



IN THIS EDITION

Department Officers

- 1 Commander
- 2 1st Vice Commander
- 3 2nd Vice Commander
- 3 NEC
- 4 ANEC
- 5 Finance
- 6 Sergeant-at-Arms

Area & District

- 6 Eastern Area
- 7 Northern Area
- 8 Southern Area
- 8 District 3
- 9 District 12
- 9 District 13

Membership

- 15 Membership
- 16 Membership (Northern)
- 27 Membership Reports
- 19 Post Development

Programs

- 10 Americanism
- 10 American Legion Riders
- 11 Blood Donor
- 11 Disaster Preparedness
- 12 Employment
- 12 Florida Legion College
- 13 FL National Cemeteries
- 13 Homeless Veterans
- 14 JROTC/JSSP
- 14 Law & Order
- 16 National Security
- 18 Oratorical
- 19 POW/MIA
- 17 PROJECT: VetRelief
- 21 Resolutions
- 22 School Medals
- 22 Scouting
- 23 VA Entitlements
- 22 Women Veterans
- 23 Youth Law Cadet

Other

- 24 Post 75: Hometown Heroes
- 25 SAL National Convention
- 26 Post Everlasting
- 28 FALC Application
- 32 Florida Legion 50/50
- 33 VCs Hillbilly Hoedown
- 34 Children & Youth Picnic
- 35 Wreaths Across America
- 36 Ride for Toys

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



"Not status quo"

We're now two months into my term as your Department Commander. I was fortunate to have been mentored by very experienced Past Department Commanders and provided the assistance of a highly qualified office staff. Unfortunately, events arise daily that we are not always prepared for, but we handle it efficiently and professionally as possible. However, bureaucracy and correctness come at a price. It's slow and deliberate. Like you, "I want it done yesterday", but that's not always possible. I'm asking for patience if you have pending business. Please trust me when I say, the work gets done, but its done correctly the first time. Nothing is ever "status quo".

There are many great things happening in our great Department of Florida. Southwest Area Commander and Youth Law Cadet Chair, Bud Boyer is working very hard to restart our Youth Law Cadet program. Bud has been communicating with our state police representative, and we will have a class of cadets this year. It is a bit pricey, but the cost is well worth

it for our kids. Just like the Boys State program, it is an experience you can't get anywhere else and could lead to a very rewarding career path. I encourage all Posts to closely examine the Youth Law Cadet program. If you need literature on this program, please contact our chair, Bud Boyer, program director, Bekki Tibbs, or myself and we will accommodate you.

I've began my first District visits in the Southern Area, and would like to thank the many Posts for their hospitality and their donations to my charities: Disaster Relief and Children's Organ Transplant Association (C.O.T.A.). It was a great feeling to be welcomed into your Post homes, and I will return to the Southern Area with our National Commander in mid-January. I'm sure you will welcome him with just as much enthusiasm. National Commander Seehaver will attend our nationally known "4 Chaplains Ceremony" in Dania Beach, and visit many of our Posts in the Southern Area. We will also be hosting our National Vice Commander later in the year, we are still in planning stages.

As you have likely heard, National has voted to raise the National per capita by five dollars. This increase is needed to offset the rising costs associated with

Commander continued on page 2 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< Commander continued from page 1

running the organization. This increase will coincide with the new 3-year Dues Program, generating vital income for our National Organization. This increase is scheduled to take effect in 2024, so plan accordingly. If you must raise your dues, it's better to prepare your membership in advance. Membership is slowly coming together as our team continues to implement our strategies, but we need your help. We have many Posts that are going above and beyond to renew their members,

but others seem like they have not yet found their momentum. If anyone needs assistance with any aspect of membership, please contact your District Commander or Area Membership Chair, they are there for you! Take advantage of the training that is available to you. If you haven't already, you will be contacted by our training team to assist in any training you require. Again, they are there for you!

Be safe, and I'll see you at the Post.
"I'm Proud To Be Legion!"



Membership Information and Ideas

Chris Hamrick, 1st Vice Commander

1stvice@legionmail.org



Fellow Legionnaires,

As our membership goals are clicking by, I would like to share some ideas with you that have been proven to work. If your Post hasn't already, form a three-person membership team. These three people work membership three hours each per week. It doesn't have to be consecutive hours, or all working together at the same time. Each individual works three hours per week, maybe 30 minutes a day, or an hour at a time three times per week. Any combination that works for them. They could work collectively with non-renewed members once a week and DMS the next week. There are many potential members out there, but they're not going to come in droves and rush our doors. We must seek them out.

We must be able to communicate with potential members. Finding something in common is a huge plus. Guess what... we have a lot of things in common just being a fellow Veteran. The VA is a good starter topic. Good, bad, or otherwise there's almost always some conversation to be had with a Veteran about the VA. The VA wouldn't have existed without the American Legion, which is a great selling point, as most of us receive a VA check. Some of us are even dependent upon our VA checks.

The G.I. Bill is a great conversation starter, especially for the younger generation of Veterans we seek. The American Legion started the Serviceman's Readjustment Act, you could go right down the line with our programs.

The key is to know: who we are, what we do, what we've done, and why. Knowing about our

1st Vice Commander continued on page 3 >>

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2023

- 1-31 National Disability / Employment Month
- 1-31 Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- 1-31 ALR: Merry-Go-Round 🌟🇺🇸
- 1 District 3: Meeting
- 2 District 15: Area Commander Visit (Post 418)
- 4 Boys State: Registration Fees Open 🌟
- 5 District 15: Area Commander Visit (Post 186)
- 7 Start of "Operation Enduring Freedom" (2001)
- 7-8 National SAL Fall NEC 🌟
- 7-8 National Committee on Youth Education Meeting 🌟
- 7 ALR: Chapter 316 Meeting
- 8 National CWF BOD Meeting 🌟
- 8 Ms. Veteran American Pageant
- 8 ALR: Chapter 8 Meeting
- 9 Columbus Day
- 9 Commanders' & Adjutants' Conference 🌟🇺🇸
- 9 National Commission & Committee Meetings 🌟
- 9-12 National Fall Meetings 🌟🇺🇸
- 11-12 National Executive Committee Meetings 🌟
- 11 ALR: Chapter 10 Meeting
- 12 Department Membership 55% Goal 🌟🇺🇸
- 13 U.S. Navy Birthday
- 14 District 12: Picnic
- 14 Post 236: Snowball Express
- 14 Post 418: VetFest
- 15 Legion Link Articles Due 🌟
- 15 Halloween Safety Book Orders Due 🌟
- 16 Boss's Day
- 18 National Membership 55% Goal 🌟
- 18 District 15: Area Commander Visit (Post 167)
- 19 Global Green Beret Gathering Cruise
- 19 VA Event with VSOs for Claims Filing
- 19 District 15: Area Commander Visit (Post 152)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >>

- 🇺🇸 Commander attendance tentative.
- 🌟 Department of Florida event.
- 🌟 National event.

Events are subject to change. More details at floridalegion.org.



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

2023-2024 COMMANDER MICHAEL "GAMBLER" RAYMOND

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< 1st Vice Commander continued from page 2

organization goes a long way toward recruiting members. We have an awesome Department membership team, led by the extremely talented Bruce Carl, but we are all ambassadors for membership. If you work on some of the ideas shared here, I am confident you will see good results.

With everything I've mentioned so far, I would be remiss without reminding you of the other part of the membership equation. Retention. Once you recruit members, what does your Post offer them to want to stay? Want to renew the next year? The answer to that question lies at the doorstep of the individual Post. Maybe the Post needs to make some changes, or maybe they need to keep doing what they're doing. Maybe it's a matter of changing the WAY we think before we can

successfully change how we do things. Again, that is an individual Post dynamic.

