESOLVED, That the 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 the 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 the reinstatement occurs, with the 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 the 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 until they are enacted through the normal resolution Process.

We will vote on this Amendment at the National Convention, but the Amendment looks to allow multi-year membership, and to make your Due Date the date you joined, more details will be provided as we learn them.

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

**2025 National Convention**

**Clarence Hill, PNC**

[pnhill@legionmail.org](mailto:pnhill@legionmail.org)

Tampa was chosen to host the 2025 National Convention, the first convention to be held in Florida since Orlando in 1997. While it is three years out, I thought I'd introduce the Committees that will be required to be filled by volunteers. A lot will rely on the Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, SAL members and Riders volunteers to make it a success.

There are 5 committees (Badges and

Packets, Distinguished Guests, Information/Registration, Memorial Service and Special Events) required by National to have a successful convention, plus a Tampa Liaison.

I will give a brief description of the duties of each. More specific duties will be described as we get closer and need to start signing up volunteers.

The Liaison is someone with political connections locally and perhaps statewide. They may be asked to assist with agencies

such as police, fire, public works, parks & recreation, mayor's office and airport officials. The individual should also be familiar with local businesses such as retail stores, restaurants, recreational facilities, transportation companies and other businesses that could impact convention activities.

The Badges and Packets Committee is responsible for setting up the Office located in the Convention Center. Badges and

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<< Past National Commander continued from page 4

Packets for The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion are shipped from National Headquarters to this office. The bags must be assembled for each delegate and for each Department. The estimated number of assistants needed is 28-30.

The Distinguished Guests Committee has a Chair and two Vice Chairs. The Vice Chairs are the Distinguished Guests Registration Chair and the Distinguished Guests Holding Area Chair. The Committee will also need two full time drivers for the National Commander and for the National Adjutant.

The estimated number of assistants needed is 2-6 for each committee. The duties of each committee are exactly as they sound.

The Information/Registration Committee mans the desks set up in the convention center to answer questions from the attendees. National will provide binders with lots of information in them. The estimated number of assistants needed is 8-10.

The Memorial Service Committee coordinates with the National Chaplain to set up the service, proved rooming arrangements that may be required and provide volunteers to assist with seating

attendees. The estimated number of assistants needed is 3-5.

The Special Events Committee coordinates meeting the requirements for all special events scheduled, whether it be obtaining permits, coordinating with city agencies (police, fire, sanitation, emergency management, etc.) and must be a resident of the city. The estimated number of assistants is 30 or more.

This brief overview will give you an idea of the immense project Florida has taken on, and how important your support and volunteering will be to its success.

**Looking for Help**

**Jim Bowers, Northern Area**

[northern@legionmail.org](mailto:northern@legionmail.org)



Looking for Help?

If you are a post officer and you are having some trouble carrying out your duties. Where do you get help?

Of course, there is training but so much is not about everything

you do. Perhaps for many reasons you were unable to attend. You can reach out to the person who has held this position. There is the officer's guide. There is the District, Area and Department Officers and Department Staff.

However, looking around to a nearby post and an officer doing this job. Ask them. You will get the nuts and bolts of the necessary

duties to fulfill your position. Ask more than one post officer. Many post officers hold their positions for many terms. They have short cuts and can give you some pitfalls to watch for.

Please use the people around you and near you to help you perform your duties. I want to personally thank the membership from the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 17th Districts who took time out of their weekends to attend Department Training in the Northern Area. I attended twice and I learned something each session.

Now is the time to set your membership team and begin Buddy Checks. I know you are tired of hearing about membership but without members you are a dying post.

Remember Veteran's Day and Fall Conference are coming up soon.

**Recharge Your Battery**

**Skip Felicita, Southwestern Area**

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Summer is in full swing, and I hope you can enjoy some of the activities with family and friends and make time to recharge and refocus a bit.

With this article, I again thank Districts

8 and 13 members for having faith in my future leadership. I am asking committee chairs to show their ideas for their positions to indicate things to come. I am available to meet with the committee chairs and encourage them to support the area events.

I am asking 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 Holiday Raffle sponsored by The American Legion, Department of Florida.

**EARN MONEY FOR YOUR POST**

(See page 23 for details)

**Event Planning**

**Sonny Decker, Western Area**

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The month of July was full of installations within the Western area. I tried to attend all, but there were some on the same night, I just flipped a coin to choose which one. In all I attended 17 different installations.

The next big event in the Western area will be the Area training. By the time you

read this article, the training will have happened. I hope that you were able to attend, and a BIG thank you to all who attended. Membership has gotten off to a very good start for the Western area. I want to encourage everybody to go out and recruit one new member this year. Tell a fellow veteran about your Legion, how you are still serving by helping your community and other veterans and their families. Let your community know about your Legion. Word of mouth is still the best recruiting tool we have.

Buddy checks. Phone calls are good, but

text messages are better. Want to let the younger veterans know about your post, send them a text message.

I am looking forward to attending events throughout the entire Western area.

Commander's send me the dates and time of your upcoming event and I'll see if I can get it on my schedule. August is full, and I'm now working on September schedule. It can be any type of event, poker run, flag retirement, birthday dinner. Just a way for me to get to know your post and your members better.

**Continuing to Ride**

**Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders**

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After reviewing my last month's article, I stopped short of reviewing the 2022-2023 schedule, because I was running out of space. I covered the POW/MIA Ride, October Children and Youth, Fall Conference, and ended at the Summit.

To continue, this is going to be another big month and yes, I am talking about April 2023. Orange County Chopper and Bert's Barracuda Harley have really gone "All IN" for the upcoming event in April! They donated, at cost, a 2023 black Street Glide for us to raffle off. This will be starting shortly. They were impressed on how we managed ourselves at last years Rally, they want us back, well done Riders!

The Rally, Wayne Wooten, our Central Area Chair and Chapter Development Chair, is currently working with OCC's event coordinator. I cannot tell you too much about the entertainment right now, but if they can pull this off it will be the best Rally we have ever had.

The results from the survey are in and

we will be having three routes this year. The three routes are, Pan Handle being put together by Jason Skobel, our Western Area Chair. The Kissimmee route being put together by Joe Marcheggiani, 6th District Commander, and part of the ALR leadership team. The third route will be planned by Zane and his crew coming out of the Jacksonville area. Zane is also part of the 5th District leadership team which currently has one of the trophies. Each route will have a special day scheduled to stop by a cemetery or monument. We will be working with the Gold Star Mothers and other organizations to help plan this special day.

