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Submit Articles at floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org



A Message from the Department Commander

Michael "Gambler" Raymond, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



As you all know, the last few months have been a trying time for all of us in the Department of Florida. Our members are experiencing devastating illnesses, severe health conditions, and, of late, some lives lost. We try to be

strong for our members, their families, and close friends of those stricken. We try to be there when needed and offer any assistance they may need. The American Legion Family has always been there when we are needed most. Your efforts make a difference, and I ask that you continue to provide love and support, whether it's a visit, a phone call, or even a prayer. It means so much to so many. Please continue to show others the love and caring that the American Legion is known for.

As my year continues at full speed, I am reminded daily of what it takes to achieve the goals we set at the beginning of the year. We knew it wasn't going to be easy, but we accepted the challenge. The only way we win is if we have a total team effort. As of today, it looks like we are headed in the right direction. Our numbers are starting to rebound,

and we are ahead of last year by a few percentage points. But let's not just look at it as achieving goals. We must look at it as building strength in our organization. The stronger we are, the louder our voice and the more we can accomplish. A perfect example is our very own brand-new Post 418. When they decided to partner with their local VFW, they doubled their strength and attracted even more members. During their "Vet Fest" hosted by both the VFW and the Legion Post, along with assistance from the Vet Center, they signed up an additional 14 members in one day and now boast a Post membership percentage of over 200%. A big surprise may be on stage at our Department Convention this year. And I'll be proud to do it!

I want to share a few items of interest I picked up at the Fall meetings in Indianapolis. Our National Judge Advocate spoke to us on several subjects, including several things we've been dealing with recently. Most importantly, we must understand that the National organization cannot be involved in Post / District level disputes. We must encourage Posts to handle their business in the Post. When all else fails, contact your District Commander for guidance. Any correspondence received by the National organization will normally be sent right back to

Commander continued on page 2 >>



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the Department, which in turn will be returned to the District. Remember, most of the answers they need are correct in their Constitution and Bylaws or

Officers manual. Also, please be sure each Post is incorporated. Not only does it protect the members but all levels of the American Legion. Stay healthy, God Bless.

COMMANDER'S CHARITIES Disaster Relief and C.O.T.A.



Keeping Our Momentum Going

Chris Hamrick, 1st Vice Commander

1stvice@legionmail.org



Hello, fellow Legionnaires, It's been a productive month for our Department during October, with several meetings and events happening around our state. I have been traveling, working on membership ideas with Posts, and showing them ways to improve their numbers in person. It's much easier for me to show and work alongside you than to tell you how. So, reach out to me, and I'll get with you.

I'm looking forward to a super fun and busy November. There are great things going on everywhere, every weekend all the way through Thanksgiving. Our Department membership team is Rock Stars, led by Bruce Carl. He constantly updates

information generated weekly and sometimes more often than that. Remember folks, communication is the key to our success. Let's not wait until we're in a jam to reach out. It's always better to be proactive than reactive when it comes to heading off issues. If you need assistance with Revitalizing your Post, reach out to our Revitalization Chair, Judith Richard. Include your Area Membership and District Membership team in your communication as well. There are resources all around. We merely need to utilize them.

As we're nearing the year's halfway mark, we need to keep our momentum. Work with one another, share ideas, and reach out again for assistance if needed. I love all of you, and we're a strong family. I'll see you on the road. Keep it Real. Peace!

Resources for Suicides

Jessica Moore, 2nd Vice Commander

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It seems these days, mental health is mattering more and more in the military. "Be the One" is working hard to destigmatize, asking for mental health support. It offers resources and ways for everyone

to be the one. The number one issue still facing our Veteran's community is suicide. The rate of suicide for Veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-Veteran adults. There are more Veterans facing mental health issues such as PTSD. We understand everyone has different life experiences, and people respond to stress differently. I am happy that

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2023

- 1-314 Membership Retention Month ★
- 4 District 13: ALR Celebration of Life
- 4 Chapter 316: ALR Monthly Meeting
- 5 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 5 District 13: Children & Youth Picnic
- 7 Election Day
- 8 Chapter 10: ALR Monthly Meeting
- 10 American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919)
- 10 U.S. Marine Corps Birthday
- 10 Department Headquarters Closed ✨
- 11 Veterans Day
- 11 World War I Ends (1918)
- 11 Armistice / Remembrance Day
- 11 Challenge 22 Winter Garden
- 11 Charlotte County Veterans Day Parade
- 11-18 Buddy Check Week ★
- 11 Veterans Day Parade Tampa
- 11 Great Day in the Country
- 12 Chapter 8: ALR Meeting
- 13-17 American Education Week ★
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 15 Legion Link Articles Due ✨
- 15 National Membership Goal 65% ★
- 16-20 Department Headquarters Closed ✨
- 17-19 Department Fall Conference ✨🌐
- 19-24 National Family Week ★
- 23 Thanksgiving Day
- 23-24 Department Headquarters Closed ✨
- 23-31 Holiday Blood Donor Drive ★
- 24 District 15: District Commander Visits Post 246
- 25 Chapter 10: ALR Kissimmee Bike Night
- 27 District 15: Central Commander Visits Post 148
- 28 #GivingTuesday

🌐 Commander attendance tentative.
 ✨ Department of Florida event.
 ★ National event.
 Events are subject to change. More details at floridalegion.org.



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resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can call 988 and press one. You can text 838255. You can visit your VA and get assistance there.

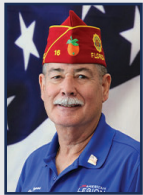
It seems that we all need to do "Be The One" to check our own health. It concerns me that since this last newsletter, we have had several Florida leaders and legionnaires suffer some very major health issues. Seeing the concern, the prayers, and the get-

well letters being sent has been great. That said, I urge every one of you to check on your own physical health. We value every legionnaire, and we need you all to be healthy.

NEC Meeting Updates

Jim Ramos, NEC

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First was Sensitivity Training, and the meeting was called to Order by our National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer. Salute to the Colors, Invocation by National Chaplain Frank Carr, the POW/

MIA remembrance Ceremony, Pledge of Allegiance by National Sergeant-At-Arms James Kell, Preamble By our National CMDR Daniel J. Seehafer, Roll Call by National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler, and Acceptance of the Agenda by National CMDR Daniel J. Seehafer.

The meeting started with the Auxiliary National President Lisa Williamson greeting everyone and the NECs, and the National Auxiliary made a \$10,000 donation to the Veterans and Children Foundation. Thank you all.

The SAL National Commander Donald L. Hall Jr. greeted everyone and the NECs and said Thank You.

Introduction of National Officers by National CMDR Daniel J. Seehafer as follows:

National Chaplain Frank H. Carr (VA), National Historian Edward A. Degumbia (CT), National Sergeant-At-Arms James W. Kell (WI), and all National Vice Commanders Robert M. Shreve (GA), Raymond L. Vail (KS), Charles D. Ancoin (LA) he is our NVC, William R. Roy (NH) and Randy D. Edwards (UT).

We have received reports from National Commissions, National Committees, Boards, and Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee.

Resolutions as follows (passed 25 resolutions): Resolution # 17, Tile: Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs (Passed) Origin: Americanism Commission

Resolution # 18, Tile: Media & Communication/ Marketing Division Contract with James G. Elliott Co., Inc. (Passed) Origin: Media & Communications Commission

Resolution # 19, Tile: Donation of \$250,000.00 to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation from the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund (Passed) Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Resolution # 20, Tile: Authorization for Conducting Department History Contest and Post History Showcase (Passed) Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Resolution # 21, Tile: Sons of The American Legion Resolutions Screening Committee (Passed) Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Resolution # 22, Tile: Creation of Sons Of The American Legion Commander's Advisory Committee (Passed) Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Resolution # 23, Tile: National Regional Informational Conferences Ad Hoc Committee

(Passed) Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Resolution # 24, Tile: Restricted Fund Allocation to the Reserve Fund (Passed) Origin: Finance Commission

Resolution # 25, Tile: Authorization for Withdrawals from the Reserve Fund (Passed) Origin: Finance Commission

You can get all the Resolutions by going to legion.org/digitalarchives or legion.org > library > digitalarchive.

We also had the following reports:

1. The American Legion Department Advisory Committee
2. Marketing Commission
3. Finance Commission
4. National Security Commission
5. Report of National Convention Corporation
6. Convention Commission
7. Americanism Commission
8. Internal Affairs Commission
9. Membership & Post Activities Committee
10. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission
11. Veterans Employment & Education Commission
12. Media & Communications Commission
13. Legislative Commission
14. National Adjutant Announcements

Recess until Oct 12,

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Call to Order by our National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer

Receive Resolutions, Motions, and Petitions.

Act upon unfinished business of the preceding day and Resolutions lying over from the previous day - NONE.

Report of Subcommittee on Committee by Terry D. Schow (UT) 1,200 appointments

Miscellaneous Business and Technical Motions "Confirmation and Cancellation of Post and/

or Squadron Charters by William W. Kile (WV) Chairman, Resolution Subcommittee.

Confirmation of dates for future Meetings by National CMDR Daniel J. Seehafer

Dates:

- 2024 Washington Conference Feb. 24-28
- 2025 Washington Conference March 2-5
- 2026 Washington Conference Feb 22-25
- NEC Spring Meeting May 8-9, 2024
- Commissions and Committees May 6-7

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer Closing remarks.

Benediction by National Chaplain Frank H. Carr (VA), Salute to the Colors, and Adjournment

Our National CMDR, Daniel J. Seehafer, wants us to go to Legion.org/action and send messages to your Senator and Representative: "Please do it to help get the message across." Please sign up and take Legion Action "Do the Right Thing" with your voice, opinion, and vote.

Please go to the website Legion.org for more information.

Thank You. If you have any questions, email me or call me at 325-226-4370.

Resolutions Passed, Dues Increase, and Explanation of INDYCAR

Jerry Brandt, ANEC

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Comrades, the Florida leadership team just finished the National Fall Conference, and I would like to update you on what Your NEC is doing. The NEC passed 25

Resolutions this year; some are for housekeeping for the legion; however, they include the following:

- Resolution 5, Emerging Therapies to Address Veteran Suicides
- Resolution 6, Stop Gap in Utilization of Mental Health Services
- Resolution 7, For Congress to oversee the VA Mission Act.
- Resolution 8, To reopen VA cases that were closed due to Inaccurate Contact Information
- Resolution 9, For Posts to participate in the "Department of Veterans Affairs S.A.V.E. training."

As I indicated, there were 25 Resolutions, to see all

the resolutions, go to legion.org/NEC.

I know that many members have concerns about the American Legion sponsoring a Car in the INDYCAR Series; here are some facts you should know:

- Our INDY Car was awarded the 2023 INDYCAR Series Championship
- Won 5 Races
- Received 2 Pole Awards (One at the Indianapolis 500)
- 2023 was the most watched season for the INDYCAR Series since 2011 and the best in NBC Sports history, up 2% VS 2022
- 2023 Overall Media Value for the "Be The One" car was \$31,926,021
- Overall Sponsorship Value, \$86M
- There were 4,544 exposures of the "Be The One" in media.
- 40X40 mobile marketing at 15 of the 17 events, featuring the Veteran Service Officers, helping our fellow Veterans with their problems.

I would like to thank you, the Florida American

Legion, and especially the Service Officers, for what you do. What do I mean by that? The American Legion "Be The One" program is to help prevent Veterans' Suicide and bring awareness to those in need. To get assistance to them via our service officers. Sounds familiar?

The "Florida Vet Relief" program already does that and more. We, in Florida, have been doing this for years; Posts have been doing the Buddy Checks for several years, seeing if our brothers and sisters and their families need assistance. Our Training Classes for Service Officers are packed to overflowing. We work with the VA and other non-profit organizations seeking a way to help those with PTSD and other problems. We work strongly with the State of Florida as well. So, please keep up the good work.

As a reminder, there will be a National Per Capita increase in dues to \$23.50 in the membership year 2025 (a \$5 increase). The General Assembly approved this, which will be in effect on July 1, 2024 – 2025 membership year. Posts, please be

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aware of this in case you need to increase your Posts dues to cover the increase.

I was at a district meeting two weeks ago; I was surprised at how few district members read the Legion Link. Legion Link is the Department's primary voice of communications outside the

Convention and Fall Conference. Please get the word out to our members once a month, log in, and read what your Department is doing to assist our Veterans.