Given the challenges I've recently faced, The American Legion Department of Florida has given me many reasons to believe in our organization. You, as a whole unit, are my "WHY". Thank you for all of that.

In closing, I want to let know you, that regarding our membership, our Commander has made a bet with someone. One of them must hug and kiss the other on stage. I personally, want our Commander to win the bet. Let's get out there and work this simple, straight forward plan to make our Department and The American Legion as a whole.... SHINE! Have lots of fun with it.

"Keep it Real"

Navy Birthday

Jessica Moore, 2nd Vice Commander

2ndvice@legionmail.org



If you walk into any American Legion, or other VSO, across the state of Florida and ask a Veteran what branch of service they belonged to, they will proudly tell you what branch, where they

served, and when. I am proud to say I was a member of the United States Navy.

I bring this up because this month we celebrate the U.S. Navy's birthday, October 13, 1775. Navy Day is also on October 27th. The birthday of the U.S. Navy denotes the beginning of the formation of this essential military service in our American history. Navy Day salutes all military personnel who have served, both past and present, in the U.S. Navy.

The oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy is the U.S.S. Constitution. Naval officers and crew still serve aboard the ship today. The Navy has a long

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2023

<< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

- 21 District 4: Meeting
- 21 District 17: Meeting
- 23 Beirut Bombing (1983)
- 23 District 15: Area Commander Visit (Post 108)
- 24 National: Notification of CWF Grant Recipients ★
- 25 Day of the Deployed
- 27 Navy Day
- 27 Post 108: 2nd Annual Premier Golf Tournament
- 28 Chapter 10: ALR Kissimmee Bike Night
- 29 District 13: Meeting & Picnic
- 31 Halloween ✨
- 31 Florida Legion College Deadline ✨

★ Commander attendance tentative.

✨ Department of Florida event.

★ National event.

Events are subject to change. More details at floridalegion.org.

and storied history full of tradition. If you wear the "crossed anchors", it means you are part of one of the oldest and proudest communities of all. Boatswains Mates are the heart of every ship, my uncle was one for over twenty years. "Non sibi sed patriae" (Not Self but Country) is often cited as the Navy's motto. From a proud Navy Veteran, I say Happy Birthday to all who served in the U.S. Navy and don't worry, I'll rejoice in the other services in the upcoming months.

Always Stay Informed

Jim Ramos, NEC

nec@legionmail.org



Our Newly elected American Legion National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer, touted a "transformational year" for the American Legion Family, a

continued legislative advocacy program, and a focus on fundraising for the Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation during his Aug. 31 acceptance speech.

But he also said the organization's top priority will be continuing the Legion's focus for over a year — the **Be the One** suicide-prevention initiative.

"The numbers (of daily Veteran suicides) are all over the place, but I believe the numbers tend to be, let's say, undercounted," said Seehafer, a U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve Veteran and member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis. "VA has released figures a couple of years ago of about

NEC continued on page 4 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< NEC continued from page 3

17 per day, but that doesn't include active-duty deaths. Last year, a joint study between America's Warrior Partnership, Duke University, and the University of Alabama contended that it could be more than double that – double. Their researchers said many drug overdoses were classified as accidents or 'unknown intent' as to the cause.

"Those studies are constant with what a Veteran told a member of our staff. After losing his son to Veteran suicide, the Army Veteran said that if he were to take his own life, he would try to make it look accidental so his family could still receive life insurance benefits."

Our National Vice Commander for the Southeast Region

Charles D. "Charlie" Aucoin has been a Paid Up For Life member of the William A. (Bill) Guillory American Legion Post 370 in Westlake, La., since 1970. He served on active duty in the Navy from 1967 to 1968.

Charles Aucoin has been a Post, District, and Department (state) Commander in Louisiana

and a member and chairman of the Department's Americanism Commission for many years. He is also serving as Department Internal Affairs Commission. At the National level, Charles Aucoin served on the Membership & Post Activities Committee and the Foreign Relations Commission before being elected as Louisiana's National Executive Committeeman in 2005, where he served for 18 years. He served as The American Legion's National Sergeant-at-Arms from 1994 to 1995.

Charles Aucoin also served on the Louisiana Veterans Affairs Commission from 1984 to 2005, with appointments from three different governors. He is a member of the Sons of The American Legion and is eligible through the service of his World War II Veteran father. Aucoin enjoys gardening in his spare time.

Charles Aucoin has been married to his wife, Ann, since 1994. He has two children, five grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter, Sadie Jane.

Keep up with National Security:

1. Commission hears POW/MIA accounting and progress on what is happening.

2. Quality of life for our service members.
3. Why is war not inevitable for China? "Taiwan"

Keep up with National Legislative:

1. Know your Senate, State House (Representative), and Congressperson on issues you need to know about.
2. Know their email, District Office (Capitol office), Phone number, and website.
3. Check with them somehow and let them know who you are.

Always Stay informed. Dues Increase:

The American Legion National Convention approved a \$5 dues increase during the organization's 104th National convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, in August 2023. It is effective July 1, 2024 - 2025. "The last increase was "The 2016 National Dues Increase."

If you need more information, please visit Legion.org and check it out.

If you don't get answers, email me at NEC@legionmail.org or call me at 352-226-4370.

National Convention Information

Jerry Brandt, ANEC

anec@legionmail.org



First, I would like to thank over the 140 Florida Legionnaires who attended the National Convention, and when Florida received an award, everyone in the Convention heard Florida. National Commander Troiola kept looking at us when we cheer for Florida. Keep in mind, that we only had 115 delegates, but over 140 turned out and stayed at the convention, great job Florida.

Here are some of the reports from the committees as as follows:

Convention Committee on Finance

Recommendation for the National Per Capita to be set 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. Please be aware of this in case you need to increase your Post dues to cover the increase.

National Convention Committee on National

Security

Subject, Resolution 48, Rebuilding the U.S. Defense Industrial Base (Approved with Amendments)
Resolution 17, Policy on Taiwan
Resolution 30, Modernization of the Armed Forces

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Resolution 3, Amend Rating Requirements for Hypertension
Resolution 4, Amend Eligibility for Burial Headstone and Markers

ANEC continued on page 5 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< ANEC continued from page 4

Veterans Employment & Education

Resolution 13: Option to provide Contact Information to Veterans Service Organizations at Discharge or Retirement.

Resolution 14, Preserve Housing Benefits for Online Education

Resolution 18, Support 199A Qualified Business Income Deduction

Resolution 19, Enhancing the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for Veterans Workers and Families

Resolution 20, Tax Relief for Veterans and Military Families

Convention Committee on Internal Affairs

Resolution 47, Commendation of the Bedford Boys Tribute Center

For more details and information, please visit the Legion.org website, under Annual Reports. However, the site has not been updated with the 2023 information at the time of this writing.

The NEC approved two motions: 1, A new Post in Colombia, South America, and 2, A new Post in Cotacachi, Ecuador.

We also need to thank the Riders on the Legacy Run. The ride itself brought in over \$667,000; however, additional donations during the presentation raised that amount to \$1,545,531. Well done, Riders. This will be the last year for raising funds for the Legacy Fund. However, the ride does not stop.

In total, over \$16,000,000 was raised for Children and Youth Programs. Thanks to everyone involved.

Gaming Activities

Shirley Douglas, Finance Officer

financeofficer@legionmail.org



Does your Post conduct gaming activities?

In Florida, legal gaming activities for nonprofit organizations include bingo, instant bingo (pull tabs), and raffles/drawings. It is very important for Post officers/members to be familiar with Florida Statutes 849.0931 Bingo authorized; conditions for conduct; permitted uses of proceeds; limitations, Florida Statutes 849.0935 charitable, nonprofit organizations; drawings by chance; required disclosures; unlawful acts and practices; penalties and IRS Publication 3079 (Rev. 10-2018) Tax-Exempt Organizations and Gaming.