**NEW SUMMIT SCHEDULE, MEET & GREET**

**Meet & Greet, February 8, 2023**  
**Classes, February 9-11, 2023**

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

**Your 2022 – 2023 Schedule**

**National Legacy Ride**  
August 21-25, 2022

**POW/MIA Ceremony, Jacksonville**  
September 17, 2022

**"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"*



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**Americanism Plan of Attack - Developing your Concept of the Operation (CONOP)**

**Doug Hockenberry, Americanism**  
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Hello Department of Florida, American Legion Family. I trust you are all doing well. Before I begin, I want to send out a BIG CONGRATULATIONS to the Al Krietemeyer, American Legion Post 284, Baseball Team who represented the Department of Florida at the American Legion World Series in August. An unbelievable group of high schoolers, some of which who just graduated, that did an amazing job representing the Department of Florida. Just in case you didn't know, American Legion Baseball falls under the Americanism umbrella.

There are a couple topics I want to address with you in this issue. Number one is your "Americanism Program Plan of Attack" and the second is, Flag Etiquette. If you recall, in my introductory article last month, I stated you should develop your "Americanism Program Plan of Attack" by reviewing the Department 2022-2023 Event Timeline and decide how you are going to move forward with the Program or Programs you are going to do this year. On that note, I hope that all the District Americanism Chairs have been reaching out to the respective Post Chairs to aide them with their plan.

So, let's get down to business, summer is over, and the school year has begun. Yes, the school buses are out, picking up and dropping off children and we are getting reacquainted with excess traffic. Not to mention, having to slow down our speed in school zones, stopping when children are getting on and off the buses; and now we need to add in an extra 20 minutes or so to our commute time. One may say this is annoying, but for the American Legion, this is actually a great time of the year. No, I haven't lost my mind. You see, the school year is the best time of the year for us in the American Legion. Why? Because this is when we can really make a difference with the delivery of our Americanism Programs. This is when we can ramp up our presence in the schools so that we can engage with

the youth of our communities and share our Americanism Program opportunities with School Administrators, Guidance Counselors, Teachers, and Staff.

Getting our foot in the door in September is critical to mission success. During September, we should be contacting local high schools for Boys State and Oratorical Program participants. September also means Shooting Sports Registration and 1st Round Target Sales open. Get into those schools, set up meetings, post American Legion Program information on those School Bulletin Boards. Today's High Schools have websites, where they post information for the students and parents; they use email and have daily electronic text notices they send out to the student body about upcoming events, programs, scholarships and the like. These are great tools that we should take advantage of to ensure maximum delivery of our Americanism Programs.

Just like your days in uniform, when you had a mission, you developed a Concept of Operation (CONOP). How am I going to accomplish the mission set before me? The same principal applies here. I am not going to limit myself by having only one method of delivery. I am going to have a multiple pronged attack to maximize the delivery or completion of said mission. I believe you get my point and my meaning. What's your CONOP going to be?

Don't be dismayed if one teacher or one guidance counselor doesn't seem receptive to the program you are presenting or that you want them to help with, there are other teachers, there are other avenues of approach. Don't forget that most high schools have JROTC Units. Now there is a good source for getting your foot in the door. Just trying to give you some ideas to make your Post and District more successful and ultimately, the Department of Florida. So, get out there and make your presence known throughout the schools in your locale.

The second topic I want to address with you is the US Flag. The American Flag is our nation's most cherished material object. She proudly flies in front of our American Legion Posts; and we salute her at the beginning and closing of our meetings and we pay her respect at events throughout the year. To each of us who served our "Great Nation", the US Flag is more than symbolic, it is part of who we are as Veterans, as Americans, and as Legionnaires - she signifies freedom, democracy, and strength.

Over the past couple weeks, I've received a few inquiries regarding proper disposal of the US Flag. The American Legion has a prescribed ceremony for the disposal of unserviceable flags, and this is a great opportunity for you to invite your community to view and take part in the ceremony. Invite local officials, invite local Scout Troops and JROTC Units to assist with the ceremony. This is just another forum for us to maximize our community engagement to promote Americanism. Now, if you are like may Posts; that receive too many flags throughout the year and must do multiple ceremonies throughout the year - that is fine and acceptable. Just ensure you conduct the ceremony in a profession and respectful manner.

I've also been called and asked if the flag can still be flown if it has accidentally touched the ground or can a flag be washed. These are all good questions... And the answer to both questions is YES. Having been asked these questions, I did some additional research and retrieved some information that I want to share with you directly from The American Legion. All you need to do is get online and type in the URLs I have provided below, that will provide you with definitive information.

- <https://www.legion.org/flag/ceremony>
- <https://www.legoin.org/flag/flagmyths>

I hope that I haven't bored you or lost your

*Americanism continued on page 8 >>*



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interest. I want to ensure I am providing helpful, valuable information to you. If you have a question or there is a subject, you would like addressed within the Americanism realm please reach out to me at

[Americanism@legionmail.org](mailto:Americanism@legionmail.org).

Finally, I want to reiterate as I stated last month, that I am honored to be your Americanism Chair for 2022-2023 and I look forward to a great program year whereby we promote Americanism to the maximum

extent possible. Remember each of us in the Department of Florida American Legion have the ability to make a positive impact on the youth of today. **Hang Tough!**

**More Than A Game**

**Terry Phillips, Baseball**  
[baseball@legionmail.org](mailto:baseball@legionmail.org)



MORE THAN A GAME or more than an activity, event or program applies to everything we do in our service to the American Legion Family.

Our programs are our only source to serving and leading our youth in Americanism, Patriotism, Community Service and Leadership for the future.

We must stand united in our mission for every program, division is not acceptable on any level for any program.

We must believe in it, work hard at it, donate to it in time and resources.

As we wind down this summer baseball season at the completion of the Legion World Series in Shelby, the baseball committee begins to focus on the 2023 season and the January 1 Team Registration window.

We have many new teams and posts that

have contacted me to form teams and we are looking forward to our growth in new areas and adding new kids and families to the program.

We will be exploring the revamp of our 17u Jr. Program that will allow more youth to get involved during the summer season.

This will be presented at our Fall Conference in Orlando.

God Bless and Protect Our Country and Values.

**Team Work**

**Dianne Boland, Children & Youth**  
[cy@legionmail.org](mailto:cy@legionmail.org)



I am asking that all District and Area Children & Youth Chairs contact me so I can put together a list of people to contact. Along those lines, District C&Y Chairs should be contacting your post Chairs and all Area Chairs should be contacting your District

Chairs. Find out who the chairs are - with name, email address and phone number – and keep it current with information about C&Y Chairs.