Important Info for New Post Commanders / Officers

Shirley Douglas, Finance Officer

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As a new Commander or officer of your Post, it is important that you inquire about the below items that can be easily overlooked during the changing of officers transition period.

1. Does a new IRS form 8822-B Change of Address or Responsible Party---Business form need to be submitted? If your Post's current 8822-B form shows the outgoing Commander's name as the responsible party, then a new form must be completed and sent to the IRS. The responsible party does not have to be the Post Commander.
2. What is your Post's Fiscal Year? The reason you need to know the Post's fiscal year is so that you can ensure the Post's IRS Form 990,

990-EZ, or 990-N is submitted on time. The IRS Form 990 must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the Post's Fiscal Year. Most Posts use either January 1 to December 31 (submit the form by May 15th) or July 1 to June 30 (submit the form by November 15th). The form you need to use depends upon your Post's annual gross receipts and total assets.

3. Ask your adjutant if there are three years of the Post's IRS tax forms on file. If the answer is "No," you need to check the IRS website to check on the Tax-exempt status of the Post. Go to the IRS.gov website. Click on Charities & Nonprofits. Click on Tax-exempt Organization Search (TEOS). Click on the TEOS tool. You will select "Search All," Select Employer Identification Number (EIN), Enter the Post's EIN, and Enter City and State. Click on Search. The search will show the years the Post's Tax Forms have been

submitted, and you can review the forms that were submitted. You can also do a search by the organization's name. If you don't know the EIN, enter American Legion and the City/State the Post is located in to do the search.

4. A Revocation box will show if the Post has lost its tax-exempt status. Organizations whose tax-exempt status was automatically revoked because they did not file required Form 990 series returns or notices for three consecutive years can apply for reinstatement of their tax-exempt status. **Revenue Procedure 2014-11** explains an organization's four procedures to apply for reinstatement.

All the above information is on the IRS.gov website under the Charities & Nonprofit tab. There are FAQ questions that can be reviewed that will answer a lot of your questions.

Positioning of Eagle, Pledge of Allegiance, and Health Issues

Les Martin, Sergeant-at-Arms

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I hope everyone had a great summer; I know I did. Now that all the Posts are back in full swing, I want to continue with some training. I want to take a few minutes to talk about a pet peeve of mine. That is the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." If you notice, there

is a comma between each of the sections. However, I always hear the Pledge said with a comma between "one nation under God" when there is no comma. Okay, I just got down off the soap box.

Did you know that when you are presenting the Nation's colors to the front of the room, the Eagle on top of the American Flag should be facing the front of the room (towards the speaker table), and once posted, the Eagle should then be turned to face that back of the room (the audience)? When moving forward, the Eagle should be facing forward. Here's another one. When marching in a flag line, your

left hand should be at the bottom of the flagstaff with the right hand two feet above the left. If you are wearing a flag holder over your shoulder (with the base holding the flagstaff), you may also have both hands at neck level with the right hand above the left. Whichever way you decide, all flag bearers should be doing the same.

Another about the Flag In Section 4 of the U.S. Flag Code, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, states, "Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute." However, it

Sergeant-at-Arms continued on page 6 >>



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<< Sergeant-at-Arms continued from page 5

is permissible to sing the national anthem while rendering the military salute. Although it may feel unnatural to do this, you may want to remove your cover and place your hand over your heart. Speaking of the National Anthem, did you know there are four verses to the National Anthem? We only sing one of them.

Well, our Department Fall Conference is coming soon. There are a lot of opportunities to learn more about The American Legion. Several classes will be held for Post officers that not only the Post officers should take advantage of but all Legionnaires. I will have the Post Sergeant-at-Arms, Color Guard,

and Honor Guard class on Friday the 17th at 2:30 p.m. I look forward to seeing many of our Post and District Sergeant-at-Arm's in attendance.

On a different note, I have been asked by 13th District Auxiliary President Jan Farrington if she could add an addendum to my article due to several Officers of the Department, District, and S.A.L. having health issues. Jan wrote: "It's already November, and that means Veterans Day. It's observed annually on November 11th and is a tribute to military Veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. As you are honored on this holiday, please take time to check on your own health. It's very concerning how many Florida Department Officers have faced

some serious health issues. We are all getting older, and it's important we watch each other and get those necessary checkups!"

I want to thank Jan for this addition to my article, from the District 8 Sgt-at-Arms, Scott Martin, flatlining while in the hospital with heart issues, myself with the recent heart attack, Mike Nigbor, Detachment Vice Commander from the Southwestern Area with his recent open heart surgery and our Department Chaplain with his surgery to remove blood clots in his brain, we all need to take better care of ourselves. Thanks again, Jan!

Center of Excellence now Operation Warrior Hope

Bob Matheson, Central Area Commander

central@legionmail.org



What started as a dream at American Legion Post 7 in Clearwater, FL, has blossomed into a vital program serving our Veterans. Started as a Center of Excellence on April 26, 2023, it was designed to assist with Suicide Prevention and Mental Health.

The Center of Excellence had its first meeting of the program with 11 partners from Empath Health, Windmoor HealthCare, the VA, Florida Senior Care, VRSI, EFDA, Chen Med, Safety Biometrics, and USF Health. Over the past six months, the program has grown to 57 partners from the original 11, and they are now called Operation Warrior Hope.

Under the Command of Dave Marsh and Service Officer Ken Branch, American Legion Post 7 initiated Operation Warrior Hope to focus on wellness and Veteran suicide prevention within the Tampa Bay Military Community. The purpose of the program is to serve the changing needs of our

military community. To bridge the gap between the challenges our Veterans face and the resources they require.

Operation Warrior Hope dedicates itself to timely, tailored interventions. By recognizing the uniqueness of each Veteran's journey, they aim to provide immediate support, fostering an environment where asking for help becomes a symbol of strength for our entire military community.

The program's mission is a reassuring conversation, financial help, education, professional training, or simply the assurance that they are not alone; the program helps ensure that everyone gets the support that meets them where they're at as quickly as possible.

The vision is to help develop, deliver, and connect programs serving the wellness needs of our Veterans and the broader military community. Serve the changing needs of our military community. We envision a society where every Veteran confidently reaches out and asks for help regardless of their

struggle. Operation Warrior Hope wants to ensure our guidance is accessible to all Veterans statewide.

Proudly carrying the "Be the One" banner, the program has been successful from Day 1 and continues to grow in popularity. While they are primarily serving the Greater Tampa Bay Area, they hope to help in expanding this to other Posts throughout the State.



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Buddy Checks and Membership Goals

Joe Marcheggiani, Eastern Area Commander

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As you read this, Buddy Check Week is over. We know it never ends, and it should not for many reasons. Let us look at the reason for membership.

Many of you have been in job positions where you needed to know your conversion ratio, sales, assembly line output, miles driven per delivery, and number of customer contacts to sell your merchandise. You can bet your boss knew your conversion ratio if you did know this.

As an Army Recruiter, my conversion ratio was three applicants to 1 enlistment. My conversion ratio to get those three applicants was usually

ten contacts to 1 applicant. To get my mandatory four enlistments a month, I had to contact a lot of high school seniors. Eventually, I oversaw a large recruiting station with five recruiters. They all had different conversion ratios. But my Recruiting station always had to put in 20 recruits a month, usually four apiece. But often, I had to depend on overachievers to meet that mission.

I am asking the Post Commanders, your staff, and your members what is your mission. Its enrollment and retention. For a Post of 500 Legion members, you must retain them and usually gain three percent more each year, which in this case is 15 new Legionnaires, and for a Post of 6,000 Legion members, it is 180 new Legionnaires. So, I ask you what your conversion ratio is. How many people do you need to talk to to find a Veteran?

How many Veterans do you need to talk to to become Legionnaires? And remember this: walk-ins do not count; they are bonuses and go toward overachieving. We have a given pool of contacts at our fingertips. It is a proven fact that Buddy Checks equals renewal and retention. Challenge yourself and challenge your members to begin and continue Buddy Checks. It will help with retention and make recruiting easier.

Being a Legionnaire is a lot of fun; it's patriotic, community engagement, and, most of all, comradeship with people who understand. That is why most of us belong. But when the rubber meets the road, we will not belong to anything if we do not know our conversion ratio and do our part to help the American Legion to exist. Ok, off my soap box, and let's have some fun.

Northern Area Activities

Lena Heredia-Perez, Northern Area Commander

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Greetings from the Northern Area! Last month was a busy month supporting various Department & Posts events such as Post 283 15th Annual Poker Chip Run riding for K-9Line, 3rd Annual Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride / Ceremony, First Coast Honor Flight Send-Off, Post 57 5th Annual Toys for Tots Ride, Post 382 3rd Annual Challenge 22 Walk/Ride, Post 236 3rd Annual Snowball Express, Post 291 Night out with Elvis, District Meetings in the 3rd & 5th District and National Internal Affairs Fall Meetings. I have thoroughly enjoyed my travels throughout the various Districts and look forward to supporting even more events in the near future. Keep up the amazing work!!

As you can tell from the travels above and by looking at your upcoming calendars, it is obvious we have entered one of the busiest times of our Legion year, where we raise funds for various projects/organizations, American Legion Riders Merry-Go-Rounds, Fall Conference, Department of Florida Legion College, etc. While raising funds and awareness is a large part of what we do, we must not lose focus on the fact that we have other obligations.

By now, everyone has had an opportunity to familiarize themselves and adjust to their new roles and responsibilities in their respective positions. If you haven't already been doing so, now is the time for us to focus on getting our membership numbers where they need to be. There are a multitude of ways that we can do this. However, I strongly encourage you to start by reaching out to our

members who haven't been coming to the Post recently, or maybe they have abruptly stopped participating in their everyday activities.

Let's pick up our phones, call our members, let them know their presence is greatly missed, and see if they need anything from us. As you build relationships with your members, showing them that they are more than just a number, they will be more apt to get back involved and renew their dues without asking. Retention is my focus here in the Northern Area, and doing this is one way we can ensure that we are able to surpass the 90% retention goal our National Commander has set for us. If we fail to retain our current members, we have no business recruiting new members until we figure out why our current members are not renewing and/or transferring their dues and

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address the issue.

In closing, I look forward to seeing everyone at Fall Conference! If you cannot attend for whatever

reason and I do not get to see you throughout my upcoming travels, I wish you and your family a Happy Holidays!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Unfortunately, due to extremely high hotel rates, the date of the Northern Area Ball has shifted to January 13th, 2024. All proceeds raised will go towards Boys & Girls State Scholarships.

Hurricanes / Amateur Radio

Miguel Garcia, District 5 Commander

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What a couple of months we have had. Our plate has been full between installations, Post visitations, the Department POW/MIA rides, and hurricane visits.

What stands out the most for me is how quickly and professionally Post Commanders and their teams responded to hurricane preparations. Thank you for responding to buddy check requests pre- and Post-storm.

In 2017, in response to Hurricane Irma, the 5th District created an emergency communication team to span our district. Our goal was to have trained radio operators who could monitor and move emergency traffic at the National, State, County, and, most importantly, District levels. So, on September 29, 2018, the American Legion Amateur Radio Club, 5th District, Call Sign W8TAL, was born. Since 2018, District Posts 202, 250, and 401 have

installed permanent Ham radio stations on-site to support the program. These permanent Post stations, in conjunction with ten club members' home stations, make up a network of stations that spans every corner of the district.

The TALARC team works hand in hand with local ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service and National groups such as the Red Cross, providing Emergency and Health and Welfare traffic. Over the past few months, escalating after Hurricane Idalia, interest in expanding the communication reach throughout the Department has grown.

Due to interest, the 5th District TALARC team has extended its cooperation with other known and interested American Legion family members throughout the Department who are licensed ham radio operators. We now have members of Districts 2, 5, and 12, expanding our communication reach farther south and west of District 5.

The 5th District TALAC team would like to expand the program to every district in the Department. We would like to see a day when we can cover the entire length of the state. The level of participation is left to the individual member and district. If a District is interested in creating its own TALARC club, we are here to help you develop one, or if a member wants to participate individually, we will add you to our emergency response call list, your choice.