Florida Statutes 849.0931 Bingo authorized; conditions for conduct; permitted uses of proceeds; limitations. This statute explains what a bingo game is and defines the terms and limits to the bingo jackpot number (3) and amounts (\$250) that are allowed during one session of bingo. The Statute

specifies requirements that are required to be performed when conducting bingo sessions and Instant bingo (Pull-Tab) games. Paragraph 2b states, "It is the express intent of the Legislature that no charitable, nonprofit, or Veterans' organization serve as a sponsor of a bingo game or instant bingo conducted by another..." One member of your Post shall be present during the entire session (paragraph 8).

Florida Statutes 849.0935 Charitable, nonprofit organizations; drawings by chance; required disclosures; unlawful acts and practices; penalties. This statute explains the requirements that are required when performing a raffle or drawing. For instance, Paragraph 4h clarifies that it is unlawful for any organization that promotes, operates, or conducts a drawing by chance to cancel a drawing.

IRS Publication 3079 (Rev. 10-2018) Tax-Exempt Organizations and Gaming. This Internal Revenue Service publication covers how gaming can impact your post-federal exempt status, how unrelated business income can occur, records that must be

maintained, and federal taxes that must be collected and reported. Chapter 5, workers conducting gaming activities, describes the difference between an employee, an independent contractor, and a volunteer. Chapter 6, reporting winnings and withholding income tax, lists the winning amounts that must be reported to the IRS. The amounts that must be reported to the IRS differ depending on the type of gaming activity. To report the winnings to the IRS, an IRS Form W-2G needs to be completed by the Post with information from the winner (i.e., name, address, winners SSN, two forms of winner's identification). The W-2G form must be signed by the winner. Copy A is sent to the IRS, and Copy 1 is for the state, city, or local tax dept. Copy A not used for Florida winners, Copy B, C, and two go to the winner, and Copy D is for the Post tax records.

Make sure you protect your Post by knowing and complying with the gaming activity requirements that are listed in these FL statutes and IRS publications.

Sign up for
TEXT ALERTS.



TEXT

FAL to 41372



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Meeting Protocols

Les Martin, Sergeant-at-Arms

sgtatarms@legionmail.org



I hope last month's Sergeant-at-Arms Link article was useful. Continuing with our information regarding training of Post and District Sergeants-at-Arms, I will go over protocol at your Post and District meetings. Remember, *"You are the sentinel or tiler, the outer guard of this Post. You will guard especially against the loss of one of The American Legion's greater possessions—our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship. You will learn the identity of and introduce to the Commander all visiting comrades and guests of the Post. You are responsible that no one shall remain a stranger in our midst. Be ready at all times to assist your Commander. Into your hands is given charge of the stand of colors which you will properly display at all Post meetings and on ceremonial occasions."*

Know your duties before the meeting starts. These duties start with setting up the meeting room properly. There are schematics in the Manual of Ceremonies section of the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies. Make sure you have a sign-in sheet for members and guests. This way you can welcome and introduce new members and guests to the Commander. Always make new members feel

welcomed. This will help with the retention of your members.

The Sergeant-at-Arms should always lead by example. Dress neatly at the meetings, NO shorts, ripped or dirty clothing, sleeveless shirts, and no lettering on your shirt unless it is Legion lettering. The Sergeant-at-Arms should always be wearing their Official American Legion Cover at all meetings. Remember, appearance is everything when it comes to membership retention. If the Commander or Adjutant has an agenda, place copies on the table near the sign-in sheets for members to pick up before the meeting. This is true for any other handouts that the Commander or Adjutant have.

Whether it is the Sergeant-at-Arms or the Vice Commanders who cover the POW/MIA Chair, remember to salute the Nations Colors as your approach the chair. Cover the Chair and then do a slow salute to the POW/MIA Chair Cover. Then face the nations colors, salute, and then return to your seat. I have seen too many people not saluting the nations colors before returning to their seat. Either the POW/MIA Chair Cover or the POW/MIA Flag is acceptable to use for this part of the ceremonies. This process should be reversed for the recovering the POW/MIA Cover at the end of the meeting.

If the meeting is a joint meeting such as installations, remember, the Sergeant-at-Arms that is on duty depends on who is at the podium. If the Auxiliary President is at the podium, then the Auxiliary Sergeant-at-Arms is on duty, this is the same for S.A.L., Legion and Riders. (Unless you are asked by another Unit to serve as their Sergeant-at-Arms).

Remember, protocol is important at all meeting and ceremonies. When you have visitors or at public gatherings, image means everything, not just for you and your Post, but also for The American Legion.

The National American Legion Convention has come and gone. A lot of information was given out to all who attended. We now have a new National Commander, Daniel Seehafer. Let us all give Commander Seehafer all our support this coming year. We had a successful year this past year and want to continue with this success in the future. I had a great time serving and representing the Department of Florida as National Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms for the convention. I worked backstage and was able to meet many of the speakers and guests. I look forward to doing this again next year.

Fall in the Eastern Area

Joe Marcheggiani, Eastern Area Commander

eastern@legionmail.org



As we came down through the Smokies and the Blue Ridge on the National Legacy Ride, there was already a hint of autumn color on those rolling

hills. As I returned to our area, it was the color of license plates that were already changing color and mottoes. Yep, our snowbirds are already heading this way. We look forward to that first forecast of snow in Montana that makes the migration faster. Since I live dead in Disney's backyard, I truly prefer not to see that change of color in Central Florida,

but with it comes hundreds of our friends and comrades, and the posts are hopping again. Yep, our snowbirds are already heading this way with spirit and energy. Use that spirit and energy to fire up your post and kick it into gear. Because before you know it, this calendar year will be in the rear view mirror.

Find us on:
facebook

facebook.com/floridalegion



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Northern Area Information

Lena Heredia-Perez, Northern Area Commander

northern@legionmail.org



August was a busy month in the Northern Area (as well as others) between 3rd & 5th District Meetings, Post Meetings, Purple Heart Day of Remembrance Ceremonies, Zoom meetings, final

Post installations, District and Post fundraisers, National Convention, and Hurricane Idalia.

While most of my travels were enjoyable and enlightening, some of my travels throughout the area were not as pleasurable. Like most of you, I thoroughly enjoy getting to know the members on a more personable level, visiting posts throughout the area as well and continuing my American Legion Education so that I can be a more effective/knowledgeable leader, but then we have those times where we must face hard reality.

It is no surprise to any of you that while we were at the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, Hurricane Idalia was scheduled to make landfall in/or around the Tampa area traveling northeast

throughout Florida and possibly hitting several of the Districts throughout the Northern Area. What was amazing to watch was seeing/hearing my Commanders go immediately into action. They were proactive in contacting all Posts prior to the storm to ensure that everyone was properly prepared for the possible impact. Then after the storm had passed, they were on the phone again with their Posts to check on their status and to see if they needed any assistance!

I am here to tell you; that the Northern Area has one heck of a Team. Thank you, Commander Stuart Scott, Miguel Garcia, Doug Hockenberry, Jim Bowers, and your teams for your dedication! Luckily there were no Posts within the Northern Area that sustained major damage, but it was evident the members were suffering. So, once we left National, my job was to travel to the affected areas and survey the damage within the 3rd District with the District Commander. We started our journey in Monticello, Greenville, Perry, Steinhatchee, and Live Oak and ended in Madison. While it was devastating to see all the damage from the storm, I found myself just in awe watching brothers/sisters/communities

come together in a time of need. The resilience was incredible. Not only did we lay eyes on all the Posts within the District that were affected by the hurricane we were able to be the hands and feet of The American Legion by participating in a FEMA Food/Supply Distribution, serving over 600 hot meals to those without power, and even get down and dirty cleaning up yard debris. This is what we all should live for. It is not about us; it is about the difference that we can make in others lives.