By now (September 1st) all Post Program Chair Forms are due. Please encourage all posts to turn this form in so we know who to contact. Also, the Chairs will not receive their paperwork without being listed.

Communication is very important. TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More).

Remember to work closely with your Auxiliary and SAL counterpart. It will make

the work easier and the benefits more rewarding.

Halloween is right around the corner - next month. Now is the time to contact Department Emblem Sales to order your Halloween coloring books. Deadline is October 14th. Not only do the children get Halloween safety while enjoying the coloring books but if you do it right - put Post name, address and phone number on the backside - the parents will start to be made aware of just one of the things the American Legion does. Remember, C&Y is just one of our four pillars.

My bad... The April 1st date for the Department C&Y picnic interferes with the Commander's Homecoming. You should plan on attending her Homecoming because I have rescheduled the picnic. The Department C&Y picnic is scheduled for April 15th, 2023 still at Post 323 Lehigh Acres. More info to follow.

Any questions please use the number and email listed below:

(561) 315-0679  
[CY@legionmail.org](mailto:CY@legionmail.org)

**Children & Youth Fund, Post 194**

Chip Hanna, the Executive director of Servant Heart Ministry receiving the check for \$5000.00 from Commander Rob Rossman. Many thanks to the Florida American Legion, Children and Youth Fund Committee for considering this wonderful organization.



Children - Youth Fund grant presentation to Kids Safe Zone at Post 194



Director Chip R. Hanna receiving check from Commander Rob Rossman.



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[legionlink@floridalegion.org](mailto:legionlink@floridalegion.org)



**Preparation Time**

**Bill Hoppner, Disaster Preparedness**  
[disaster@legionmail.org](mailto:disaster@legionmail.org)



I want to take this opportunity to thank Commander Butts for letting me serve as the Disaster Preparedness chair for 2022-2023.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov 30 each year with peak season being from mid-August to mid-October. I received the roster of all the posts, out of 300+ only 50 have chair. In order to receive the material for Disaster Preparedness, each post in the state has to send in a chair's name.

This is the time to check your insurance to make sure it is up to date, also to make sure your familiar with your escape route if deemed necessary. The safety of your family is #1, when your advised to evacuate you should follow the instructions, it's for your safety.

This is a good time to make sure portable generators, chain saws and any other equipment necessary for cleanup is in good operating condition if the time arises. Also check your hurricane supply kits from previous year and replenish if necessary.

To give you an idea of what this year will be like, early tropical storm forecasts are predicting between 16 and 21 named storms with 6 to 9 hurricanes, 3 to 5 being major hurricanes. In the past we have had storms in mid to late May. The season may be changed

to May 15 to Nov 30 due to the climate change and storms starting to develop in late May.

There is a great concern for the population increase in Florida. A lot of the population moving to Florida have never experienced a hurricane which is concerning, therefore those of us who have experienced hurricanes should look out for those who have not and teach them the importance of getting prepared to make the event tolerable.

I would like to do a live stream on Facebook to help educate those who are not familiar with the procedures of hurricanes before, during, and after a storm. I will do my best to keep everyone informed of events to come. I may be reached at 305-968-7979 or [gonepost1@aol.com](mailto:gonepost1@aol.com).

**Annual Employment Awards**

**James Douglas, Employment**  
[employment@legionmail.org](mailto:employment@legionmail.org)



**December 19, 2022** is just around the corner. Do you know why this date is important?

**December 19, 2022** is the deadline for the below Employment Programs Awards.

- NATIONAL EMPLOYER OF THE DISABLED AWARD
- EMPLOYER OF VETERANS Award
  - Small (50 or fewer employees)
  - Medium (51 – 200 employees)
  - Large (201 or more employees)
- EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD
- EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARDS

Recognizing a local employer or employment service office for these awards is a good way to promote your Post, let the community know you recognize your community's support of Veterans.

**Submit your awards packages by mail to:**

American Legion, Dept. of Florida  
 Attn: Programs Director  
 P.O. Box 547859  
 Orlando, FL 32854  
 Or fax to 407-299-0901

For information on the awards and the forms needed for the nomination packages go to [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org). Click on PROGRAMS & SERVICES -- click on EMPLOYER AWARDS – SELECT DESIRED AWARD – CLICK ON DOWNLOAD APPLICATION to find the required nomination forms and information.

Remember what is required are facts, figures and an interesting narrative that tells what makes this nominee special. What activities does this candidate do to develop employment opportunities for Veterans? Do not submit binders, report covers, page protectors, photographs or logs of how many people are seen each day.

**Just Getting Started**

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

I am honored to have been chosen by our Commander, Eunice Butts, to serve as your Law and Order Chair this year. My thanks to her for trusting in me. The program is just getting under-way and it is my intention to visit as many district meetings as I can during the year. The packages for post should be going out soon.

It is sometimes not easy to get your local law enforcement agencies and fire departments to submit candidates with a complete application. It falls on the chair person of the post to ensure that all applications are complete and to impress on the submitters what this award can mean to the individual.

I am sure each post chair will do their best to make that happen.

Should any questions arise feel free to contact me either by email or phone at 239-233-7401 (Cell) or 239-549-1399 (home).



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[legionlink@floridalegion.org](mailto:legionlink@floridalegion.org)

**Application Enclosed**

**Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College**

[falc@legionmail.org](mailto:falc@legionmail.org)



The Florida American Legion College (FALC) application is now on our website at [floridalegion.org](http://floridalegion.org). The dates for this year's course is February 16-19, 2023.

To prepare to attend, please complete the Basic Training online at [legion.org/training](http://legion.org/training). You must have completed "Basic Training" within the last two (2) years. Attach a copy of your completion to your application.

Think about what your goal is in the future of The American Legion, Department of Florida. How can you assist? What can you do for the betterment of your Post, District, Area, and the Department?

Answer those questions in your application to attend FALC.

**Topics for FALC:**

- 2022 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies
- Legion Protocol
- PowerPoint 101
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Resolutions
- Leadership and Mentor
- Programs Overview
- Team Building: Setting and Accomplishing the Goal
- Develop, Instruct, and Support Your District and Department Level Training Platform

Provide us with a valid email, phone number, and address so that we can communicate with you. Include your fee when you turn in your application. We will let you know if you have been accepted, and return any fees paid, if you are not accepted.