As Hurricanes become more frequent and destructive, the need to have a group of trained communicators will grow. During the initial aftermath of Hurricane Maria, I and a handful of ham radio operators in Texas and New York delivered over 6,000 health and welfare messages. Imagine what a family of Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary members could accomplish.

If interested in joining the team, please get in touch with Shawn Beal, 5th District Disaster Preparedness Chair, or Miguel Garcia, Commander, District 5.

Reconnecting with Members and Future Members

Bruce Thurber, District 12 Commander

district12@legionmail.org



Department Fall Conference is upon us Nov 17th -19th at the Caribe Royale. We need to remember the very important days that are with us:

- All Saints Day, Nov 1st
- Day Light Savings Time, Nov 5th

- Florida Membership Goal 65%, Nov 8th
- Veterans Day, Nov 11th
- American Education Week, Nov 13th to 17th
- Fall Conference, Nov 17th to 19th
- Thanksgiving, Nov 23rd
- Black Friday, Nov 24th

Let's look at our future; we need 53,000 members to reach our goal and another 3,069 to reach 103%. This is an easy goal if we dedicate ourselves

to renewing our previous members. Our previous members are those who joined because we promised them more than what we provided. We currently project ourselves to the canteen and only advertise those items related to alcohol. The current needs of the Post are to brighten up in the daytime, advertise for children and youth of the legion, and fundraisers for children and youth. At night, we can do those things that are for

District 12 Commander continued on page 9 >>



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<< District 12 Commander continued from page 8

grownups. Remember, children are our future, and their parents are young and not so related to the bar scene; they are looking for things to do with their children for little or no money.

As we travel through the year, let us reveal the good things about the American Legion. We have

fundraisers for many events for children, you, and Veterans. We fail to advertise what we are doing. We need to let the community know. We may not have a lot, but they will see we are trying and possibly join us.

We also need training in our new positions and our old ones. Many of our old ways have changed, and

we have not. Our new method of doing business needs to be trained by our new and senior leaders and the DMOs sitting at the bar. Too often, we walk away at the end of our term and never give new people a chance. We need to train them early and keep them informed.

Help Save Port Charlotte Post 110

Eric Loyd, District 13 Commander

district13@legionmail.org



Port Charlotte American Legion Post 110 needs donations to finish rebuilding after Hurricane Ian. I am reaching out to ALL District Commanders and Post Commanders, asking for donations

from Posts and members. All Donations are tax deductible and are going to a good cause. Post 110

is a valuable asset to the Port Charlotte Community and is home to 2,000 Veterans, Sons, and Auxiliary members. The Department is in the process of reorganizing the Post. Please mail all donations to Port Charlotte American Legion Post 110, 3152 Harbor Blvd, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

District 13 Chairman Mike Turner has scheduled our Family Suicide Awareness and Veteran Relief Fair on

February 24, 2024. Mike is working hard to make this a big success and is reaching out to Posts in District 13 to have fundraisers.

District 13 Chairman Dennis Boland has the Children and Youth Picnic Scheduled for November 5th, 2023, at Lehigh Acres Post 323. It will be from 11:00-4:00. He has put forth a lot of time and effort to make it a success. Come out and support our picnic.

Moving at Light Speed

Randy Holeyfield, District 15 Commander

district15@legionmail.org



Well, at least it seems that way! Time is going fast on the one hand and slow on the other. We are already in November, yea, wow, and there is still much work to do, especially with

Membership. The thing with Membership is that it is much better to be ahead of our goals and not just try to hit them. If you strive for the goal, that's what you may attain, but if you shoot for the Moon, you are bound to hit your goal closer by accident, which is good. So do not limit yourself by only trying to reach your goal, but endeavor to do whatever you can to go beyond any limitations. And if anything seems to be blocking or getting in your way, find a way around it, over it, under it, or through it. Doing whatever is needed is the idea,

and when you have a dedicated membership team, you can draw talents from each one's strengths and harvest these to achieve new ideas that may not be within yourselves, but as a Team, the sky is the limit, shoot for the moon. If your Post does not have an active membership team already, get one today and the size of your Post determines the size; the larger the Post, the larger the Team, so start building for success. Although it's getting later in the year, anytime is a good time to start.

Okay, shifting to the next gear, or how about a different vehicle, **Programs?** How are your Posts programs doing (this is addressed to Post Commanders)? Although your Post may have Chairpersons for all or at least most of them, Post Commanders are responsible for their success or, worse, their lack. So, Post Commanders should monitor them closely, especially if you're not getting

feedback. There are indicators that can be observed even without direct input, but even if you just use a simple "How are we doing with the _____ program?" You're not questioning them, but rather, Do you need anything that I (or another) could help you with? Be aware of where every program should be, like Boy's State or Oratorical or another. Each program has benchmarks that should be met by specific dates, just like membership goals. You do not want to lose track of these benchmarks because they are sometimes, if you pass them, you can not back up and would miss or even cause a failure to that program, so stay abreast of these at all times.

Lastly, training: Although this was brought up at the Leadership Retreat (at least in Central Florida), it seems to be a slow start. At the Retreat, it was

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<< District 15 Commander continued from page 9

presented that the Department was imitating a “Back to Principles Training” program. And that District Commanders would be given latitude to work within their calendars and with those who would be best suited for facilitating this. However, it was conveyed that the Department Commander wholeheartedly wanted this to come to fruition. The three chosen to develop this worked hard to put this together and keep it simple, concise, and effective, yet aligned with the Officer’s Guide and Manual of Ceremonies. Plus, every District stays

on the same page and does not veer off course, along with supporting segments and notes, as well as after action reports and critiques to help see what is effective and what is not. Most of all, it requires District Commanders to strive to get this completed and promptly, which is key to the success of the venture. Consistency in Post meeting, various report submissions to the Department or National, and not to mention the Federal Government, is vital to maintaining your Post and saving your Post money. Not filing your 990’s or Corporate Reports, not to mention filing your taxes, can and will create

problems, real problems. These sorts of things do and have caused Posts extra money in both penalties, filing fees, reactivations, and more. Do not let this happen to your Post. Money is hard enough to come by, so why waste it if it is avoidable?

Remember: Proud to be Legion
Keep an eye on your District’s, Department’s, and your Post’s calendars, stay focused and keep your eye on the ball.

Oratorical Information and A Walk 4 America Information

Kurt Gies, Americanism Chair

americanism@legionmail.org



Americanism Commission:

Boys State applications and Oratorical Contest topics are the Hot Topic items this month. Please send your Post money to the Department to reserve your Boys

State Delegates spots today so Bekki and her team can start adequately preparing for the upcoming session.

Additionally, National has announced this year’s Oratorical Contest topics:

Amendment II – A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment XXIII – The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

Several electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District

would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the State, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Amendment XXV, Section 3 – Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Amendment V – No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to

be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, not be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

“Celebration of America – A Walk 4 America” - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

The month of February 2024 is designated as Americanism month. The “Celebration of America – A Walk 4 America” will start in Winter Garden, FL, and travel through the five Florida Districts (17th, 5th, 3rd, 4th, and 6th Districts), two Florida Areas, and 17 Florida counties. After 12 days, ending on Presidents Day, we will have hoped to have visited 33 American Legion Posts and 3 Villages Squares while covering 675 total miles (including walking over 286 kilometers), averaging 24km/day (14.5miles/day) walking. But our Department Commander, Michael “Gambler” Raymond, is asking that all 282 Florida Posts find a way to celebrate Americanism during this period.

The visits to each Post will last about 1 hour. The goal is to have representatives from your community,

Americanism continued on page 11 >>



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<< Americanism continued from page 10

including elected officials, your Boys State and Girl State delegates, Boy Scouts, JROTC/Sea Cadets, Legion baseball teams, oratorical contestants, school medal winners, Youth Law cadets, in attendance so they can be recognized by the local community

and/or press. We also want you to invite any other local organizations (like the Elks, Rotary, VFW, DAV, Marine Corps League, Navy League, etc.) that want to help celebrate America as we can during this 12-day period, which will end on Presidents Day. Finally, Posts should coordinate and organize

a Blood Drive with Blood One for that day, conduct flag retirements, and present flag grommets to the Department chair. Basically, we want your Post to host a HUGE celebration of America and honor her in your own special way.

Set up a Blood Donor Day

Jamie Grinis, Blood Donor Chair

blooddonor@legionmail.org



It's been a whirlwind as each Post went through installations and is starting to raise funds for their programs. Blood Donor is the easiest of all programs to have for

your Post. Each Post in the State of Florida must have at least one program to keep its charter active. All your Post has to do is contact their local blood bank, and they will set up a schedule for your Post. All that is needed is a location to park the blood donor bus. In 2021, the American Legion raised over 58,000 pints of blood through blood drives

nationwide. Don't lose your charter because your Post has not adopted a program. Make the call today. Each Pint of blood may save up to 4 lives. Do something different by giving the gift that keeps saving lives.

Employment Service Awards Due December 15

James Douglas, Employment Chair

employment@legionmail.org



December 15, 2023, 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 and 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

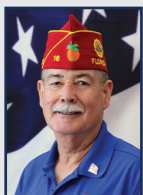
For information on the awards and the forms needed for the nomination packages, go to www.floridalegion.org. Click on Programs & Services -- click on Employer Awards -- select the desired award -- and click on Download Application to find the required nomination forms and information.

Remember, what is NEEDED 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? What is NOT NEEDED are binders, report covers, page protectors, photographs, or logs of how many people are seen each day.

Time is Running Out...

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College Chair

falc@legionmail.org



FALC application with a copy of your Basic Training Certificate is to go with your application, and a check made out to the order of The American Legion Department

of Florida and FALC should be in the memo line. The FALC application is online and was in the last Legion Link.

A lot of Topics at the FALC and a lot of work to do each day. Be ready to work.

Read the 2023 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, Legislative (State and National level), know your National Security, know some PowerPoint, and be ready with a resolution.

Please have your computer with you for classwork and assignments.

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<< Florida Legion College continued from page 11

Final selection by November 10, 2023.
You must be ready to work hard and long hours.
Your day is not finished until the homework and group assignments are done.

Also, Northern Area Commander Lena Heredia-Perez's email is northern@legionmail.org, and 3rd District Commander Stuart Scott's email is distric3@legionmail.org as lead instructors in our FALC.

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

JROTC/STEM Inaugural Workshop and JSSP Request

Loretta Young, JROTC/JSSP Chair

jrotc@legionmail.org



I was privileged to attend the Broward County Inaugural Drone Jamboree and Workshop held at Boyd Anderson HS in North Lauderdale for an entire day of activities. This was in partnership with the STEM and Computer Science Team of Broward County School District. They hosted more than 150 students throughout the day, building drones, coding, flying through obstacle courses, delivering mock buildings, racing, etc. It was an entire day of learning, applying STEM skills, and enjoyment for the youth from several different schools within the district. This project gives a

clear understanding of the future careers for our students within our society for flying drones for delivery services, police and rescue missions, weather conditions, and many more opportunities not yet discovered. There was the assistance of the educators, drone staff, instructors, referees, chaperones, and many others who worked hard to make this event and experience a success. Many thanks to all, and we look forward to seeing more of these events in the future. Please share any experiences that you have within the state with me so we can keep our Posts and members advised of all the good things happening with our youth programs.

I have also been sending out emails to request the progress of the JSSP First Round Postal Competition,

which began registration on September 1st, and final registration is Dec. 15. please contact me with any questions or concerns with the application process. Thanks so much to all of you who support our Youth Programs, and may you have continued success.



JROTC - STEM Inaugural Workshop at Boyd Anderson High School

Telemarketer Scams

Daryl Bass, Law & Order Chair

laworder@legionmail.org



Beware of the telemarkets asking for donations for Law Enforcement/Fire Service.

We have all received those telephone calls (usually during dinner time) from a telemarketer advising that they are seeking donations for your local Police, Fire, and State Police. They claim to represent the Police

Benevolent Association, FOP, PBA, Firemen's Widows endowment fund, etc.

Most Americans respect Law Enforcement and the Fire Service and want to help. These organizations rely on these folks to donate. None of these donations go toward local Law Enforcement or Fire Departments. Beware!

These telemarketers are professionals and get paid nationwide to make these calls. Someone in charge

is making lots of money off the giving Hearts of our citizens.

Have you ever seen firemen at an intersection holding their boots, asking for donations? That's real! They have several charities that they donate to that are worthy. They will never call you. They don't work that way.