Mark Your Calendar: Northern Area Ball, aka Costume Party / Haunted House, is scheduled for November 4, 2023, at American Legion Post 57 at 2602 SW Main Blvd Lake City, Florida 32025, starting at 6 pm. All monies raised this evening will go to Boys & Girls State scholarships. Reservations to this event can be made by emailing me at northern@legion.org. Tickets are \$40.00 a person or \$70.00 per couple. Please mark it on the calendar and look for the flyer coming out in the near future. So please do me a favor, order your costumes today, and make your reservations for an evening full of fun while raising funds for our future leaders! If you have any questions, my phone is always on!



INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Keeping on Track

Johnny Castro, Southern Area Commander

southern@legionmail.org



With less than nine months away from the 2024-2025 Department Convention, Installations should have been completed by now, with the District Commanders and their

Vice-Commanders communicating with the newly elected Post Officers with the goals for the remainder of the calendar year and preparing for the next year up to the Department Convention.

By now, the District Commanders should have taken this time to mentor their Vice-Commanders in visiting their assigned Posts, preparing them to complete the first official Post visits by the beginning of October, sooner if possible. Why? The Department Commander has put out the goals for the fiscal year to include Basic Post Level Training and Membership. The sooner the District Commanders and Vice-Commanders begin to build a rapport with the Post Officers, the easier it will be for the Department to achieve its goals.

Yes, having an effective working relationship with the Post Commanders and their Officers is critical to guaranteeing whatever goals are set, not only by the Department but also with the Area and the District, to meet these goals. This takes a team effort for the success of the Department of Florida.

If, on the other hand, the District Commanders are not on track with assigning their Vice-Commanders to their responsibilities for the year, calendar, or fiscal, then our Department would have a very difficult time achieving the goals set this past June by Commander Michael "Gambler" Raymond.

What we'll see in the District will be:

1. Complaints from various Posts regarding the overstepping of the District Officers in their Post business.
2. The District is dictating what the Post must do.
3. No regard by the District for communicating the goals set forth by the Department Commander.
4. Hence, the goals are not being met, and the Department of Florida finds itself in last place in National.

Regarding membership, to be successful for the year, there has to be constant communication between the Area, the District, and the Post. There is no way we can achieve our goals in membership without this line of communication. By October 12, every Post should be at 55% of the Department membership goal.

If this is not occurring, there should be a conversation about whether the right people are in the right place to accomplish the mission. Many of us know there are those who are more concerned about the color of their cap or the position they hold. That's not what it's about. If the right person is not in place in the Department, then not only will we not achieve the Department's goals, but we will also fail the membership and the Veteran community in our state.

Remember, the American Legion's strength is in numbers when advocating for our Veterans and the active-duty personnel and their families. I'm here to help.

Greetings

Stuart Scott, District 3 Commander

district3@legionmail.org



Thank you to all those who reached out to us after Hurricane Idalia hit us head-on. While most of our posts came out unscathed, we did have several members take a hit. We had sister Districts send in help via tractors and chainsaws, as well as supplies to help clean up. The coastline took on

flood waters while inland areas were stricken with tornadoes. If you have ever seen some of our historic and majestic oaks, they are gone. We saw towering pine trees snapped 30 feet up like toothpicks. Power is still being restored in some areas as this newsletter goes out.

So now comes the ask...we need hands and feet that are willing to come and clear members' properties.

Our Disaster Recovery Chair, Jerry Chandler, is forming a list of members who need our help. As we have seen in the past, once FEMA and all the assistance that pours in has dwindled down, there is still a need. So, if you can and are willing to help, please get in touch with Jerry, and he can give you more information on what and where your help will be most effective.



Department of Florida

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

floridalegion.org

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



PLEASE SUPPORT DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org

Post Visitations

Bruce Thurber, District 12 Commander

district12@legionmail.org



While visiting Posts throughout the District, I became aware of the loss of mentorship within the District. Many new officers have taken over the running of the Post, which in many cases also includes running a business. Now, they oversee a 501(C)19, with its own special rules, and a small corporation with its regulations. With proper mentorship and training, it would be a simple and fun year. What I am finding is that those leaving drop the ball around nomination time and do as little as necessary to finish the term. In a lot of cases, this means that things like the Florida Incorporation Annual Report (SUNBIZ), 990, and licenses are not filed, and the incoming officers are unaware of them. Now, the District Commander

makes an appointment to visit and review the paperwork, and the rumors start. The truth is we are not coming to make you look bad, and we bring our Vice Commanders for mentorship/training. Some issues can be fixed during the visit; guidance will be given to others. Also, the District staff can be called upon to visit/assist and train at your post.

District meetings are where we update you on many items that change as the year goes on. This is where current officers can get information but also where those who hold no office and may want to run next year or make an informed decision or motion at a meeting can learn. All District 12 meetings are open to all Legionnaires, and they have a vote. Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members are welcome to attend. We will be conducting training that members requested, and

after the first of the year, we have a Department Program designed for those looking to move on, want to know, or need to refresh their skills.

Happenings:

- District Training, October 7
Post 40, Fort Pierce
- District Picnic, October 14
Post 189, Sebastian
- Installation, October 17
Post 366, Barefoot Bay
- Breast Cancer Run, October 21
Post 189, Sebastian
- Biketoberfest, October 28
Post 394, Palm Bay

Happenings with Mighty District 13

Eric Loyd, District 13 Commander

district13@legionmail.org



August was an exciting month for District 13. Our District Chairperson for Boys State, Rebecca Sewell, hit the ground running when schools opened up trying to recruit boys into the Boys State Program. Visited 3 Schools. Our District Chairperson for Children and Youth, Dennis Boland, already has the Children and Youth Picnic scheduled for November 5 from 11:00 to 4:00 at Lehigh Acres Post 323. (see page 34)

I had my first District meeting. We finished up all our Installations, and Post 416 received their charter. Bonita Springs, Post 303 general contractor has filed for the permits to get construction started on the Post rebuild. Sanibel Island Post 123 has the roof on the tiki and their main building all replaced. Next is to get permits for the rebuild, but the tiki is open for food and drinks. Port Charlotte Post 110 is continuing with repairs but operating out of tiki. Ft. Meyers Beach Post 274 is open on the back side of the building but will be starting on the main hall in the near future. This last hurricane (Idalia) spared us this time, with no posts reporting any damage.

On September 5th, Post 38 is celebrating 104 years of service. It was started on 05 September 1919. The Commander of Post 38, Kevin Boyd, just started his 15th year as commander. This Post has a great food bank and outstanding leadership. Congratulations on 104 years of service to Veterans and the community.

District 13 Legion Riders are starting a Stamping tour. From November 1 - February 28. Drawing for winners on March 23rd. Visit facebook.com/District13WinterStampingTour for additional information.



DEPT OF FLORIDA
FALL
RAFFLE
\$ 10,000

\$10K
GRAND PRIZE

\$2.5K
SECOND PRIZE

\$1K
THIRD PRIZE

\$500
FOURTH - FIFTH PRIZE

\$100
SIXTH - TENTH PRIZE

GET YOUR TICKETS ONLINE NOW!

floridalegion.org/enter



Department of Florida



Americanism Commission

Kurt Gies, Americanism Chair

americanism@legionmail.org



Each year at the National Convention, students from across the nation are honored as the National Champions for several American Legion Americanism programs. We hear from the

Boys Nation President, the Eagle Scout of the Year, the JROTC Cadet of the Year, the Law Enforcement, Firefighter, and EMT of the Year, the Boys Baseball National Champion team, The National Oratorical Champion, Junior Shooting Sports Champions and so many more.