**Fees** (Choose one of the following options):

- \$100 Fee – Includes course, materials, coffee, lunches, and no lodging.
- \$200 Fee – Includes course, materials, coffee, lunches, and three nights of shared lodging accommodations.
- \$393 Fee – Includes course, materials, coffee, lunches, and three nights of individual lodging accommodations.

Be ready to work hard and long hours each day. We're not finished until the homework and group assignments are completed.

Every application will be verified before you can attend, including receipt of fees due. If you do not receive an email or call from us within two (2) weeks of the return of your application, please call me at 352-226-4370 or email to [falc@legionmail.org](mailto:falc@legionmail.org).

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**JSSP National Championship and JROTC Program Semester Planning**

**Loretta Young, JRTOC / JSSP**

[jrotc@legionmail.org](mailto:jrotc@legionmail.org)



The 31st National JSSP Three Position Air Rifle Championship was held at the USA Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, July 19-23rd. I had the privilege of the invitation from National

to volunteer once again as a Deputy Line Officer for this very prestigious event and assist in the week's events.

The competition consisted of 15 Precision and 13 Sporter competitors. The accommodations and registration for events and social events for participants and staff were held this year at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs.

Competition is a shoulder-to-shoulder event at the OTC including Prone, Standing

and Kneeling Positions with 20 shots each in the morning and again in the afternoon. On Saturday morning the Final Shootout is with the top 8 competitors in each category with just the Standing Position and one shot each qualifying for the top Winner and Runner Up. National also arranged a Buffet Dinner at Post 209 in Colorado Springs on Wednesday, and a Pizza Party for the competitors and a Reception for the Coaches and Chaperones at the Hotel on Friday evening. The Awards Banquet was held at the hotel on Saturday evening for all competitors, coaches, chaperones and staff members. There were numerous awards and plaques given for the various categories in both Precision and Sporter Category.

The Finalist in each category is given a \$5,000 Scholarship and all expense trip to the National Convention and the Runner Up is given a \$1,000 Scholarship Award.

The new semester is just beginning at

the schools, and this is the time to make contact with these schools that you sponsor and let them know about what the American Legion has to offer for the ROTC/ JROTC Programs. Do not wait until they contact you but be proactive in reaching out to them to introduce yourself and give them the timeline of the events for the



JROTC/JSSP continued on page 11 >>



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<<JRTOC/JSSP continued from page 10

upcoming year.

I had the pleasure of attending the Broward County JROTC Semester Briefing. The program consisting of 29 JROTC Units and 2 Academies. This is always a good time

to get familiar with the instructors and see what they have planned for the upcoming year. More programs are being focused on the STEM programs but there's still programs that will be geared towards the drill, Raiders, Color Guard and other activities for afterschool and weekends. Please reach out to me if there are any areas you are having

problems and keep me informed with some of your events. I wish all of our supporters of these Youth Programs much success for this upcoming year. The Legion Link and the Department website will be a great aid to some of your questions.

**Helping Fellow Veterans**

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



We have begun our 2023 membership year, although we did not get the goals, we really wanted from National I know in my heart that with this years membership team (Every Legionnaire) we will make it. For the many new Adjutants, Seasoned

Adjutants with questions or any member wanting to know more about The Legion Training Tuesday is a wealth of information. The previous classes can be found at <https://www.legion.org/training/training-tuesdays>. Moving into the 104th Membership Year of The American Legion it is the most critical

focus we must have. If we do not get growth, our ability to serve our Veterans will be gone.

As we move on our priorities need to be:

**Renew:** Encourage members to renew, by focusing on their needs within the Legion Family.

**Reinstate:** Using the resources available find those members who haven't renewed over the past few years, contact them question why and see if you can help with fixing what drove them away.

**Recruit:** Finding potential members is easy but giving them a reason to want to join us takes a few minutes of your time. Ask yourself, do I know 4 good reasons to join the Legion and can I explain them.

Remember our War on Declining

Membership has begun.

While at the National Membership Working Shop, something that hit my heart was Be The One. Instead of talking about the staggering number of daily suicides, BE THE ONE to save ONE veteran.

**TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.**

**TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.**

**TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.**

For more information: <https://www.legion.org/betheone>

**Resolution No. 23: Immigration Reform**

**Raymond Olsen, National Security**  
[security@legionmail.org](mailto:security@legionmail.org)

Resolution No. 23: Immigration Reform  
Origin: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion's Preamble to our Constitution states: "We associate ourselves together for the following purposes ... to maintain law and order... to promote peace and goodwill on earth ... to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy ... "; and

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion, having been exposed to the effects of poverty and oppression through military service, have a special understanding of the challenges many people of the world have, and we have a special concern for freedom;

and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes in legal immigration into the United States and a path toward becoming a United States citizen; and

WHEREAS, The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency estimates that there are 11.4 million undocumented immigrants currently residing within the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Homeland Security, Office of Audits stated that each year more than one million individuals attempt to enter the United States without proper documentation or enter legally and then violate the provisions of their visas; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that approximately 45% of the undocumented immigrants in the United States have arrived legally but overstayed their visa; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2022, That The American Legion urges the United States government to adopt immigration reform policy that emphasizes border security, focusing on funding for barriers where needed, fielding of advanced technologies, and fully manning the border; and, be it further**

Natioal Security continued on page 12 >>



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<< National Security continued from page 11

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the United States government to enact laws that improve visa security through thorough vetting of applicants, reducing visa overstays and ending visa programs that are vulnerable to exploitation by bad actors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the United States government to streamline the legal immigration application process so as to help reduce

and discourage illegal immigration; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the United States government to reform the asylum system and adhere to laws requiring detention and expedited due process and/or removal of illegal border crossers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the United States government to strengthen immigration reform agreements with transit countries to

discourage the flow of immigrants that attempt to enter the United States illegally; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That 2016 National Convention Resolution No. 24 titled, "Illegal Immigration Policy" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

Next month I hope to touch on another topic that can be discussed in your National Security committee meetings or at your posts and perhaps generate a RESOLUTION on an area that needs to be addressed.

Never Give Up

Meir West, Oratorical oratorical@legionmail.org

It must be serendipity. While perusing articles on line about public speaking and looking for inspiration for the Legion Link, I clicked on an article by Florida political writer and speaker, Blake Dowling, titled "What it Takes to Write a Great Life Lesson' Speech."