In the World, we live in today, it takes all kinds, so Beware of the TeleMarketer.



\$10K
GRAND PRIZE

\$2.5K
SECOND PRIZE

\$10,000

\$1K
THIRD PRIZE

\$500
FOURTH - FIFTH PRIZE

\$100
SIXTH - TENTH PRIZE

DEPT OF FLORIDA

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Retention is Key

Bruce Carl, Membership Chair

membership@legionmail.org



Welcome to November and the beginning of Fall. By the time this article comes out, we will be approaching the 65% goal for membership. Are your Posts at, near, or above the goal yet? If not, is there a reason why? We all know we are a snowbird state, and our renewals will be coming in droves between now and the end of the year. The current 2023 cards will also expire, so if your members want to continue receiving their Legion privileges (canteen, games, magazine, etc.), they need to renew.

As is usually the case, I have held membership trainings and attended many District meetings, and those Posts struggling with membership don't show up. Typically, we are preaching to the choir, and we need to get more of the Posts involved. Many are still sending in their memberships the old way instead of using mylegion.org, which delays processing and burdens the Department more. As of the writing of this article, our renewal rate is a little over 53%. We really need to work on that, as it should be 90%!

District Commanders and Vice Commanders should be out there checking on those Posts and offering training to assist them. Plenty of our members are certified to come in there and train on anything the Post may need, not just membership. Please take advantage of them, and if you feel they need revitalization, please contact the Revitalization Chair. Many of your Posts are doing great, and those do not need your focus. During your visitations, find out what your struggling Posts need so it can be provided. The National Vice Commander would like to bring the Membership Team for a revitalization. Dates and locations for his visits will be coming out at a later date.

Our Fall Conference is coming up shortly, and there will be a membership training class. I will be covering several items. However, a major portion of the course will be discussing what your needs are. I will open up the floor to train on what you need. There is no point for us to waste our time talking about unnecessary things, so let's make the best of our time. I have given out some awards already and will have more to present at the Conference. I am also looking forward to being able to give out many more!

Phase two of the membership plan has now begun. We need to continue with Phase One, which is working on the DMS list, buddy checks, and renewals. The only change with Phase Two is to add that if your Post is close to 100 % (5 or less), see if the Post can pay for those members before December 10th to get you there. Another option is to contact those 400AD members to get them in.

Your membership team still believes we will hit all our goals for the year. To reiterate, they are 90% retention, 50% of the Posts at 100% by May 8th, getting a total of 100,000 members, and getting some District Race to the Top Winners. We are here to assist you in whatever way we can! If you are having a membership event, please let me know, and I will try to attend it and help out!

I want to thank each and every one of you for all you are doing, and look forward to seeing many of you at Fall Conference. We need to continue to push forward and remember we still have many more months left and goals to achieve. I want to personally wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Department Membership Northern Area

Robert Brewster, Northern Area Membership

revitalizationvice@legionmail.org



At the 5th District monthly meeting to be held on October 8, 2023, at Post 283, we will be discussing ways for all Posts to reach whatever their goals are for 2024. I have been doing membership work at the Post, District, and statewide levels for the last 21 years. We will never succeed when we don't concentrate and do the following. The following suggestions have been and have been

working at my Post for 21 years. Every Post needs to have a membership team who will meet regularly to do the following:

Call all members who have not renewed for the new year. Make these calls as part of your "Buddy Call" program. Make these calls pleasant and cheerful. Be very friendly and not pushy. If you encounter someone who is financially hurting, consider paying their dues for them. Talk to them as though they are your best friend. If they have a problem with your Post or some member in it, smooth it over and make

it right. Explain how important their membership is to Veterans in need in their local area. If they have children at home, explain all our great programs under Children & Youth. If it is about the cost of the dues, consider a small discount to them. If your Post has a Post newsletter, get it to them regularly. Whatever their problem is, solve it. Whatever you do, please don't argue with them. Thank them. Let them know that their concerns are addressed. Lastly, let them know their importance to your programs, including Vets Helping Vets, and ensure they get your Post newsletter.



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Immigration/Terrorism In our World

Raymond Olsen, National Security Chair

security@legionmail.org



What is the greatest threat to National Security at this point in time? If you read my submissions so far, it is unfettered illegal immigration. With the recent terrorist Action in Israel, it makes me wonder if there is not some other ulterior motive. Israeli and Palestine issues and the Gaza Strip have been tumultuous for as long as I can remember. I do not think it has ever been so deadly in my lifetime. You, like me, may be thinking, why now? Israel has been one of our strongest allies, and we have been one of their strongest allies. We share intelligence with them on a regular basis. Why would Hamas or Iran want to poke the bear at this time? We were about to shut down our government because we were weakening our country on a very public stage. The military would have gone unpaid;

finances would not have been covered. We would not be able to have any support for our allies. Our immigration program, such as it is, would become more chaotic than it is already. The Speaker did the right thing and got fired. They selected a new speaker, Rep Scalise from Louisiana, who I thought would be fantastic, but he could not get all the Republicans to support him. Jordan will not be able to get them to support him either. 30 Days is all they have at the most. Then, it is shut down the Government time again. All of this is publicized all over the world every day. Our enemies are chomping at the bit to see us fail and drop our guard. If that happens, it will become an even more different America than it has already become.

What can you do? Hold your representatives' feet to the fire. Make sure that they hear our voices— letters to them, to the editor of the Newspaper, attendance at Town Hall and public meetings. Your

voice is powerful. You represent Veterans. I told my elected officials that I represented 6000 Legionnaires in my (their) district. I spoke about the money we give to the community. I reminded them that it was our action that was getting the Coast Guard paid during the shutdown, not theirs.

There are still a couple of months left before hurricane season ends. Keep building up supplies and working on blood drives. Attend your Post events, District meetings, Fall Meetings, and Conventions, and show a united front supporting a free America, a secure border, Congressional Accountability, and fiscal responsibility. And while you are doing that, meet some new Veterans, introduce yourself and your Post to the community, and keep working on programs. Remember to Celebrate Veterans Day in your Post.

Annual Ride Information

Denny Luke, POW/MIA Chair

powmia@legionmail.org



The Department of Florida American Legion Riders (ALR) has established an annual motorcycle ride on the 3rd Saturday of September, ending at the National POW/MIA Memorial for the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony. This Ride is called the Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Ride because it traverses the seven bridges that cross the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, FL. It is limited to only 250 motors by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and this year, we filled our quota.

First, I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make this event the huge success that it was. So many were working behind the scenes

anonymously, and if I listed all, it would be quite extensive. However, I want to thank Ling Christensen for making hotel arrangements with the special group rate, a significant savings over normal room cost. Bekki Tibbs, Jennifer Cooper, and Carrie Kolze from the Department for their support with the website, registration form, etc. I want to thank the ALR Department Chairman, Jim Wineland, and his adjutant, Beverly Wooten, for their efforts and assistance in allowing me to organize this fantastic event. The registration/parking volunteers are Al Yardley, Dave Glabb, Vicky Glabb, Tim Pratt, Denise Strickland, Brian Kay, Stuart Scott, and Amanda Sue. Kathy Church with the MIAP and The Rolling Thunder FL for providing and distributing water at the Chapel. Post/ALR 283 for hosting the Meet and greet and the after-event Social Hour. Adamec Harley Davidson for the use of their facility. To Berry Good Farms

and Mission BBQ for the food truck and tent. The Jacksonville NROTC for their participation in Parading the Colors and performing the Missing Man Table Ceremony. Jim Steele for playing the bugle "Charge Call" at the beginning of the ride and Taps at the Ceremony. Mrs. Meghan Wagner, daughter of Iraqi POW/MIA Scott Speicher, was a special speaker during the ceremony. She was representing all the family members of former POW's and MIA's. Her recollection of the heartaches and heartbreaks family members go through was very insightful and touching. I want to give a big thank you to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Motor Officers, who did a fantastic job of keeping us safe on our 99.3-mile journey from Adamec Harley Davidson to the National POW/MIA Memorial. To all the people who helped with registration and

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<< POW/MIA continued from page 14

parking, I thank you; it would have been chaos without your assistance.

It was evident The Department of Florida American Legion leadership fully supports Resolution 288. Again, with the size of the crowd, I'm sure I missed someone; however, of those I did see in attendance were Department Commander Michael Raymond, 1st Vice Commander Chris Hamrick, 2nd Vice Commander Jessica Moore, Chaplain Barry Roberts, Historian Edward Lewis, Eastern Area Commander, Joe Marcheggiani, Northern Area Commander Lena Heredia-Perez, District 3 Commander Stuart Scott, District 5 Commander Miguel Garcia representing the Legionnaires. Representing The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida, Department President Dee Bell, and District 5 President Julie Kay. Representing The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida was Commander Gerard Sambets. If I missed someone, please accept my apologies in advance. For those who attended, I thank you. To my knowledge, this was the first opportunity for the top Legion family leadership to participate in the POW/MIA Ceremony together. Job well done, Florida! To view pictures and videos of the day's events, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaAmericanLegionRiders> and visit the 3rd Annual Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride & Ceremony album.

Now for the bad news: the lead JSO Motor Officer informed me the Sheriff of JSO has said this year will be the last police-escorted motorcycle ride his Department will participate in. We in the Department of Florida had a vision of growing this event into one of the premier events The American Legion participates in outside of our

Legion Conventions and Conferences. We were there for the Groundbreaking Ceremony in 2019 on what will become the only National POW/MIA Memorial in the USA. A large part of our participation was to be the Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Ride and then attend the Ceremony at the Memorial. We all pay homage to the plight of POW/MIAs in accordance with Resolution 288 within our Post during Legion activities. However, we fail to get the word out to the community. By creating this ride, we can generate a lot of publicity for The American Legion while also paying respect to all POW/MIA's and their families. These events are not only to honor and respect those affected but also to get the word out about the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's need for DNA samples from family members of former MIAs.

We need your help to continue our vision of keeping the POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride and Ceremony a reality going forward. Without the Ride, I feel attendance at the Ceremony would be minimal compared to when the Legion family is involved, especially the ALR. Police Chief T.K. Waters grew up as a military dependent. His father was a Command Sergeant Major in the US Army. Let's appeal to his military ties and patriotic spirit by contacting him and requesting he re-evaluate his decision to shut down this motorcycle ride centered on the remembrance, respect, and honor of our past Veteran POW/MIAs and their families through his wonderful city.

He can be reached at:

Sheriff T.K. Waters
501 E. Bay ST.
Jacksonville FL 32202

or
Comments / Feedback
JSOFeedback@jaxsheriff.org

Please be respectful if you send a letter or email to the Sheriff and/or his office. Thank you in advance.

If your Post did something significant for the National POW/MIA Recognition Day, I would love to hear about it. Please feel free to email me the particulars of the who, what, and where of your event.

I want to encourage all to visit The American Legion Department of Florida website, <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/powmia-remembrance/about/> to learn more about the POW-MIA program. Under the resources tab, you will find a link to the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Library of Congress Vietnam Era POW-MIA Database, National League of POW-MIA Families, National Alliance of Families for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen, and the POW-MIA Chairmans Manual. The link to the National American Legion website is under the Media tab: <https://www.legion.org/honor/powmia>

I also encourage you to visit the National POW-MIA Memorial and Museum website, <https://powmiamemorial.org/>, to follow the progress being made to complete this wonderful and only National POW-MIA Memorial being built here in Florida. As of the end of August 2023, Phase 1 lighting work is almost complete. Overhead lighting has been installed along with lighting of the aircraft and pads. Lights have been added to the replica of the Ciel Field runway, and all looks great.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[floridalegion.org](https://www.floridalegion.org)

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



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Board Member Jason Skobel pictured during Post 382's 3rd Annual Navarre Challenge 22 Event with fellow Board Member Larry Roberts raising funds and awareness for Suicide Prevention.

Fall Conference is on the Horizon

www.ProjectVetRelief.org

We are gearing up for the Annual Fall Conference in Orlando. It will be held November 17-29 at the Caribe Royale Orlando. Our PVR/SPI Strategic Partners have been invited to attend Fall Conference this year, too.

There will be a special event and round table discussion with our PVR/SPI Strategic Partners on Friday, November 17th at 4:30 in Curacao 5-6. All are welcome to attend, especially those who would like to stay connected and represent PROJECT: VetRelief within your Post or District.