“Is there someone like this in my community who deserves to be standing on that stage next year but was never given the chance because my Post didn’t find them?” What a shame if there is. They

deserve the chance to shine and be recognized; it is our job as Legionnaires to ensure that happens.

“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, 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. We want your Post to host a HUGE celebration of America and honor her in your own special way.

Survey Information and Children & Youth/Charity Rides

Jim Wineland, Legion Riders Chair

alr@legionmail.org



It’s Children & Youth month! I hope you’ve been planning a lot of rides! Something to think about. We usually cover our Children and Youth Picnic, so should we consider other

children’s charity organizations? As one example, how about C.O.T.A (Children’s Organ, Transplant Association)? Let’s talk about it at the Fall Conference.

The Good Stuff! The T-shirt contest is over. Lamar Camacho won the contest, and I’m sure you will all be pleased with his design.

The POW/MIA escort ride went off without any problems. I know Denny Luke, the POW/MIA Chair,

will give you a full report in his Legion Link Article, so I do not want to steal any of his thunder.

The In-State Unity Ride survey. Well, it was disappointing. Out of all the Posts, only 16% replied. Joe Marcheggiani has sent out another survey to see if there is more interest. We can run with what we have, but we only have one post in Districts 13/15, four (4) in District 16, and we could use a few more on the East Coast. I need a few more. Let Joe know ASAP at fld6cdr@gmail.com.

I know there were some rumors out there about me being a little under the weather, that is true, but I’m back ready to go!

Thanks to all who participated. Ride Safe; I am looking forward to seeing you soon!

Your 2023 – 2024 Schedule:

- **Merry-Go-Round**
Month of October 2023
- **Fall Conference**
November 17-19, 2023
- **Summit**
Meet & Greet
January 31, 2024
Classes
February 1-3, 2024.
- **Round Robin**
Month of April 2024
- **Children and Youth Picnic**
TBD
- **In-State Unity Ride**
Meet & Greet
April 21, 2024

Legion Riders continued on page 11 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< Legion Riders continued from page 10

Ride

April 22-26, 2024

- Rally, OCC Clearwater, FL
April 27, 2024

If you have any ideas, please share! Thank you for

what you do, and we are proud to be part of your leadership team of such an excellent group!

“For the Cause, Not the Applause”



Blood Helps the Community

Jamie Grinis, Blood Donor Chair

blooddonor@legionmail.org



Blood is as essential to our body as it is to the community. We have 6 quarts in our bodies, “Hey Buddy, can you spare a pint?”

Each Post needs to support a program to keep their charters active. It’s easy to start, just call your local blood bank and they do all the work.

Each pint of blood donated can save as many as three people. What a great way to help your Post and the community.



Two-Thirds of the Hurricane Season is Behind Us

Bill Hoppner, Disaster Preparedness Chair

disaster@legionmail.org



Greetings to all. We have gone through two-thirds of the hurricane season. On Sept 30, 2023, hurricane Idalia made landfall at Keaton Beach in the Big Bend region between the panhandle and peninsula as a category four hurricane. The last time a hurricane hit this region was in 1896. People in the area were prepared for the hurricane, not knowing what it was to bring.

The most damage was a result of falling trees and downed power lines. I did a tour of the 3rd District after the storm. All posts were unscathed. Some people had flooding that were on the river. I was in close contact with Jim and Jennifer Day in Perry, Florida. At approximately 8:30 a.m., the hurricane hit Perry. I stayed on the phone until the conditions started to deteriorate. When I got to the Day’s home, there were seven trees down on the house. It was heartbreaking to see the damage, but the good thing is no one was hurt. Fellow Legionnaires showed up in force to help clean up. The comment

was made. Who would think of a hurricane in Perry? Well, it happened and people were prepared.

Also, Posts were collecting supplies as of now; there is no need for them. But that doesn’t mean we will not need them in the near future. The supplies that have been collected please hold onto them. We still have October and November to go, so if something develops, we will have supplies on hand.



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Employment Service Awards Due December 15

James Douglas, Employment Chair

employment@legionmail.org



Recognizing Florida Employment Service Officers, Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVERS), and Disabled Veterans Outreach Programs Specialists with the various American Legion

Employment Service is a good way to promote your Post. It also lets your community know you recognize your Post's support of Veterans.

The purpose of the Employment Service (ES) Awards Program is to recognize annually on an outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative

(LVER), a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist, and a local ES office. LVER and DVOP specialists work for the ES and provide job counseling, testing, and placement assistance to unemployed and underemployed Veterans.

Nominations from Posts, ES employees, or other sources must send their nomination application to the American Legion, Department of Florida Headquarters. A winner from each category will be selected and forwarded to The National Economic Commission. A copy of the nomination form and a written narrative must be provided by the nominator. Also, include any other supporting data that may be pertinent.

Submit your awards packages by mail to:

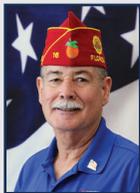
American Legion, Dept. of Florida
Attn: Programs Director
P.O. Box 547859
Orlando, FL 32854
Or fax to 407-299-0901

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 DESIRED AWARD -- CLICK ON DOWNLOAD APPLICATION to find the required nomination forms and information.

Now Is The Time

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College Chair

falc@legionmail.org



Now is the time to send in your FALC application with a copy of your Basic Training Certificate and your fees.

Join us at the Florida American Legion College on Dec 14-17, 2023.

Topics covered include:

- The 2023 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies
- Legion Protocol
- PowerPoint 101
- Parliamentary Procedure

- Resolutions
- Leadership and Mentor
- Programs Overview
- Team Building and Goals
- Development, Instruction, and Support for your District and Department Level Training

Please complete the application, ensure everything is done correctly, and then have someone double-check your application.

Ensure you have a good email, Phone number, and address so we can communicate back and forth. Also, when you send your application with a check for \$300.00, we will let you know if we have your application and if it was accepted. Final selection

will be 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 our 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



FALL CONFERENCE | 2023

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

November 17-19, 2023
Caribe Royale Orlando

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



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Your Children May Be Eligible

Rico Thomas, Florida National Cemeteries Chair

cemeteries@legionmail.org



The administration provides burial and memorial benefits to eligible Veterans, their spouses, and their dependents — at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for burial allowances.

Children of an eligible Veteran may be buried at a national cemetery if they meet the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dependency criteria.

According to the VA, a minor child of an eligible Veteran may be buried at a national cemetery if they are unmarried and:

- Under 21 years of age, or
- Under 23 years of age and pursuing a full-time academic course at an approved educational institution.

An unmarried adult child of any age of an eligible Veteran may be buried at a national cemetery if they are permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching 21 years of age or before reaching 23 years of age if they are pursuing a full-time academic course at an approved educational institution. You will need to provide supporting documentation that shows you are an eligible Veteran, that your child is related to you, and that he or she has been incapable of self-support prior to their 21st birthday or 23rd birthday if they are a full-time student. Medical

documentation confirming your child's inability to be self-sufficient is needed; written lay statements can also be used.

To schedule a burial in a VA National cemetery, please visit www.cem.va.gov/CEM/burial_benefits/need.asp for instructions on how to submit eligibility documentation https://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/NCA_Welcome_Packet.pdf

Request For DD214

Visit <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>

If I may be of any guidance, do not hesitate to contact me at cemeteries@legionmail.org or 954-822-0897.

Homeless Camp Protocol

Jim Burk, Homeless Veterans Vice Chair

homelessvetsvice@legionmail.org



Some people think it is glamorous or cool to visit a homeless camp. Many improvisations are neat or ingenious, like solar-powered showers, lights, and even security cameras. But you will see garbage, squalor, massive amounts of empty beer cans, and assorted things that do not make sense. If you look behind a box or convenience store, there is likely a trail at the back leading to a camp.