In his article, he talks about Jimmy Valvano, the head basketball coach at North Carolina State University, my alma mater. I was a sophomore at NC State when Jimmy V arrived to coach the team. Because I played in the Pep Band, I got to see many games, but none as memorable as the win against Huston in 1983 that led NC State to win the NCAA. With 4 seconds on the clock, and the game tied 52 to 52, Derek Whittenburg made a desperation shot from over 30 feet away and Lorenzo Charles dunked it for win, just as the buzzer sounded. Coach Valvano was running around on the court frantically looking for "someone to hug" he said. Whittenburg was going to hit us with his best shot and that tiny bit of teamwork sealed the deal. It was monumental! Valvano was known for saying "never give up, never give up." This is why. I think about that mantra when I think about some of the Oratorical contestants who have competed at the Department level more than once. Some compete more than once at local levels never making it to the Department. It takes some courage to get up on a stage and give a challenging speech on a topic that is not easy to cover in 10 minutes. These students work hard to be a part of this contest and

I consider it an honor to support and reward them however I can. I can't wait to see the students give us their best shot this year!

The Oratorical Chairman manuals will be mailed out very soon. Here are the contest dates so you can mark your calendars.

\*\*All contests must occur during this time frame\*\*

Post Level

January 1, 2023 - January 22, 2023

District Level

January 21, 2023 - February 12, 2023

Area Level

February 13, 2022 - February 26, 2023

Department Finals

March 18, 2023

The awards listed below will be made at the Department level and awarded to the winners respectively. Travel and hotel accommodations will be paid by the Department of Florida for the contestants



and chaperones to attend the Department Finals.

First Place	\$2,500.00
Second Place	\$1,500.00
Third Place	\$1,000.00
Fourth Place	\$500
Fifth Place	\$500
Sixth Place	\$500

Each Area contestant who participates in first round but does not advance to the Department Finals will receive a \$100.00 scholarship from the American Legion, Department of Florida. It is the Area Chair's responsibility to send the runner-up contestant information to Department, so

Oratorical continued on page 13 >>



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<< Oratorical continued from page 12

the participant can receive the \$100.00 scholarship. Department does not issue a prize check to the Area winner.

**POST / DISTRICT / AREA CONTEST DATES**

- Post contest completed by January 22, 2023
- District contest completed by February 12, 2023
- Area contest completed by February 26, 2023

To see the Assigned Topics, you can visit [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical). Aside from the dates, not much has changed in the manual from last year.

Schools in FL just started in the last week so you can start reaching out to the teachers and counselors now that you have dates to give them.

As for the awards.....these are recommended awards. If your Post or District can do more it is certainly welcome. I would like to see a bigger and more standardized award structure but we will cover that in a separate email or meeting.

Here are two resources you can take advantage of:

First, you can get 100 pocket Constitutions from the Bill of Rights Institute. It takes a few weeks to receive them so order soon. Here is the link: <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/request-pocket-constitutions>

Where it asks for School, I put Florida American Legion Oratorical Contest and I give my home address. I ask for 100 each year as that is the limit and I give them away at schools and contests. If you are at a school promoting the contest, handing these out is a good way to start a conversation with someone about the contest.

Secondly, [www.constitutionspeechprep.com](http://www.constitutionspeechprep.com). Caroline Freeman, a 2012 National Semi-Finalist wrote a helpful guide for students who are thinking about competing. She breaks down more about the craft of choosing historical examples to use, relating them to contemporary times, building an outline. I think it's very helpful, especially for students that do not have help from speech and debate teachers. You can purchase a copy of it for \$14.99 at the link above. I have a few copies I can disseminate by email. It's about 60 pages.

That is it for now. As soon as I get the current list of the Oratorical Chairs I will start emailing again.

If you have any questions, email me at [oratorical@legionmail.org](mailto:oratorical@legionmail.org) or text me at 904-704-0936. I can call you if want to make an appointment but I get so many spam calls I am not likely to answer if I don't know it's you!

**Planning Ahead**

**Eric Nestler, School Medals**  
[schoolmedals@legionmail.org](mailto:schoolmedals@legionmail.org)



Now is the perfect time for the School Medal chairs to start targeting your local schools.

Make appointments to begin talking with the Guidance Counselors and their Principals, at

Middle, Junior, and High Schools. Make a plan of action, so that when the time comes to attend the awards ceremonies and present the medals you are helping the young men and women to understand and develop the qualities of courage, honor, leadership and patriotism so they may become outstanding citizens in their communities.

Our service is available to you anytime as we can help you, we can teach you, we can guide you, and we want to thank you for all you do. Now let's start planning for our future leaders as they begin their lives.

**SAL Membership**

**Richard Smith, SAL Advisor**  
[sal@legionmail.org](mailto:sal@legionmail.org)

By now you should have received your SAL membership cards. Make sure you get the cards out to all that sent in their dues early.

Think about keeping an "Early Bird" list and reward the early birds with a raffle or dinner or whatever works for you. All your officers should have paid their dues by now.

With this month being the month before Halloween, do you do a Halloween party? Do you pass out candy or coloring books, Emblem Sales, or have a full-blown party.

All the decisions need to be made now and things ordered to be on top of the holiday event. Raise money, spend money and have fun doing it!

**FLORIDA** DECAL

**SAMPL**

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
FLORIDALEGION.ORG

— SHOW YOUR —  
**SUPPORT**

The American Legion  
official license plate.

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

Now available at your local tag office!



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# SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH



## !! 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.

Starting in September, we will be contacting previous VetRelief Advocates who was involved in our interview process. However, if you are interested in representing your District and supporting PROJECT: VetRelief, please contact Jennifer Cooper at [jcooper@floridalegion.org](mailto:jcooper@floridalegion.org).



## STRATEGIC PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: THE GREY TEAM

The Grey Team is a recent addition to our Strategic Partners, but our PROJECT VetRelief Suicide Prevention Committee can already see that they are saving veterans lives...*every day!*

Grey Team's comprehensive health and wellness programs directly heal all the invisible wounds of war including, but not limited to: traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic pain, self-medication, and isolation.

They recently announced that they are entering into the research and development field and will bring together the brightest minds and most innovative companies to solve U.S. military suicides. By utilizing the most cutting-edge scientific tools available worldwide, Grey Team continues to lead the military community in life-saving wellness research and implementation.

We will be inviting The Grey Team to Fall Conference in November, so that they can tell you more about the great things they are doing for our veteran community!

# 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



NORMAN BISSEL, LMHC



## PARTICIPATE IN OUR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our Board President, Bob James, will be hosting our annual golf tournament again this month at the beautiful Bella Collina Golf Course in Monteverde, FL. This will be the 9th year for this event, which has grown considerably since 2014. In fact, the foursomes were completely sold out in approximately one week!