DISTRICT ADVOCATES ARE 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 their area, whether it be a Post fundraiser or community event raising awareness of our program.

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

As always, we will have our spot in the vendor area for you to stop by to say hello or pick up any marketing

materials. This would also be a great time to share any upcoming events that you may have planned for PROJECT: VetRelief or make a contribution! - *We hope to see you all there!*



VetRelief Assistance Cases Continue to Rise!

Last year, we set records for the total number of veterans supported and the total dollar amount provided for emergency assistance. With that said, after the first quarter of this year, we already have 38 *more* approved cases than this time last year!

Our veteran community has relied on our program pretty heavily over the years, and it appears that trend is only growing!

With the increased demand, means the importance of receiving the necessary funding to support. Please keep PVR in mind as you make your plans for the year ahead!

Current Year: July 2023 - September 2023

101
Veterans Received Financial Support

\$127,057
Provided as Emergency Assistance

16
Suicide Prevention Strategic Partners

\$60,000
Given towards Veteran Suicide Prevention



Flow of Resolution After Adoption

Clarence Hill, Resolutions Chair

resolutions@legionmail.org



Resolutions are vital to the Legion’s mission and are serious business.

Without the resolution process, the Legion would have no guidance in developing programs, allocating funds to help Veterans, or targeting

Congress concerning issues that affect you, me, our families, and the rest of this great country.

Resolutions tell those in leadership roles what the members want. As adopted by your membership,

a resolution represents a formal expression of the official opinion of your Post, District, Area, Department, or National organization. When approved by the local membership, resolutions could proceed to the next step—either District, Area, or Department level. At the Department level, resolutions are dealt with at a Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting or a Department Convention.

With formal authorization at the Department level, the resolution may be sent to National Headquarters, where it is registered for either the Resolutions

Subcommittee for the National Executive Committee (NEC) or the Resolutions Assignment Committee of the National Convention. The National Adjutant then forwards the resolution to the appropriate national-level commission or committee for study. Finally, the National Executive Committee or the National Convention delegates vote upon the recommended action.

Upon adoption at the national level by either the NEC or the National Convention, the resolution becomes the position of The American Legion.

2025 Tampa Convention Information

Clarence Hill

Tampa will host the 2025 National Convention.

Following are the Committees that will be required to be filled by volunteers. A lot will rely on the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL members, and Rider volunteers to make it a success.

Five committees (Badges and Packets, Distinguished Guests, Information/ Registration, Memorial Service, and Special Events) are required by the National Organization to have a successful convention, plus a Tampa Liaison and National Commander drivers. I will give a brief description of the duties of each. More specific duties will be described as we get closer, and we need to start signing up volunteers. Chairmen’s contact information is due in 2024.

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 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 for each Department. The estimated number of assistants needed is 28-30.

The Distinguished Guests Committee has a Chairman and two Vice Chairmen. The Vice Chairmen are the Distinguished Guests Registration Chairman and the Distinguished Guests Holding Area Chairman. The Committee will also need two full-time drivers for the National Commander and the National Adjutant. The estimated number of assistants required is 2-6 for each committee. The duties of each committee are exactly as they sound.

The Information/Registration Committee manages 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, provide rooming arrangements that may be required, and provide volunteers to assist with seating attendees. We must also identify a well known local group that can perform at this event. If you have any suggestions, submit them to Bruce or me. 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.



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Buddy Checks/Depression Help

Lena Heredia-Perez, Resolutions Vice Chair

resolutionsvice@legionmail.org



As Legionnaires, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow Veterans. As we embark on the upcoming holiday season (Veteran’s Week November 7-14, Veteran’s Day, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, etc.), we need to ensure that we are reaching out to all our brothers and sisters. For many, the holidays are a time to look forward to and a happy time of the year. But that is not always the case. For some people, the holidays can be a difficult and emotionally exhausting time.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), they found that 64% of people living with a mental illness reported that their conditions worsened around the holidays. So what can we do?

Create a Buddy Check Team and check in with your members often, even the ones who seem like they are doing well. Sometimes, people can smile and hide their feelings of anxiety or depression behind a brave face. They could benefit from talking to someone about how they are truly doing. When

someone takes time and care to reach out, it reinforces that we are seen and have supportive people in our lives.

Listen with sympathy; you don’t have to understand how someone is feeling to have respect for it. Being there to let someone express their feelings in a safe environment can be very impactful for someone going through depression. Try to engage by responding with supportive statements or asking follow-up questions. Avoid telling them to cheer up or saying, “Well, things could be worse.” These remarks can invalidate and minimize the other person’s feelings, which might make them regret opening up.

If you suffer from depression, what can you do to take care of yourself?

- Make sure your expectations are realistic. Ask yourself if you are asking too much from yourself or perhaps you are expecting too much from someone else.
- Practice saying ‘no’. You are only one person, and there’s only so much you can do on a given day or given holiday. Setting boundaries is

normal and healthy.

- Look forward to the future: The end of the year is naturally a time for reflection, but try to focus on the future, not the past.
- Make a budget and stick to it.
- Limit external sources of holiday pressure, i.e., social media or activities associated with the holidays. Don’t compare yourself to others.
- Do something for someone else: Serving others was likely one of the reasons you joined the military. You can continue to serve. Just look around your community.
- Don’t slack on self-care. Take time for yourself and be open to experimenting with new self-care strategies.
- Talk with a mental health professional. Talk therapy can help you cope with stress and symptoms of anxiety and depression.

If you need help formulating a Buddy Check Team, you can find all the updated information to plan and execute successful Buddy Checks by going online to [Tools For Buddy Check Teams | The American Legion](#).

School Medal Information

Deveron Reaves, School Medals Chair

schoolmedals@legionmail.org



The month of November is filled with several holidays and events of importance. First, there is Election Day. Your vote can decide the future of our youth for generations to come. Second, Veteran’s Day

is celebrated because of the heroes who have fought for our country, state, and nation. And third, Thanksgiving, for everyone to be thankful for what

we have – past, present, and future.

On that note, as Post chairmen, now is the time to take stock of your school medal supplies and order what you need before the time comes at the end of the year award ceremonies. The items you may need the most are as follows:

Product	Item Number	Price
Presentation Folio	733.200	\$1.95
School Medal Only(LG)	717.200	\$9.95

Certificate Only	733.105	\$1.25
		\$85.00 pack of 100
1¼ Medal/Certificate	717.200c	\$9.95
Certificate Maker USB	755.409	\$9.95

*This includes templates for the most popular certificates that your Post Legion Family may use.

You can order your supplies in two different ways:

Phone Orders – 1-888-453-4466

Internet Orders – www.emblem.legion.org



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Freedom Flight/Project VetRelief

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements Chair

benefits@legionmail.org



September was Suicide awareness month.

I want to give a huge shout-out to some people who are definitely, an example of



Chapter 69 Riders escorted 25 Veterans at 3 a.m. from Sebring, FL, to Wauchula, FL, for the Freedom Flight. I can't stand it when someone says it's too early to escort. My belief is if Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans can get up at 3 a.m. for this trip, so can we.

Rotary Clubs in Avon Park, FL, and Wauchula, FL, for taking the Veterans to Washington, DC. I had some Vietnam Veterans come back from the trip and said when they came back from Vietnam, they were treated like crap, and on this trip, they felt like someone cared.



That same day at 1 pm

Amvets Post 21 In Sebring, FL, did a fundraiser for Project VetRelief

Judy Casey, the Women Veterans Chair, and I were able to talk to many Veterans about their benefits. In fact, one of the female Veterans we got lined up to go to SOF Missions all Female Veterans retreat.



RL James, for the outstanding Golf Tournament fundraiser, I can't say enough about Bob James and his crew. These Golf Tournaments are saving lives. Project VetRelief \$73,059.41



**American Legion Post 382
Jason and Loreen Skobel
Black Bird Anthem
Challenge 22**

What an outstanding job they did on the Challenge 22 event; I know that this event was a success. I met four mothers who lost their sons to suicide, and I got Michele Ladd on the phone from Mothers of Veterans Suicide to talk to those moms. All four mothers are going on a retreat with the mothers of Veterans Suicide in December.

Black Bird Anthem, led by singer Adam Martin, a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of Post 69, has a song called 22 please check the song.



VA Entitlements continued on page 20 >>



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<< VA Entitlements continued from page 19

Please come out to the Veterans Expo

This event I call the Veterans Benefits Super Bowl.

If you want to know anything about VA, State, Project VetRelief, and local benefits, this event is where you need to be.

This event is a 2-day event. On Friday, January 5th, we escort the Mobile Vietnam Wall and the Global War of Tears to Post 69; everyone is welcome to be part of the escort. The 12 Strategic Partners that have teamed up with Project Vet Relief will be on sight, plus the FDVA who does the disability claims. Saturday, January 6th, the main event is the Vietnam Wall and the Global War of Tears, Thunder the Bald Eagle live band, and 60 Organizations that help Veterans.

VA Healthcare Information

Alan Cohen, VA&R Chair

var@legionmail.org



Greetings, fellow Legionnaires!

When you read this, preparations will have been made for the Department's Fall Conference. As always, meeting and greeting fellow Legionnaires from all over Florida will be a wonderful opportunity. Just as important is that several important classes will be offered, including the two-day course for Post Service Officers. This is an information-packed class conducted by our Florida Department of Veterans Affairs partners. Additionally, we have guest speakers from outside the Legion who will be sharing even more information that will aid us in helping Florida's Veteran population. Again, I can't encourage all

Posts strongly enough to send a member to this class.

As you know, more often than not, I'm the first one to sing the praises of the VA healthcare system. However, I must bring to light an issue affecting thousands of us: travel Pay. The VA has instituted a policy that Veterans who qualify to receive travel pay **MUST** request it using the VA's website and can no longer do that in person after their healthcare visits. As you might guess, this places a tremendous and undue burden on Veterans who are either not computer savvy or don't own a computer. What are they to do? 'Until now, what happens is that they lose out on a benefit they've earned. I'm asking that you contact your local elected representative and **TELL** them that this needs to change, with accommodation made for these Veterans. I

emphasize the word "TELL" because they work for us and asked for our vote when they ran for office. At the same time, I'm ranting, another issue that has come into more light than before and is heating up. I've previously spoken about "claims sharks,"...individuals or companies not accredited by the VA to represent and file claims for the Veteran family. They talk a great game and, in most cases, infer that they can guarantee success. NOBODY can guarantee to win a claim. In exchange, the Veteran is charged (in various ways) fees or "donations" in the thousands of dollars. This practice is illegal and in direct violation of not only VA policy but also that of reputable VSOs. As of this writing, there are several lawsuits against these groups. There has also been legislation introduced in Congress to make these actions

VA&R continued on page 21 >>



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<< VA&R continued from page 20

punishable by law—Rant over, and thanks for listening.

On to some good news. I have recently learned that thanks to the efforts of Rep. Gus Bilirakis, there is a group of dentists who are offering Veterans in their local area expanded dental care. This affects Veterans primarily in the 15th District.

For more information, call the Congressman’s Office at 727-232-2921.

Also, by the time you read this, we’ll have experienced the first National Buddy Call week. This is so valuable in so many ways. It helps reconnect Veterans to the community and lets them know that we care enough to reach out and more. A simple “How’re you doing?” or “Anything we can do for

you?” goes much further than you might think. It can help a Veteran fight food insecurity or even worse. Make a phone call or 5!

So, that wraps it up for me this month. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference, and I’ll leave you with this life lesson: you know you’re getting old when everything dries up or leaks.

Challenge to Make a Difference

Joan Suelter, Women Veterans Chair

womenvets@legionmail.org



This month, I want to issue a **Challenge** to you all. Can you “Be The One” to “Make a difference” in recognizing our female Veterans?

Women have contributed and

still serve in the most professional, educated, and strongest military the U.S. has ever seen. Despite their longstanding service, many women Veterans struggle to feel recognized or respected as Veterans in civilian life. After all they have done, they deserve the respect and support they earned through their service.

Florida is home to more than 165,000 women

Veterans, the second-largest population in the nation.

My Challenge-- as we work on recruiting new members, how can you reach out to our female Veteran population in your area? What best practices have you established to get the word out? I would look forward to reading some of your success stories.