Be aware of your surroundings. Do not ever go into a camp alone, no matter how many times you have been there and regardless of your repeated visits with the people in the camp. Do not wear any jewelry. Wear sensible shoes and clothing. Always seek permission to enter, no matter how often you have been to the camp. I announce myself by saying: "Jim Burk, American Legion,

conducting a welfare check." Do not go into an empty camp. A pit bull once chased me for a good distance! When in the camp, be cordial and ask questions of concern to assess their needs.

When asking your Legion Family for donations, please consider the following: Proteins, especially canned chicken, tuna, spam, and peanut butter, are all excellent foodstuffs to provide. Pop top cans, please. Also, personal items such as bath wipes, toilet paper, bug spray, sunblock, and tube socks are always needed.

I started out looking only for homeless Veterans. But the reality is there are a lot of homeless people out there, including families living in their cars. Just check out a Walmart parking lot for vehicles parked at the back of the parking lot with children playing outside or camp chairs set up. They may need help, too.

I have teamed up with Sarah's Kitchen, a faith-based ministry that feeds a hot meal every Thursday at set locations. We distribute and provide supplies together. If you can locate an organization like this in your area, please team up with them. Your efforts will be that much stronger.

Getting Veterans to trust you can be very difficult. But it can be done!



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org

ROTC National Award/JROTC New Semester and JSSP Area Postal

Loretta Young, JROTC/JSSP Chair

jrotc@legionmail.org



It is with great pride that I can announce that the Department of Florida was one of three Departments in our National Organization to receive the Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy for the most participation in the ROTC/JROTC Program. The announcement was made at the National Convention in Charlotte, and it was a great surprise to know that we must be getting through to our Posts on both supporting the ROTC/JROTC Program and reporting on the CPR and Addendum. Thanks to all who participated this last year, as well as all the help and dedication we received from our Department staff. Let's all strive to have a repeat year, and it all starts with getting with your Units and making that connection, showing that you support them and have them involved with your Post activities.

I was fortunate to attend the Broward County

Welcome Back to School 2023/24 Semester Briefing. Most of the 31 JROTC Program senior and assistant instructors were in attendance for the full day of Instructor Management, Operations, Semester Calendar, and other activities, including presentations from vendors, recruiters, and others that support the JROTC Program. I had the opportunity to attend the kick-off ceremony for the 2023/24 freshman class for the Entrepreneur, Leadership, Military, Academy (ELMA) in Hollywood Hills, FL. The cadets have a week of orientation and practice training for their upcoming program and can showcase for the parents and guests how quickly they can adapt to this magnet program, which is built on military drill and ceremony, as well as academic and STEM studies. They have a 5-day week in uniform with one day only casual dress.

JROTC Units are now holding local and area Marksmanship Meets both Postal and In Person. One meet already being promoted is the Palm Bay Magnet MCJROTC Air Rifle Postal Sporter Match

in Melbourne, which is ongoing from Sept. 1st through Dec. 31st. They accept team registrations, consisting of a 4-person team for the Sporter Category only. The school can be contacted directly for any questions or registrations. Packets for the JROTC/JSSP Program have been sent out, and all information included in the packets can also be found on the Department website. Thanks to all our Posts and Legionnaires who are supporting our youth programs, and I wish you continued success. Have a great year.



ELMA Semester Kickoff 2023/24

First Responders Suicides

Daryl Bass, Law & Order Chair

laworder@legionmail.org



As a Veteran and member of our American Legion, we all know of the 22 Veterans a day taking their lives. Some statisticians say that number is probably low. However, it is of concern to all of us, no matter what the actual number is. The question we all have is what is making these Veterans decide that life is no longer worth living.

I did some research in reference to first responders suicides. Remember many of our young Veterans who go to school to be first responders after leaving service. In 2017, MSN reported that

more firefighters and police officers committed suicide than died in the line of duty. In 2017, 103 firefighters/paramedics committed suicide, and 140 police officers committed suicide that same year — compared to 93 firefighters and 129 police officers killed in the line of duty.

Why is this happening is the question? None of us have the answer to that question.

I took a class given by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement a few years ago regarding signs of a possible "suicidal person". It was very informative. I had a partner show me signs right before they committed suicide. I still didn't recognize it. So it's not easy to interpret someone.

Here are some signs to look for:

- When something devastating occurs in their home life (death of a family member, Divorce, etc..... they may start showing different moods. (ex. happiness when there should be grief)
- Giving their things away- this is, to me, one of the most important clues.
- Overly affectionate- like saying goodbye.
- Heavy drinking- having an end party.

There are many more signs that we, as Legion family members, can look for. Veteran and first responder suicides are all of our concerns. If you prevent one suicide, you have performed our mission to **BE THE ONE**.



Tips for Membership Recruiting Retention Success

Bruce Carl, Membership Chair

membership@legionmail.org



We are back from the National Convention, and it was fantastic, as always. The Department of Florida walked out with seven awards but none for membership.

We hope to change that for the convention next year in New Orleans. As a Post, are you meeting your membership goals? How about as a District or Area Commander? By the time this article comes out, we will be nearing the 55% goal for membership for the Department. Have you been working on the DMS list to get members into your Posts? What about your renewals and new members? Everyone has been given the tools they need to succeed as a Post. The biggest question is, are you taking advantage of them? Hopefully, numbers will have gone up by the time this reaches print. We started the year on fire, but August petered out compared to our numbers from last year.

As a Legionnaire, how many of you see a Veteran and ask them, "Are you a Veteran?"

"First mistake," said Terry Hanson from the Department of South Dakota during last month's National Membership Workshop recruitment and retention track. "Here is why I'm going to say that. Some National Guardsmen don't consider themselves a Veteran. Instead, ask them, Did you serve in the military?' If they say yes, ask what branch. I started building a rapport. Because he might be an Army Veteran like I was. Build the rapport. Talk to them. Ask them, 'Do you know about The American Legion? We are the world's largest Veteran's organization, protecting your benefits.' That's what we're here for; that's what every one of us is here for protecting and serving Veterans. That's what it's all about.

National Recruiter of the Year for 2024 Patricia

Liddell of Georgia shared that she always looks for Veteran license plates or people wearing military hats or shirts. Then, "I ask them, Who is the Veteran? Is it you, your wife, or both of you?' I'm always wearing an American Legion shirt. They asked me to tell them about the emblem. Tell me about The American Legion. I'll ask them, Have you used the GI Bill? They'll say, 'Of course I used the GI Bill.' You wouldn't have the GI Bill without The American Legion. Then they'll say, 'Tell me how to join.'"

Other membership recruitment and retention best practices that Hanson and Laurie Bowman shared from the Department of Indiana include:

- Know what you will share with potential new members about why they should join before you approach them.
- Know The American Legion programs — they drive membership.
- Give Post-leadership names to the new members that you sign up.
- Take your recruit to their first Post-meeting.
- Sit down with new Post members to take the online Basic Training course.
- Go where younger Veterans are — at youth sporting events. Ask the athletic directors if you can set up a membership table.
- Give special incentives for recruiting. Every time a Sons member recruits a Legion member in South Dakota, they receive a special Legion shirt. "The first day of our state convention, all SAL members who recruited a Legionnaire came to the general session wearing these green shirts. We had a sea of green; it was awesome to see," Hanson said.
- Conduct a new member initiation ceremony found in the *Officer's Guide and Manual of*

Ceremonies book.

- The 2023 National Membership Workshop PowerPoints for this membership and recruiting track, along with the others, are available online.