Bob prides himself on establishing an event that keeps the FUN in fundraising, and his partners, colleagues, friends and family seem to agree with him. New sponsorships were added to the tournament to

increase the level of FUN, a scavenger hunt and best patriotic costume contest. Golfers will also take home more gifts like a hat, golf balls, tees, and a tumbler.

**You can still participate in this event** by joining our silent auction or making a donation to ensure that we reach our goal of \$70,000! Visit the website for more details:

[www.pvrgolf.org](http://www.pvrgolf.org)



**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE STATS:** YEAR 9 JULY 2022

# 23 VETERANS ASSISTED

# \$30,913 FINANCIAL AID AWARDED

**Camporee Weekend**

**Chris Ragusa, Scouting**  
[scouting@legionmail.org](mailto:scouting@legionmail.org)



American Legion  
 Scouters:

**American Legion  
 and SAL-chartered  
 Cub Scout Camporee  
 at MacDill AFB in  
 Tampa, FL 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 units, 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 a 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!



movement. The award honors 1934-1935 Past National Commander Frank N. Belgrano Jr. of California. The award is based on the number of troops organized, strength of existing troops and general welfare of the Scout movement under American Legion sponsorship within the department, based on written reports with substantiating evidence submitted to National Headquarters. I need your help in telling the story of TAL Scouting in Florida, and what our posts and their chartered BSA units (Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships) are doing! Not only will I feature your newsworthy events in the monthly Legion Link, but I'll also aggregate them in order to create a narrative and pictorial description for consideration in 2023. Help me tell that story!

**Frank N. Belgrano Jr. Trophy for Outstanding Department Scouting Support:** Since 1936, The American Legion National Americanism Commission has annually presented the Frank N. Belgrano Jr. Trophy to departments that have rendered the most outstanding support for the Boy Scouts of America and the Scouting

**Information Central**

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



I want to start off by saying thank you to Commander Eunice Butts for selecting me as the VA Entitlements Chair.

The past couple of years have been very hard on some of our brothers and sisters with Covid and the increase of gas, rent and other items, it has caused an increase in homelessness and suicides.

**Here are some points of contacts that help:**

- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (800) 827-1000
- Woman Veterans (800) 829-6636
- National VA Homeless Hotline (877) 424-3838
- National Crisis Hotline 988
- 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

**Strategic Partners with Project VetRelief**

- 22 Zero (813) 221-6304
- Veterans Counseling Veterans (407) 516-8398
- First Counseling Veterans (407) 468-0004

VA Entitlements continued on page 16 >>



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<< VA Entitlements continued from page 15

**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
- 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

If you have any questions you can reach me at (850) 718-7773 or E-mail: [gunhunter1966@yahoo.com](mailto:gunhunter1966@yahoo.com)

**PACT ACT Information**

**Alan Cohen, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation**  
[var@legionmail.org](mailto:var@legionmail.org)



I'm happy to announce that by the time this article is published, there will have opened two new Veterans Nursing facilities, one in Port St. Lucie and the other in Orlando. These new facilities will not only give Florida a total of nine skilled facilities of

this type, the most in any other state in our great nation but further demonstrates that we take care of our fellow veterans.

As we continue to learn of the far-reaching effects of the COVID pandemic, the VA has implemented a program to assist veterans who lost jobs due to the pandemic. The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program offers veterans between the ages of 22 and 66 years of age education and training for a variety of high demand jobs in order that they can get back to work. If any veterans fall into this category, enrollment is open only until December 11, 2022.

Since August brought us a monumental piece of legislation, The PACT Act, having been signed into law I'd like to highlight just some of its elements since it's estimated that this law potentially affects the lives of approximately 3.5 million veterans: It is often referred to as Burn Pit Exposure legislation, however the law goes beyond just that.

For example, it adds two additional presumptive conditions due to Agent Orange exposure..hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy.

These will directly affect our Viet Nam veterans. In connection with that, new presumptive locations have been added..Any U.S or Royal Thai military base in Thailand between Jan 9, 1962 and June 30, 1976. Also Laos, between 1965-1969; Guam or American Samoa or the territorial waters off their coasts from 1962-1980.

Certain cancers have also been included as being presumptive; Brain Cancer; Gastrointestinal cancer of any type; Glioblastoma, Kidney cancer and Lymphatic cancer of any type; Melanoma; Neck and/

or Pancreatic cancer; Reproductive cancer of any type and Respiratory cancer of any type.

In addition to the above there are now 12 newly announced illnesses that are classified as presumptive. This law's passages also addresses the needs of veterans who served in over 20 Middle Eastern countries from 1990 to after 2001. As you see, the PACT Act is far reaching and as everyone agrees, long overdue.

The VA has acknowledged that it is continuing to prepare to process claims related to this law. I encourage any veterans who have been affected to speak with your local Post Service Officer, FDVA or County Service Officer to begin the filing process. VA will be accepting claims however won't begin processing them until January 2023.

In closing, by the time this is published I will have once again attended The American Legion's National Convention and look forward to being able to share what I learn there.



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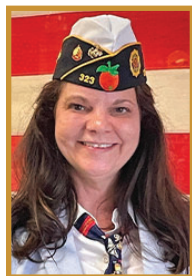
[www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org)  
[legionlink@floridalegion.org](mailto:legionlink@floridalegion.org)



**WOMEN VETERANS A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING**

**Deanna Hall, Women Veterans**

[womenvets@legionmail.org](mailto:womenvets@legionmail.org)



*"Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women, this was a peoples war, and everyone was in it."*—Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, women represent the fastest-growing population in both military service and the veteran community. Women are represented in record numbers in new vital roles that contribute to our nation's freedoms. Even though women are consistently breaking down barriers, they bear unique challenges their male veterans may not experience.

A recent survey by the Department of Veterans Affairs found that female veterans experience military sexual trauma (MST), anxiety, and depression at higher rates than male veterans. The research identified how the female veterans had feelings of isolation, loneliness, and struggles to identify with other veterans and non-veteran females.

How can the American Legion Department of Florida, assist the nearly 155,000 female veterans in the state of Florida? We can start by listening. Commander Eunice Butts wants to understand the top challenges facing our female veterans in Florida and provide the appropriate resources to address those challenges.