Retreat for Women Veterans

Judy Casey, Women Veterans Vice Chair

womenvetsvice@legionmail.org

It’s been a busy month. I had the honor of meeting the Women Veteran Research Manager for Bay Pines VA Medical Center and will attend an event on 10-21-23 at Bay Pines, Walk for Breast Cancer. I encourage all the women Veterans to come out and meet and greet your fellow women

Veterans.

I went to the SOF Missions retreat for our female warriors on 10-13-23 and met 12 new female Veterans. I attended the first retreat for the women, and if anyone would like to participate in this retreat, I highly recommend it. You get to meet some amazing women, and it’s a place of healing.

Just call me, and I will put you in contact with them.

On another note, Highlands County Veterans are getting a bigger clinic. They also had the honor of meeting the Director of Bay Pines. The new clinic will be around 17,000 square feet and offer more services at the new location.



FALL CONFERENCE | 2023

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

November 17-19, 2023
Caribe Royale Orlando

- Over flow hotels listed
- Agenda now online
- Class Registration available



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Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman Report

William Kelly, SAL NEC

2023 National George B Evans Veterans Advocate Of The Year

The Sons of The American Legion traveled to Indianapolis, IN.

October 6, 7, & 8, 2023, for the National Executive Committee Fall Meetings. Due to work obligations and illness, we were down to just two attendees: CDR Sambets and myself.

The SAL National Organization and Staff have reorganized the scheduled times. We are scheduling and completing all of our Commission and Committee meetings Friday night and Saturday morning before convening the National Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday at 1 PM.

The Americanism Commission reported and requested that every Detachment and Squadron start planning now for The American Legion Family Day on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Post/Squadrons are requested to open their door and welcome members of their community. The purpose of this event is to educate who The American Legion and their Family is and to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of The American Legion Family and The Sons of The American Legion.

The Children & Youth Committee reported that the SAL Children & Youth Academy is working on a curriculum with age-appropriate hands-on activities, registration forms with emergency contact information, participant patches, and gathering feedback from participants and their parents. National CDR JR Hall has a Youth Initiative this year, and more information will be available soon, but start planning activities for April Children and Youth Month now.

CWF Committee reported that the President of the Child Welfare Foundation referred to it as it should be called The Sons of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation because the SAL donated over 62% of all monies in 2022-2023. This year, the SAL is nearing a very significant goal of 10 million dollars donated by the Sons to CWF. A group of SAL members are meeting to devise a celebration when we reach this significant goal. Donations for SAL CWF are up 24% so far this year.

Century Committee (Centcom) Was created in 2021 to create a strategic plan to take the SAL into the next century. A subcommittee of Centcom, The 100 Anniversary Committee, was created to plan for the anniversary in 2032, with both committees planning for these events.

Internal Affairs Commission, along with the Membership Committee, Member Training & Development Committee, and Convention Committee, were reporting. IA has asked to have TAL Family Day included in the National Consolidated Squadron Reports. There were two resolutions: a Candidate resolution that was filed and a membership resolution that was returned to the committee for further research.

The Membership Committee was planning a membership workshop on Saturday, 10/7 morning.

The committee is working on more awards to stimulate membership and is trying for "EVERYONE SAYS 400" with a goal of 400,000 members and all Detachments at 105% of the goal using Retention, Recruitment, and Restatement. The Welcome Kit and new member involvement, Squadron Welcoming Committee, and being considerate of ideas by new members. The new National Southeast Region was leading the way, with Florida turning in the most membership, 7,059 in, at 30.60% as of the 10/9

report.

Member Training & Development Committee's Sons of The American Legion (SAL) University has completed its planning stage, secured finance, and will make its first presentation this Spring. One of the 1st classes presented was the new National Executive Committeeman orientation class. This is to update, provide handouts, and inform new and experienced NECs. Applications for the SAL University will be coming soon.

The Convention Committee, with our own committeeman Gerard Sambets, reviewed the past convention in Charlotte and was discussing and preparing for the Convention in New Orleans 2024.

The Legislative Commission is preparing for the Washington Conference, February 24th-28th. On Sunday, February 25th, the SAL will sponsor a bus trip to Veteran Memorials for wreath layings again. This bus trip to Arlington National Cemetery and other memorials is open to the entire American Legion Family at a minimum cost for lunch & ANC. Florida will once again this year be laying a wreath. Don't forget, if you haven't signed up for Voter's Voice to support Veterans' legislation, do it today! Use the QR code for easy signup.

Public & Media Communications Commission Wants to remind everyone to look for new, revised, electronically delivered SAL National Newsletter. P&MC Commission is working on a resolution to match the cutoff dates for Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service. Don't forget to submit your photos and videos for national awards for this year.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission is continuing TAL National CDR Dan's & SAL National CDR JRs "BE THE ONE" campaign to prevent Veteran

SAL NEC continued on page 23 >>





<< SAL NEC continued from page 22

Suicide. VA&R is requesting more Detachments, Squadrons, and members get involved with the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) as a Veteran or deputy Veteran Administration Hospitals representative. The VA has allowed the Sons of The American Legion to be its own certifying officer, making it significantly easier to become a representative. Please consider joining today. The SAL has become a voting member of the Veterans Administration National Veterans Service Organizations that submits resolutions on behalf of Veterans to the Secretary of the Veterans Administration. The Commission reminds all Detachments to start working on providing a candidate for the VA&R Charles B Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award. The commission is also looking into creating other award categories.

The Finance Commission Reviewed the SAL 2023 Budget Reconciliations and presentation of the 2024 Budget.

The SAL NEC Orientation ends on Saturdays at about 7 p.m.

Due to circumstances beyond their control, the

leading & trailing National Candidates, Joseph Navarrete and William Clancy had their Candidate's Call at the Embassy Suites, which I attended. It was a very nice affair.

Sunday started bright and early with the religious services and the meetings opening with The American Legion National Commander Daniel J Seehafer (WI) continuing the message of "BE THE ONE" to prevent Veteran suicide and Servient Service. Are you doing everything you can in your jobs that allows you to continue wearing that cover? Please encourage everyone to fill out your squadron reports. We only had 31.2% of all Squadrons reporting last year, and you still did, totaling over \$114 Million in Volunteer Hours Valued and donations. Think if we got 10% more Squadrons to Report?

Next was National Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson (AK). The Auxiliary will be supporting The American Legion's "BE THE ONE" program with our ASK, Listen, Respond program from Call Me Lisa.

The CWF President Robert Morrill thanked us for our Great Job donating to the CWF. He asked us to continue sharing the CWF Reports and to keep up the outstanding work supporting the CWF.

Special Guest Dennis Boland was called to say a few words, thanking us for all the years of support. National Commander Donald (JR) Hall concluded the Fall meetings by asking us to take back the question in Servient Service: Do You Deserve To Wear That Cover? Are you doing everything you can in that National, Detachment, or Squadron job? The changes in the scheduled meetings, are good? So change is good! With that, the NEC Fall Meetings concluded.

My take on the NEC Meetings: everyone always says to me, "Have fun." This is work with no payment and minimum reimbursement of expenditures. Why do I do it? Get up at 3 AM Friday morning, catch a 6 AM flight, fly 1660 miles roundtrip, lift to and from the airport, spend 12 to 14 hours in meetings, sleep or not sleep in a hotel, eat on the run, and after 70 hours arrive back home at 10 Sunday night and then report it. Contributions in the last two years: new Constitution and bylaws, an Outline of Authorization, and new committees to better serve the NEC. Why? Servient Service to the Sons of the American Legion to help make it better. Hopefully, it will make The American Legion better and, in some way, help our country's Veterans.

What is VoterVoice

William Kelly, SAL NEC

VoterVoice is a comprehensive digital advocacy solution to help the American Legion mobilize American Legion Family Members, amplify the American Legion message, and take action on the legislation and regulations that matter to you.

The American Legion's Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for

connecting the American Legion Family members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities.

It's simple & painless and just freaking easy!! Take two minutes and become an advocate for

all Veterans! Joining VoterVoice allows you to continue supporting the ideas and beliefs of The American Legion, The American Legion Family, and the individual who gave you eligibility to join the Sons and become the Sons member you are today.



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



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Oliver D. Nicholson Post 221: A Model of Revitalization

Jim Remsburg, District 1 Historian

In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's Veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America, and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year. Our organization's positions and programs are guided by resolutions passed by American Legion National Convention delegates and by committee and commission members who represent 2.5 million wartime Veterans and their families. These programs and the men and women who take the time to perform them allow The American Legion to make a difference on the local, state, and national levels. It's who we are at Post 221 and what we do.

In the summer of 1946, a group of Niceville Veterans gathered in City Hall to form an American Legion Post. The plans came together and were completed on August 15, 1946. The Charter for American Legion, Oliver D. Nicholson Post 221 of Niceville, was official, with 15 charter members. J.C. Helms was the first Commander.

A short time later, Cecil L. Anchors was the first elected Commander. The land the Post was built upon was donated by a member of the Meigs family. Post members borrowed \$5,000 from a man who asked for no collateral and created a 30-by-70-foot building on John Sims Parkway. At that time, John Sims Parkway was a dirt road. They had numerous fish fries (probably mullet) and dance parties to repay the loan. Since it was the largest building in Niceville, many others used it for meetings and parties. At that time, there was no air conditioning, and it got very hot inside, so they poured a concrete slab behind the building for outside gatherings and square dances.

The Post was named in honor of Corporal Oliver Daniel Nicholson, son of Thomas and Alvaretta Nicholson of Niceville. Oliver was Niceville's first casualty of WWII. He enlisted in the U.S. Marines in December 1939 in San Francisco and served in the Marine detachment aboard the USS Lexington (CV-2) in the Coral Sea.



Today, American Legion Post 221 still resides in the original building, but few would recognize it from its original configuration. The canteen was moved into the space formally occupied by the meeting hall, and a large, modern bar was constructed to accommodate the nearly 800 members if, as we do, count all our families as members. Post 221 has over 550 Legionnaires, 140+ Auxiliary members, 70+ Sons, and 85+ Legion Riders. Post 221 is a true "Be the One" representative of the Four Pillars of the American Legion. They support two Scout Troops (157 and 1157), A Bed For Me and Freedom Life Compass children advocate charities, The Pavilion and Manor Rest Homes, elderly rehabilitation facilities, and two Northwest Florida State College nursing scholarships. The 221 Auxiliary donated more than 60 hand-made blankets for elderly shut-ins and made monthly Buddy-Checks for our elderly members. Our Sons support local not-for-profit organizations with donations and physical support

for their various activities. Our 221 Legion Riders and Post 221 spearheaded the humanitarian relief call-to-action effort for the Mayfield, KY, disaster tornado relief. Together, the District One Legion Riders and the 221 Legion Riders donated more than \$22,000 for the Mayfield relief effort. During the Hurricane Ian relief efforts, Post 221 members donated and transported two 10x16 trailer loads of relief supplies to Post 30 to be distributed by Project Vet Relief. In November of 2023 Post 221 is sponsoring a Veterans Day Memorial Service that is open to public attendance. The Hon. Matt Gaetz (Florida Representative) will be the Keynote Speaker. Every year in December, Post 221 rallies in support of Niceville, FL, disadvantaged families during the Holiday season. Santa Claus makes an appearance for the kids of Niceville at Post 221, and last year, Post 221 distributed over 60 packages of aid for needy families. The packages included holiday foodstuffs and presents for the children who probably would not have had a Christmas celebration otherwise. The elderly inhabitants of the Pavilion also received a visit from Santa Claus.

In 2023, the revitalization of Post 221 is led by Our Commander, James Crane, whose tireless efforts and extremely positive attitude serve as an example for the rest of the members of Post 221. In 2023-24, the Department of Florida Commander Michael Raymond challenged all the Legionnaires in The Department of Florida to "Be the One" through his mission statement of "Integrity, Loyalty, and Purpose." No Post is "Proud to be Legion" more than the members of Post 221.



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First Women Veteran Counselor at Boys State

Darcy Bockman-Wright, District 4 Boys State Chair



The faint buzzer of my alarm wakes me on a dark June morning. The cold Florida State University dorm floor greets my feet with what will soon become routine for the next seven days as the 79th Annual American Legion Florida Boys State begins.