Use the tools given in the PowerPoint for getting new members, but once you have them, you need to keep them. Find out their interests and ask if they would like to volunteer. If someone wants to volunteer, NEVER say no! Many members do not wish to renew due to several things. The Post does not provide stuff they want to be active in. New members are ignored at the Post and are considered outsiders. The Post has too much internal conflict going on. These are just a few examples, and I know there are more.

Everyone needs to do their part to engage new members to make them feel welcome. Every member is a part of the membership team, not just the officers or the chairperson at the Post. If every legion member here in Florida recruited just one member, we would be well ahead of the National goal. Once we get these members in, we need to retain them!

If you need help doing buddy checks, making phone calls, membership training, revitalization, etc., please get in touch with a member of the Department Membership team. We are all here to support and assist you however we can.

Our goal is to get as many Posts to 100% as soon as possible. Please check out the training videos under forms and resources for more membership information. "Be the One" to prevent suicide and "Be the One" for membership!



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Northern Area Membership Information

Bob Brewster, Northern Area Membership

membership@legionmail.org



In my estimation, some Posts in the Northern Area are working very hard and succeeding in their membership drive for this year. All Posts are getting easy renewals.

After each month, it will get harder and harder to play catch up. Every Post should have a designated team of at least 3 to 10 members or more doing this membership work. The early bird memberships are the easiest. A lot of Posts that have membership teams need to do more than process the membership cards.

1. Work the phones, calling members who have not renewed yet.
2. Put articles in your Post newsletter asking members to renew.
3. Get a few members together and set up an information table at local businesses where they will let you do this.
4. Have plenty of handouts that will explain the many programs of The American Legion.
5. Get a couple of members working with the local schools' ROTC programs.
6. If possible, have an open house at your Post to increase membership.
7. If you don't have a membership team, form one.
8. Once a month or more, bring your membership team into the Post with their cell phones and chargers and call members who have not renewed.
9. Go back in your Post records and contact people who have not renewed in the last few years to find out why they have not renewed and get them back in your Post.
10. This all works while making "Buddy" calls.

Stop the Madness

Raymond Olsen, National Security Chair

security@legionmail.org



My subject of choice for this month is illegal immigration. Obviously, disaster preparedness and blood drives have come into play lately because of the hurricane passing through Florida and the damage that it brought. Further storms are developing every week.

We must be vigilant. But we seriously need to find a solution to the illegal immigration problem and act upon it as a country. Immigration, as it stands right now, is not a partisan issue; it is a national issue that affects each county, state, city, and every person in America.

We need to secure our borders, especially the southern border, before we can even begin to fix the broken immigration system to provide a legal pathway to citizenship. It is clear from economic needs that we need immigration, but it needs to be lawful with a path to citizenship, not the way

it works now.

In the past year or two, 5 million illegal immigrants have come into the US. They are joining an already entrenched 15 million illegal immigrants who have been coming in the past two decades. legal immigration leads to growth in the workforce, strengthens the GDP, and increases the tax base and income for cities, counties, and states. During the pandemic, 1 in 5 of the essential jobs were filled by legal immigrants. Jobs in labor, agriculture, etc., are filled by many immigrants.

Many immigrants come to fill STEM jobs and healthcare jobs. But the problem is, they have to wait for the backlog of visas to get in here and get the job, and the immigration service is too tied up with mismanaging all the illegal immigrants to reduce the backlog. So, we need to close up the borders and process those immigrants who are necessary and valuable in a clear and concise method. Closing the borders will reduce the gangs of criminals in border towns, drug smuggling, especially fentanyl, and human trafficking, and thus reduce

the costs of trying to police those issues and take resources from the rest of the immigration resources that could be vetting legal immigrants and hearing asylum requests. I am not sure that the current state of Congress is focused on impeachment and investigations, and getting one over on the other side will ever get the job done. Sadly, I may not live to see it. But it needs to be done sooner rather than later.

September is Disaster Preparedness Month for the Legion, and October is Disability and Employment Month. Every Post has the opportunity to nominate an employer for the Employment award for hiring Veterans and disabled Veterans and recognizing those Veteran-owned and operated small businesses in their Area.

Don't forget the Navy Birthday and First Responders' Day in October. Stay active in gathering supplies for disasters that may come up, continuing with blood drives, and attending meetings in your District and at your Posts.



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Golf Tournament was a huge success!!

The 10th Annual Golf Tournament was held on Monday, September 25th at the beautiful Bella Collina Golf Course in Montverde, FL. At approximately 8:30AM, attendees stood at attention as American Legion Post 35 member, Melanie Caputo, sang the National Anthem. Then, roughly 120 golfers were on their way as they listened to Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA".

PVR Board President, Bob James, hosted corporate partners, vendors and friends to a fun filled day of golf. Participants were greeted by a stilt walker as they registered and were able to participate in the best patriotic costume contest again this year. There was even an opportunity for them to take away \$10,000 cash if someone got a hole-in-one on a contest hole. But, the most amazing part of the day was that everyone came together for one sole purpose... **to support Florida's veterans and their families.** During the awards banquet, the RL James Team revealed a 'BIG CHECK' written for \$73,059.41 to PROJECT: VetRelief! **This is ALL net proceeds that directly benefits our mission.**

Additionally, Bob and Rita James were recognized by Department Adjutant, Bruce Comer, for their unwavering

www.ProjectVetRelief.org

support and dedication to Florida's veterans. Their inaugural event, 10 years ago, was the first major fundraiser for our program and this event alone has funded nearly a third of our total emergency assistance cases!! *Needless to say*, these two have been a constant lifeline for our organization since the beginning!

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

VetRelief Advocates You're invited to network!



During the upcoming Fall Conference, we will be having a special event and round table discussion with our PVR/SPI Strategic Partners on Friday, November 17th at 4:30 in Curacao 5-6.

If you are interested in attending to stay connected with other Advocates, or would like to represent your Post or District, please contact Jennifer Cooper at jcooper@floridalegion.org.

Current Year: July 2023 - August 2023

58
Veterans Received
Financial Support

\$80,533
Provided as
Emergency Assistance

16
Suicide Prevention
Strategic Partners

\$60,000
Given towards
Veteran Suicide Prevention



Changes in Dates for Contest

Meri West, Oratorical Chair

oratorical@legionmail.org



On September 17, 1787, the Founding Fathers signed THE most influential document in American history: the **United States Constitution**. This document established the framework of our government and the rights and freedoms that many of us enjoy today.

Constitution Day became a national observance in 2004 when Senator Robert Byrd passed a bill designating September 17 as the day for citizens to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution and learn more about our founding document. It's eerily similar to what attorney and Past Department Commander of Missouri, William Kitchen, set out to do when he developed the American Legion's National Oratorical contest in 1938.

In these politically turbulent times and when life seems to move at a greased lightning speed, it's safe to say the Constitution has some serious staying power.

On September 16th, the National Oratorical Conference was held virtually, and I wanted to share what we learned and discussed.

A familiar idiom comes to mind ---I have some good news and some bad news.....

The bad news is that the National Contest has been moved to May 17-19, 2024.

For many students, this is the tail end of the academic year. In Duval County, the last day of school is May 31st. Other states have graduation as early as the first week of May.

The good news is that the Legion saved 80,000 on the Oratorical by moving the location and date of the National Contest.

The National contest had been held at a Wyndham hotel, but the contract was up, and the National office was looking for a cheaper place. Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MI, offered their college campus to us, but we have to wait until they have finished their semester in early May. May 17-19 is the earliest we could get onto the campus. The contestants and staff will be housed in the dorms. While the timing is NOT optimum, it is what it is.

Chairpersons need to take note of the contest dates for Florida and ensure contestants know that these dates and times cannot be changed, no matter how inconvenient it may be to some.