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 am-9:00 am Breakfast. Everyone is welcome to come and support female veterans.
- 9:00 am-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  
September 17, 2022  
8:00 am-11:00 am  
American Legion Post 266

5201 Richardson Road  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
941-371-1326

1. Women Veterans Forum  
October 1, 2022  
8:00 am-11:00 am  
American Legion Post 321  
9081 S.W. 51 ST  
Cooper City, FL 33328  
941-434-0965

**WOMEN VETERANS' MANTRA: JUST BREATHE**

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

Please just 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!

**Honoring WWII Veteran**

Chargée d'Affaires Publiques

On Friday, July 29th, 2022 World War II Veteran Seaman Mr. Stephen Alex Nemeth was distinguished on the behalf of the President of the French Republic with the Legion of Honor from the Consul General of France in Miami, Vincent Floreani, during a moving ceremony, hosted by the American Legion Post 10 in Kissimmee, FL.

Mr. Nemeth's family, veterans and volunteers at the American Legion, representatives from the government of Florida, as well as members of the French military and the French community, attended the ceremony.

"We are forever indebted to all of you for defending our freedom at the risk of your

lives and the welfare of your families", said Consul general, Vincent Floreani, and "We must never forget it is the bravery of individual men and women who chose to risk their lives in the name of our freedom and fundamental values which led to the victory of democracy over barabity."

This meaningful ceremony offered also a rare connection to the World War II



*Honoring WWII Veteran continued on page 18 >>*



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<< Honoring WWII Veteran continued from page 17



Stephen Alex Nemeth, U.S. Navy Seaman First-Class

generation and placed a spotlight on the importance of French-American relations over many generations.

Several news outlets, such as the Osceola News Gazette, WESH Channel 2 which made a video report,

and USA Warrior Stories, a non-profit organization preserving veteran stories and legacies, who is preparing an interview with Mr. Nemeth that should air around september, to tell his story.

Mr Stephen Alex Nemeth, Seaman 1st class within the U.S. Navy, helped liberate France and Europe from the Nazi regime. Mr Nemeth joined the military on February 10th, 1943 and was immediately assigned to a special unit known as the "Armed

Guard", responsible for counter-attacks against Nazi naval operations targeting merchant vessels, including many French ones, in the English Channel and the Atlantic.

To this end, Mr Nemeth served successively aboard the SS Surprise, the SS Abel Parker Upshur and ultimately the SS Santa Paula, American warships which took part in combat operations against enemy ships targeting Allied vessels and helped transport troops and ammunition used during D-Day and the Liberation of Normandy; these vital transportation missions often led to military confrontations during which the "Armed Guard" was deployed.

While serving aboard the SS Abel Parker Upshur (from February 15 to August 18 1944), Mr Nemeth helped deliver 8,000 tons of ammunition used on the beaches of Normandy, and secured the landing of 1,000 soldiers in Cherbourg while the city was still in enemy hands.

Through his military involvement in the struggles that took place in the Channel and off the coast of Normandy (during both D-Day and the Battle of Normandy) and the numerous convoys he was assigned to in extremely hostile conditions, Mr Stephen Alex NEMETH helped secure victory for the Allied forces.

Established in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte, this honor, which represents the highest award of the French Republic, can be bestowed upon French citizens as well as foreign nationals. In this way, France demonstrates its recognition towards the men who fought beside her during the Second World War: "France will never forget."

France, through the Consulate General of France in Miami, has recognized over 1,600 American WWII Veterans in Florida and Puerto Rico since 2008.

**Jimmie Johnson surprises Tampa veteran with new car**

**Tampa Bay Times**

<https://www.tampabay.com/>

TAMPA — Marine Corps veteran and Tampa resident Barry Morgan didn't know how he was going to be able to make it to his soon-to-be 6-year-old granddaughter's birthday party in New Jersey next weekend.

But now, he'll not only be able to make the trip, he'll be arriving in style.

Online car retailer Carvana, IndyCar driver and seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson, as well as the Tampa chapter of the American Legion, teamed up to surprise Morgan Thursday with a much-needed new set of wheels.

He was chosen through the Carvana Cares program to receive an electric blue Honda Civic by members of the American Legion.

"I am truly thankful and grateful for this," Morgan said. "It's definitely a blessing."

Morgan, who thought he was attending a meet-and-greet with Johnson to honor the

local veteran community, also received a membership to American Legion U.S.S. Tampa Post 5. Worldwide, the American Legion is made up of almost two million brothers- and sisters-in-arms.

During the presentation at the Carvana Car Vending Machine, the team did a "test run" to show how it works. Morgan was completely caught off guard to learn he was the new owner of the car coming down the machine.

"When I saw my name on the sign — 'Winner Barry Morgan' — I was frozen for a second," he said.

Previously, Morgan didn't have a reliable vehicle. His old truck had become inoperable and was in need of a new engine, which would have cost him thousands of dollars. Because of a lack of transportation, he hasn't been able to see his family in months and struggled to find employment.

"To meet Barry, to see how much this means to him, it's the most incredible thing. It's really been a cool day," said Johnson. "Ultimately, good things happen to good people. Barry is

that man."

While taking his new car out for a test drive, with Johnson riding along in the passenger seat, Johnson asked Morgan where he was going to go first. Morgan had a quick and emotional response.

"My granddaughter, Ava, her birthday is next Friday (in New Jersey)," said Morgan. "I was afraid I was going to have to tell them I couldn't make it, but now it looks like I'm going to be able to make it and visit my granddaughter on her birthday."



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legionlink@floridalegion.org

**Post Locator and Post Transfers Online**

**Carrie Kolze, Creative Services Manager**  
[ckolze@floridaleigon.org](mailto:ckolze@floridaleigon.org)



**ATTENTION POSTS!**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED POSTCARD!**

We are working on adding/enhancing a couple of features on our Department Website, that we are excited to

share with you. **We will need your help to make these new features successful.**

**1. The Florida Post Locator**

Our Post Locator has been removed for some time now, due to some technical complications. We were happy that National has its own Post Locator, which has been filling in the gap. However, we want to provide our Posts and our Veterans, with a more detailed Post Locator for Florida. This will be a great way for Posts to advertise their Post Homes and for members/veterans to find a Post to call home.

Enclosed is a Post Card for you to complete regarding all your Post's

offerings, amenities, programs, etc. Please take a moment to complete and return the Post Card to Department (Don't forget to add Postage – 44¢), you may also complete it online at [floridaleigon.org/updatepost](http://floridaleigon.org/updatepost). When you complete the online form, you can also include any address or contact information that may have changed, since any recent submissions.

All the information you provide will be included on your Post's page.