As I dress in my infamous Boys State blue counselor polo, I have been made aware that I will be the "first" female counselor attached to a city. Dawning BDU during my enlistment in the Army in the 90's gave me ample preparation for what I believe I was about to endure. But honestly, the idea of 450 young men across the beautiful State of Florida didn't scare me with Bekki Tibbs as my somewhat partner in crime.

The buses began to arrive, and it felt like boot camp all over again, except for no screams and tears this time. Most boys over-packed except those who felt pillowcases and sheets were optional. Upon arrival, they took the elevators to their prospective cities, unaware they would soon become expert stair masters once the elevator became off-limits. With doors slamming and kids' laughter quickly filling the halls, they adjusted to their new home for the following week. As the crowds died down, we began hearing about broken-down buses, accidents, and unaccounted for individuals. It was only 9 a.m., and it felt like 18 hours since my alarm went off just 2.5 hours earlier. The calm had taken over the halls, and now it was time to rally the troops and see just what Jack, my Comer Lake City co-counselor, and I had to work with. We began knocking on the doors and informing the boys of our first of many city meetings we would be having promptly at 10 a.m. I am quickly learning time will not be my friend for the following week as I continue to glance over the abundance of city meetings, assigning duties,

elections, classes, walks roundtrip to the Tucker Center, not to mention feeding these growing boys and somehow fit some sleep in as well.

The boys were from all over, but soon, I felt a bond

raised. How about a grandfather or grandmother? Finally, two hands. I explained how the lack of respect they were showing for this project was, in my eye, as hurtful as kneeling for the anthem. The disrespect for every respective Post that had busted



COMER LAKES
FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION
BOYS STATE 2023

as we embarked on an experience that would create a friendship like those battle buddies from long ago. If you know, you know. We introduced ourselves, explaining our sponsoring Post, name, and the city we reside in. We were a collection of everything and everyone without exception. As a counselor, I hesitated to learn how I would lead these boys, and our first objective was for the boys to explain "What Americanism means to them." They had 30 minutes, and one (selected by the city) would read theirs aloud in front of the entire Boys State program and represent his fellow Comer Lake comrades. As talking and laughter continued, I observed no one working on the speech. I called for their attention and asked if any had a parent in the military. Not one hand

their butts to collect the \$450 per Delegate fee for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. As a 4th District Chair of Boys State, Legionnaire, and Veteran, this was to be the first of a few moments I explained the sacrifices our service men and women continue to make as they looked into my eyes. After a small discussion, they began to write.

The next few days marching to the Tucker Center, I engaged with boys from other cities and found out many hadn't even interacted with their Legion Post; instead, a guidance counselor did the vast, if not all, the work. This was one thing that I think bothered

District 4 Boys State continued on page 26 >>



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2023-2024 COMMANDER MICHAEL "GAMBLER" RAYMOND

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<< District 4 Boys State continued from page 25

me most. This program allows these boys an opportunity to step out of their hometown comfort routine and challenge themselves to debate the things they believe in, meeting people from other walks of life and parts of the state through the same rose-colored sunglasses. While many experienced successes, I also witnessed individuals process failure while getting up repeatedly after losing 12 back-to-back campaigns for every position. Now I find out some Posts pay the way but are missing out on making a difference in a generation, not just their community. Without the Legion as its mentoring influence, we as a Department are missing the essence of why we have Boys State.

That week, I watched boys turn to men during debates. We took the most in-depth dive into Florida State history from the one and only Bob Knight (costumes and hats included). I witnessed friendships as they held hands and danced unified to Neil

Diamond's "Sweet Caroline." I watched Comer Lakes' Ben get chosen for Boys Nation, and yes, I cried; maybe even Jack did, too. As his name echoed in Tucker, I recall the pride from everything coming full circle at that moment. He was not my only on-loan son for the week because they were all my sons at this point, even some who were not from my city or district.

Before I end this article, I want you to know a few things. Did you know that all the Florida Highway Patrol Troopers are volunteers, working as counselors, transportation, and security for these young men? Local Posts have not recognized them or even knew we had a Law and Order program to do such good deeds. Think about it: "Why are we not recognizing those who support our actual programs with boots on the ground?" Did you know that the program in Florida has one of the most sought-after Boys State programs in the nation? Director Andrew Satterlee continues to improve this program with every chance

he is given; as costs continue to rise, so does the bar.

So, while an increase of \$45 a Delegate was due, this alone won't be enough during these economic times. So, as the year ends, consider a donation of \$80 as we embark on the 80th Florida Boys State session starting June 16-22. Please send it to the Department ATTN: Bekki Tibbs for Boys State in the memo line. Whether your Post sends a delegate or a financial donation, know you are essential to the Boys State's continued success.

Just thinking about this experience has made me tired. I'm excited about what this next boys' state adventure will bring to the boys of Florida, my community, and my life.

To all the amazing and dedicated staff and volunteers I encountered, "THANK YOU." My life is forever changed because of and through this program. The Department of Florida strives to achieve excellence, and Boys State is no different.

Dorie Miller Celebration

Melanie Caputo, District 6 ALR Adjutant

The Dorie Miller Memorial Post, Post 331, honored their namesake by celebrating his birthday on October 12.



Due to poor weather conditions, they laid a wreath at the statue in front of the Post on Sunday, October 16. Post Commander Larry Colleton & Eastern Area Commander Joe Marcheggiani had the privilege. Also in attendance were the District 6 Officers.



Thomas won \$1K in our Early Bird draw!
Will you be next?

Thomas S.
Post 35
Early Bird Draw 10/13/2023

50/50 RAFFLE
4 VETERANS

BI-WEEKLY DRAWINGS
florida participants only

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Ride for Agent Orange

Melanie Caputo, District 6 ALR Adjutant





On Saturday, October 14, District 6 American Legion Riders had their First Annual Agent Orange Awareness Unity Ride. The group of over 50 bikes

and 63 riders from Posts 10, 19, 35, 55, 63, 101, 219, & 347 started in Bushnell, stopped at Brooksville, visited the VetFest in Spring Hill, stopped at Clermont, and ended in Mount Dora.

D6 ALR Adjutant Melanie Caputo gave a brief statement about Agent Orange and the PACT Act at the start. Road Captain Anita Hutchinson planned a most excellent ride!



**REGISTRATION 9-10AM POST 101 BUSHNELL
KSU 10:15AM \$20PP (INCLUDES PATCH)**

-  **STOP: POST 99 BROOKSVILLE**
 -  **STOP: POST 418 SPRINGHILL**
 -  **STOP: POST 55 CLERMONT**
 -  **ENDS: POST 35 MT DORA**
- with Live Music 5-9pm
and Dinner 5-until gone*



*Wear Orange
in Support
of our
Vietnam Veterans*

1ST ANNUAL HORIZON WEST POST 419 VETERAN'S DAY WALK/RUCK EVENT



The event will start at Home State Brewing Company's courtyard where the Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held. The walk/ruck/run will start at Home State Brewing Co., go to Bass Park, and return to Home State. Bass Park will have a water and rest station. Those not joining the walk/ruck are welcome to commiserate in the garden at Home State while waiting for participants. Home State Brewing Co. opens at 8 a.m. and offers Filigree coffee. Beer taps and kitchen open at 11. Home State Brewing Co. offers 15% off to veterans.

NOVEMBER 11, 2023

10:15 GATHER

10:45 COMMENCEMENT

11:11 STEP OFF

FOLLOWING THE EVENT, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STAY AND RAISE A GLASS WITH US!



**16016 NEW INDEPENDENCE PKWY #100,
WINTER GARDEN, FL**



**DONATION-BASED
FUNDRAISING RAFFLE,**
donations will support Post 419
American Legion programs
supporting local veterans, Horizon
West youth & community outreach



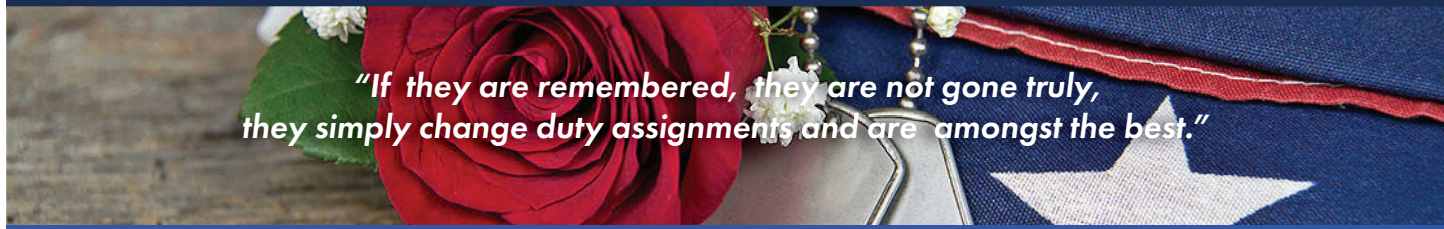
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Post Everlasting



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



Thomas C. "TC" Biddle

With deep sadness, we report the passing of Past Department Eastern Area Commander Thomas C. "TC" Biddle of Fruitland Park, Florida, who passed away on Friday, October 6, 2023, at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife, Leonora Biddle. At this time, there are no details regarding services. Any new information will be

communicated to you through email as well as Posted on the Department's website.

TC was a U.S. Army Vietnam Era Veteran and a Lady Lake Post 347 member with 32 continuous years of membership. TC served as Post Commander from 2006-07. At the Department level, he served as 6th District Commander from 2013-15, Law & Order Chair from 2017-18, and Eastern Area Commander from 2015-16 &

2019-21. At the National level, he served on the National Security Council from 2014-16.

If you would like to send your condolences, you may do so through his wife, Leonora Biddle, at 3434 Trout Ave., Fruitland Park, FL 34731-6318.

A Committal Service was held on October 27, 2023.



Charles F. "Charlie" Shoudy, Jr.

The Department of Florida Headquarters was just notified of the passing of Past Southwestern Area Commander Charles F. "Charlie" Shoudy, Jr., of Waterville, ME (formerly of Sarasota, FL). Charlie passed

away on September 7, 2022, at the age of 69. Please see Charlie's obituary below. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Debra Shoudy Adams, at 14 Ash St., Waterville, ME 04901.

Charles F. Shoudy, Jr., "Charlie," 69, of Waterville, ME (formerly of Sarasota, FL), passed away peacefully on September 07, 2022 surrounded by the love, strength, and support of loved ones at Central Maine Medical Center.

Charles was born on July 23, 1953 to Charles F. Shoudy, Sr. and Margaret Shoudy in Mount Holly, New Jersey. After graduation, Charlie went on to be a lifelong proud Army man, specializing in Field Artillery, including being stationed overseas in Germany for multiple years. He also enjoyed his time as an Army Recruiter. Charlie married the love of his life, Debra (Adams) Shoudy, on

July 23, 1994. Charlie and Debbie moved from Maine to Florida and back home to Maine again; welcomed many beautiful grandchildren and made a lifetime of beautiful memories.

Charlie was a determined, charismatic, force of nature who loved his family. During his military years he was also a competitive bowler, often scoring a perfect 300. He loved to make people laugh, continuing right up to the end, even cracking jokes with the life flight pilot that transported him to CMMC. This charm made him a favorite among participants when he was calling bingo, an activity he loved to do. Charlie was unendingly proud of his service in the military and passionate about the United States of America. He never saw an American flag without taking a moment for a salute. The only thing he was more proud of than his military service was his family. He loved to brag about his children and grandchildren.

Charlie was a lifelong American Legion member, including time spent as Post Commander at Post 51 in Oakland, ME, Post Commander at Post 312 in Oneco, FL, and 2nd Vice Commander at Post 5 in Waterville, ME. He was Legionnaire of the Year in 2015 at Post 5 in Waterville,

ME. Every year for as long as he was capable, you would find Charlie proudly marching in many Veterans Day parades wearing his dress blues. He was invited to speak at a local school's Veterans Day celebration as well, making his attending grandchildren proud.

Charlie was predeceased by his parents Charles Sr. and Margaret Shoudy; mother-in-law Sally Adams; Sister Catherine Folk and her son; and brother Mike Wasserman. He is survived by his wife Debra Shoudy and their children Trenton Dyer, Kirsten Dyer, Brysenn Dyer; son Jason Stevens with wife Lydia Stevens and their children Caimbree and Callum; daughter Nikole Fowler with husband Branden Fowler and their children Noah, Sophia, Reed, and Quinn; daughter Jennifer Stanfill and her sons Chandler and Gavin; son Aaron Shoudy; daughter Hallie Stevens; brother Chris Shoudy with wife Tami-Lynn; Nephew Matthew Shoudy with wife Amber and their kids Mason, Madison, Dustin; brother Joey Wasserman and family, sister Carol Wasserman and family, father-in-law & partner in crime "Oopee" Jim Adams, sister-in-law Brenda Athy with husband Greg, and many other loved family and friends.



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MEMBERSHIP TARGET REPORT

October 27, 2023 (59.74%)

District 3	Stuart Scott	65.95%
District 2	Doyle Combs, Jr.	64.72%
District 4	Doug Hockenberry	63.86%
District 9	Rico Thomas	63.47%
District 7	Rick Orzechowski	62.62%
District 14	Thomas Frank	62.03%
District 1	Shelby Windham	61.77%
District 17	Jim Bowers	61.53%
District 12	Bruce Thurber	60.82%
District 6	Peter Gregory	60.33%
District 11	Toni Sutherland	60.16%
District 15	Randy Holeyfield	58.94%
District 5	Miguel Garcia	58.54%
District 8	John Rauh	57.44%
District 16	Eric Nestler	55.79%
District 13	Eric Loyd	55.74%
Western	Sonny Decker	62.20%
Southern	Johnny Castro	61.68%
Northern	Lena Heredia-Perez	61.19%
Eastern	Joe Marcheggiani	60.55%
Central	Bob Matheson	57.61%
Southwestern	Harold "Bud" Boyer	56.51%
Post 400		61.15%
Post 208		61.04%

NEXT GOAL: November 8, 2023

65%

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The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been protecting Legionnaires and their families for over 50 years.



 **LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST**

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 Department of Florida

RAFFLE



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THE AMERICAN LEGION FLORIDALEGION.ORG

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The American Legion official license plate.



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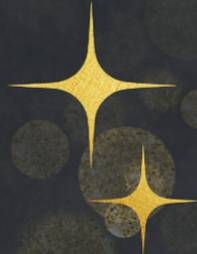
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There's No Place Like Home



Northern Area Ball

Jan **13** 2024
Saturday 6:00 PM



American Legion Post 57

2602 SW Main Blvd Lake City, FL

RSVP: 904.449.6318 or use the QR code to prepurchase tickets/ Ads.

Activities: Best Costume Contest, Fratello Classic Rock Live Band, Raffles,
& Silent Auction for 1 week stay at Westgate Resort

Hotel Reservations:

Holiday Inn & Suites 386.754.1411

Dress Attire:

Ask for the Northern Area Room Rate \$149.99

Semi Formal OR Come dressed up as a character
from the **Wizard of Oz Movie**

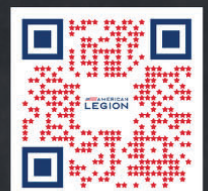
Tickets:

Program Ads:

\$40.00 Per Person or \$70.00 Per Couple

\$30.00 Half Page or \$50.00 Full Page

All Proceeds go toward Boys & Girl State Scholarships





AMERICAN
LEGION

Western Area Commander's
BALL

Come have a Nip of Kentucky
Bourbon with Sonny Decker

Smooth as
Kentucky Bourbon

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

Post 235

105 Hollywood Blvd NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Meet & Greet 5pm | Dinner 6pm

Wear your Sonny Decker Shirt, all proceeds go to
Project: Vet Relief/Suicide Prevention!

Don't forget your Jeans and Boots!

*We will have a staff attended buffet, live music
& comedy roast*

TICKETS: \$35 EACH./\$60 COUPLES IN ADVANCE

(Online tickets & shirt sales coming soon)

CALL JEANIE HENSON AT 850-445-9186 FOR MORE INFO

25th ANNUAL Ride For The Toys

SATURDAY * DECEMBER 9, 2023
CRESTVIEW, FL

START

Crestview Walmart Parking Lot
Registration 9:30-11:00
\$10 Donation
+ New Unwrapped Gift

FINISH

Crestview American Legion Post 75
Food, Music, Raffles, 50/50

TOYS AND FUNDS DONATED TO:

FamiliesFirst Network, Crestview

Contact Information

Craig Mull: 850-902-1040
Robert "Oz" Osmon: 850-305-0819
ALPOST75.ORG



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OR
SHINE!**

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Oscar E. Wilson
Post 75
898 East James Lee Blvd
Crestview, FL 32539
850-689-3195


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

SATURDAY JAN 20, 2024
STARTING AT 12:00PM



LIVE MUSIC BY LAST CALL BAND

RAFFLES!
DINNER!
& MUCH MORE!

TICKETS:

\$25/PERSON \$40/COUPLE

CONTACT A VICE COMMANDER FOR TICKETS

CHRIS: (321) 313 - 3469

JESSICA: (239) 839 - 0602

AMERICAN LEGION POST 117

189 VETERANS DRIVE PALM BAY, FL

PROCEEDS BENEFIT



Children's Organ
Transplant Association



DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

DISTRICT 13

CHILDREN & YOUTH PICNIC FUND RAISER



November 5, 2023

11 am - 4 pm

American Legion Post 323
1124 Ashlar Ave, Lehigh Acres FL
(239) 369-3178



Games for children and adults,
Food, Baskets, 50/50

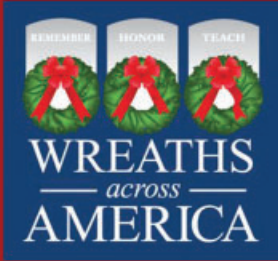


All money goes towards
District 13
Boys & Girls State
Transprotation

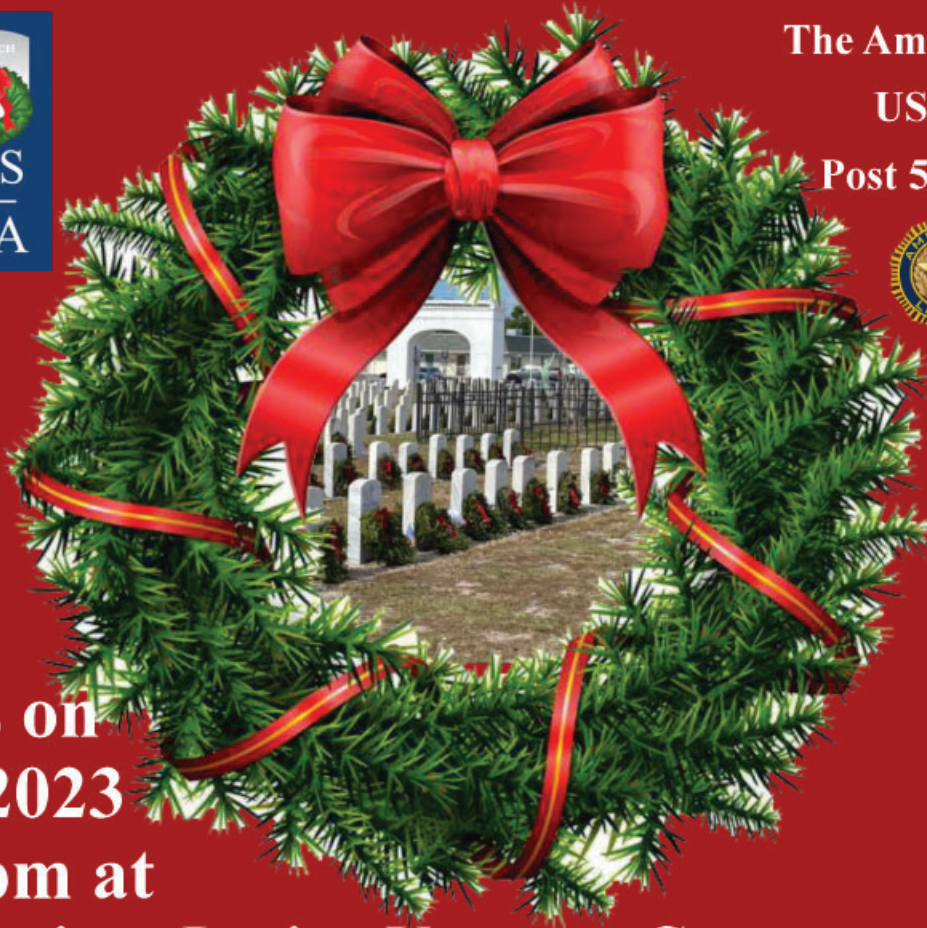


Questions or Concerns:
Dennis Boland (239) 641-1224





The American Legion
USS Tampa
Post 5, Tampa FL



Join us on
12-16-2023
12:00 pm at
The American Legion Veterans Cemetery at Post 5



We welcome all to participate in the National Wreaths Across America program in Tampa, FL (over 4,000 locations participate). Please consider sponsoring a wreath for \$17. All donations appreciated and go to the program. Find out more at Post5Tampa.org





50 | 50
RAFFLE **4 VETERANS**

RAFFLE

★ ★ ★ **BI-WEEKLY DRAWINGS** ★ ★ ★

florida participants only

Show your support for Florida's veterans and their families through
The American Legion, Department of Florida's 50/50 Raffle!

What a perfect way to show our patriotism and support our nation's heroes while having
the chance to win BIG!

Questions: 1-800-393-3378

The Florida Legion 50/50 Raffle is a fundraising effort where proceeds benefit The American Legion, Department of Florida, Inc, a 501c19 nonprofit organization located at 1912A Lee Rd, Orlando, FL 32810. Cash prizes will be paid to our lucky winner(s) from the net proceeds generated from each raffle. Any additional or special drawing, such as an early bird drawing, will be announced before the start of any bi-weekly drawing. Participating Florida American Legion Posts will receive a part of the proceeds, too! All Winners, early bird and grand prize winners, will be selected at The American Legion, Department of Florida's Headquarters (1912A Lee Rd, Orlando, FL 32810) bi-weekly by an electronic randomizer. Although no purchase is necessary to win, donations received from this raffle will benefit the many programs we offer for Florida Veterans and their families. To request your FREE entry, please email donate@floridalegion.org with your name, address, phone, and email. For a full list of rules, visit: <http://www.florida5050.org>



Department
of Florida



www.florida5050.org



50/50 RAFFLE 4 VETERANS

Get tickets starting NOV 3

RAFFLE



November 10	\$1,000
November 17	\$2,000
November 24	\$1,000
December 1	TAKES HALF



Tickets: 1 for \$5 | 5 for \$10 | 40 for \$20 | 150 for \$49

★ ★ ★ DOUBLE THE CHANCES ★ ★ ★ DOUBLE THE WINNINGS ★ ★ ★

ENTER ONLINE www.florida5050.org

Post Proceeds: 10%*



10 DAYS OF GIVING plus BONUS 50/50 WINNER

December 11	\$1,000	w	December 16	\$1,000
December 12	\$1,000	w	December 17	\$1,000
December 13	\$1,000	w	December 18	\$1,000
December 14	\$1,000	w	December 19	\$1,000
December 15	\$1,000	w	December 20	\$1,000

December 31 | Winner TAKES HALF

Tickets: 5 for \$10 | 40 for \$20 | 150 for \$49 | 500 for \$99

Get tickets starting DEC 1

ENTER ONLINE www.florida5050.org

Post Proceeds: 25%*



Department of Florida

ANY Florida participant can join! You do NOT have to be a resident, just within state lines. Membership is not required. *Post receives a percentage of revenue when selected.



50/50 Raffle: Post Supplies



Preorder 50/50 Raffle marketing materials for the Post to use to boost entries by November 13th! Items are FREE to the Post and will **ONLY** be available at Department's Fall Conference. Supplies are limited and will be provided on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Please only request items that you are able to use. Additional items can be requested at a later date. We want to keep our operational costs as low as possible, which equals *"more money for our veterans"*!

Post # _____

Contact Name _____

Post Position _____ Phone _____

8.5" x 11" Flyers

1 5 10 Other Quantity _____

Table Tent Displays

1 5 10 Other Quantity _____

Coasters (Packs of 25)

1 2 3 Other Quantity _____

Business Cards (Packs of 25)

1 2 3 Other Quantity _____

**Quantities are not guaranteed, and are available while supplies last.*

Email completed form to jcooper@floridalegion.org or fax to 407-299-0901.