**2. Transfer to Local Post**

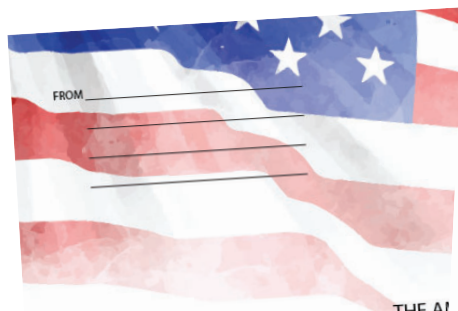
Transferring to a local post has been on our website for a little while but is very outdated. This feature began with National's DMS program push. However, it has gained a little popularity with our current and incoming members. We want to make sure we are providing them with the most accurate information possible.

A couple of important areas on the postcard are related to this feature, "Accept Automatic Transfers" and "Post Membership Requirements". If your Post

agrees to accept "automatic transfers" from Department, without any additional requirements, please check this option on the enclosed postcard. Members will be able to submit their transfers online, and Department will take care of transferring the member to your Post automatically.

However, if your Post requires a DD-214, vote-In, or other requirements, please indicate this as well. The member/veteran wishing to join your Post will then be directed directly to you with specific instructions on anything they need to bring with them or do to become a member of your Post.

We can't do any of this without your help, so please take a moment, **as an authorized representative of your Post**, to complete the postcard or online form. We will keep you updated when these features are ready to launch. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email us at [help@floridaleigon.org](mailto:help@floridaleigon.org). **Please return cards or complete the form by September 15, 2022.** Of course, we will continue to accept updates any time you have them.



THE AI  
 DEPART  
 PC  
 ORL

**RETURN POST CARD OR COMPLETE ONLINE**

If you prefer, complete our online form, [floridaleigon.org/updatepost](http://floridaleigon.org/updatepost)

Post Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of Operation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If regular hours apply.)

I am an authorized member of the Post above, and verify that the information provided is current and accurate to the best of my abilities.

Authorized Representative's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Post Home Description</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Location <input type="checkbox"/> No Home <input type="checkbox"/> Shared/Temp Space <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<p><b>Accept Automatic Transfers</b></p> <p><small>Check this box "yes" to authorize transfers. Department will automatically transfer requesting members to your post, without additional information or waiting requirements. By checking "no" you agree to those members into your Post.</small></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>Post Smoking Policy</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Indoor Area <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Outdoor Area	<p><b>Post Membership Requirements</b></p> <p><small>(Check all that apply)</small></p> <input type="checkbox"/> DD-214 <input type="checkbox"/> Vote-In <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

<p><b>Post Amenities</b></p> <p><small>(Check all that apply)</small></p> <p><b>Legion Family</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Unit <input type="checkbox"/> Detachment <input type="checkbox"/> Riders Chapter <input type="checkbox"/> Color Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Honor Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Military Funeral Honors	<input type="checkbox"/> Flag Retirement Ceremonies <input type="checkbox"/> Service Officer <p><b>Property</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Canteen <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen / Restaurant <input type="checkbox"/> Open to the Public <input type="checkbox"/> Hall Rental	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Parking <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Memorial <input type="checkbox"/> Camping <input type="checkbox"/> RV Hook-up <input type="checkbox"/> Water Front <input type="checkbox"/> Pool <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet Friendly <input type="checkbox"/> No Pets Allowed <p><b>Entertainment</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Family Friendly <input type="checkbox"/> Child care <input type="checkbox"/> Bingo <input type="checkbox"/> Queen of Hearts	<input type="checkbox"/> Dept Holiday Raffle <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Events <input type="checkbox"/> Game Room <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing <input type="checkbox"/> Karaoke <input type="checkbox"/> Live Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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<p><b>Program Participation</b></p> <p><small>(Check all that apply)</small></p> <p><b>I. Veterans Affairs &amp; Rehabilitation</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Miles for Hope <input type="checkbox"/> Employer Awards / Recognition <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Veteran Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Honor Flight Send-off/Return <input type="checkbox"/> PROJECT: VetRelief <input type="checkbox"/> Provide Handicap Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen / Food Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Medical Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Women Veteran Advocacy	<p><b>II. National Security</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Amateur Radio Club <input type="checkbox"/> Blood Drives <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Relief Aid <input type="checkbox"/> JROTC / ROTC <input type="checkbox"/> Law & Order Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Blue <input type="checkbox"/> National Emergency Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Comfort Warriors <input type="checkbox"/> POW/MIA Remembrance	<p><b>III. Americanism</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Boys State <input type="checkbox"/> Flag Education <input type="checkbox"/> High School Oratorical Contest <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Shooting Sports <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy Scholarship <input type="checkbox"/> Legion Baseball Juniors <input type="checkbox"/> Legion Baseball Seniors <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships <input type="checkbox"/> School Medals	<input type="checkbox"/> Scouting <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Law Cadet <p><b>IV. Children &amp; Youth</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Boggy Creek <input type="checkbox"/> Children & Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Family Support Network <input type="checkbox"/> Special Olympics <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Financial Assistance
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[legionlink@floridaleigon.org](mailto:legionlink@floridaleigon.org)

POST EVERLASTING



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

POST EVERLASTING



**James McBride**

We the Members of Robert Bethel Post 220 deeply regret announcing the passing of our Fellow Comrade William McBride. Comrade McBride Passed on Thursday, June 29, 2022. The service was held Saturday, July 9, 2022.



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August 25, 2022 Membership Target Report (50%)		
4	John Bennett	52.54
7	Burl Thomas	49.08
1	Ronnie Grover	47.88
17	Bruce Howe	45.81
6	Joe Marcheggiani	45.24
16	Eric Nestler	44.90
5	Lena Heredia-Perez	44.69
9	George "Geo" Bograkos	44.36
15	Victor Kelly	44.01
8	John Rauh	43.68
2	Roger Hewitt	43.53
11	Harry Malecki	42.66
14	Angela Glover	42.21
13	Harold "Bud" Boyer	39.92
12	Wayne Mulligan	39.88
3	Stuart Scott	34.13
Western	Sonny Decker	47.23
Northern	Jim Bowers	45.56
Central	Bob Matheson	45.26
Southern	Johnny Castro	43.10
Eastern	Dennis Mallon	42.86
Southwestern	Skip Felicita	41.59
Post 400		46.23
Post 208		45.08



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



**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 2022-2023:  
October 5, 2022  
**55%**

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

# THE AMERICAN LEGION FLAGLER POST 115



## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.flaglerpost115.org)



# 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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