Post Level: December 1, 2023- January 21, 2024
District Level: January 22, 2024 – February 10, 2024
Area Level: February 11, 2024 – March 9, 2024
Department Finals: March 30, 2024

The certification forms from the Department have to be turned in to the National office by April 1st. For Florida, we tried to push the date as close to the National contest as possible, as we prefer no more than a 30-day period elapse between contests. This year, we have to adapt, and next year, it may be different.

Most of our discussion this year had to do with student eligibility. Here is what the national manual states about this:

Eligible participants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the National contest who is presently

enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private, or home school). The curriculum of the school must be considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade 9 and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department where they enter the competition. Contestants can enter the competition through only one department.

High school students who graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school, or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

So, who is a lawful permanent resident of the United States? Lawful permanent residents, generally known as "green card" holders, are non-citizens who are lawfully authorized to live permanently in the United States.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students are typically not eligible to compete in the contest. DACA is an administrative relief that protects eligible immigrants who came to the US as children from deportation. DACA gives undocumented immigrants protection from deportation and a work permit, but it does not offer a pathway to citizenship. DACA recipients can apply for a green card if they meet the lawful entry requirements. In this situation, they may be eligible for employment-based, family-based, or humanitarian green cards.

If you have any questions about a student's

Oratorical continued on page 19 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< Oratorical continued from page 18

citizenship status, contact Bekki and I to help figure it out.

We clarified that students at the National level do not receive checks for the prize money. It goes into an escrow account, and once a student is enrolled in

a college, they will send the money directly to the college.

Lastly, I want to hold a couple of informational virtual meetings for those who cannot attend the Fall Conference Training. I will send an email next week to pick a couple of dates. We get two hours at the

Fall Conference and never really cover everything we need to.

Thanks for all you are doing to support this program!

Revitalization in Simple Terms

Judith Richards, Post Revitalization Chair

revitalization@legionmail.org



What is Revitalization in simple terms?

The act or process of giving new life or fresh vitality to someone or something.

What are some synonyms for Revitalization?

Reactivation, Restoration, Renewal, Awakening, Invigoration, Freshening.

Perhaps all of us are thinking about the huge word Revitalization and the huge process tied to it. What if we looked at the simple terms and some of those synonyms and relaxed into some of the simpler tasks? Rather than feeling that there are numerous process steps, official meetings, setting official dates and times, reaching out to media, community partners, et cetera, why not awaken our Post membership, both the renewed and non-renewed members?

Invite the Legion Family members to have a phone call day. Come to the Post, and each individual can make 5-10 phone calls. Have breakfast, lunch, or refreshments for your callers.

Before making the calls, perhaps schedule a Coffee Klatch, a breakfast, something that you can have when you invite them to come in; you will know there will be a great welcome!!! Have all the Legion Family Groups participate.

Invigorate them with a phone call. Hi, my name is....I'm calling from....I noticed we haven't seen you in a while. What can Post...do for you? Is there any assistance you need? Why not stop in and see your comrades, friends, and changes at the Post? Thank you for being a Veteran, and thank you for your support of the Post and the American Legion.

Run the Post 400 reports for your zip codes. Do you need assistance? Please reach out to me, and I am glad to be of service.

The phone call with them would be something like Hello, my name is...I'm calling from Post...I notice that you are assigned to Post 400, which is Florida's transitional Post. Typically a member is assigned there until they choose a Post in their neighborhood. Are you aware there is a Post in your community? Some of the things we do are....We look forward to seeing you at the Post and introducing you to many new friends! Thank you for being a Veteran and your support of the American Legion.

And Viola` !!! As Department Commander Raymond likes to say - it's a mini revitalization!!!

As always, I am here to be of service to those Posts that are considering a revitalization. Please call, and we can share ideas, run reports, and make calls together.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Denny Luke, POW/MIA Chair

povmia@legionmail.org

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 by then-President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the 3rd Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

The Department of Florida American Legion Riders (ALR) has established a motorcycle ride on the 3rd Saturday of September for the past three years, ending at the National POW/MIA Memorial for the POW/MIA Ceremony. This Ride is called the Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Ride and is limited to only 250 motors by the Jacksonville Sheriff's

Office. It is called the Seven Bridges Ride because, during the ride, the motorcycles traverse the seven bridges that cross the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, FL. In 2021, we had 160 motors participating; in 2022, we had 153 motors ride through 1.85 inches of rain during the 2-hour ride, and this year, we

POW/MIA continued on page 20 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< POW/MIA continued from page 19

filled our quota under sunny skies.

First, I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make this event a huge success. There were so many working behind the scenes doing things anonymously; if I listed all, it would be 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. 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, as 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 parking, I thank you; it would have been chaos without your assistance.

It was evident that The Department of Florida American Legion leadership fully supported 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 be able to attend the POW/MIA Ceremony together. Job well done, Florida! To view pictures and videos of the day's events, go to <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaAmericanLegionRiders> and visit the album, 3rd Annual 7 Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride & Ceremony.

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/MIA's 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 with 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 his office. Thank you in advance.

If your Post did something significant for the National POW/MIA Recognition Day, I would love

POW/MIA continued on page 21 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
 DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

2023-2024 COMMANDER MICHAEL "GAMBLER" RAYMOND

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< POW/MIA continued from page 20

to hear about it. Please feel free to email me the particulars of the who, what, and where of your event, and you might just be included in the November newsletter.

Did you know there are 85 remains of MIA waiting to be identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)? On December 7, 1941, at 8:10 a.m., the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Twenty minutes into the attack, I say attack because it was Sunday morning, and we were not at war with anyone at that moment; the USS Arizona (BB-39) was bombed and sunk. There were 1,177 sailors and marines killed instantly from the explosion. The fate of these service members is that 105 were identified and returned to their loved ones. Some remain lost to this day, and 85 were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. Those graves were marked as "Unknown USS Arizona."

With the advances in technology of today, the DPAA utilizes innovative DNA testing to identify and

recover the remains of service members from all over the world. The unknown identities of those 85 service members can easily be rectified. The DPAA needs DNA samples from family members who lost a relative in that tragic and historical event in our country's history. The DPAA will not initiate an identification effort until they receive DNA samples from 60% of the lost crewmembers' families. For the USS Arizona, this task will require DNA samples from the families of 643 crew members. If you are, or if you know of, someone who lost a relative on board the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor, please have them contact a Service Casualty Officer of the DPAA at <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Casualty/POW-MIA-Branch/>

As of 1 September 2023, the DPAA has identified 85 service members from World War II, 33 from the Korean War, and four from the Vietnam War, for a total of 122 personnel. Let's see if we can increase the number from WW II by 85 to 170!

I want to encourage all to visit The American Legion Department of Florida website, <https://www.floridalegion.org/>

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 Cicel Field runway, and all looks great.

Resolution Intent Explanation

Clarence Hill, Resolutions Chair

resolutions@legionmail.org



Last month's article addressed in detail the Resolving section. Once the resolution's intent has been clearly stated in the Resolving section, it is much easier to decide what statements need to be in the Preamble section to make clear the reasons for the resolution. The Preamble should be a clear description of the situation or problem being addressed.

The Preamble section is made up of one or more clauses (or paragraphs), each of which begins with

"WHEREAS." Two or more of these clauses are joined together by a semicolon followed by "and." Example:

"WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of wartime Veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of community, state, and nation; and

"WHEREAS, This service is performed through The American Legion's basic programs; and (etc.)"

Each clause in the Preamble should contain a statement of fact that is logically related to the intent of the resolution and explains and justifies the need for the resolution. The accuracy of each statement in the preamble is critical because the

intent must be based on fact, not misinformation. Sources should be clearly identified, such as "WHEREAS, Public Law 101-22 prohibits..." or "WHEREAS, Title 38 United States Code, authorizes..." or "WHEREAS, in Texas v. Johnson, 1989, the United States Supreme Court ruled..."

Double-check facts and attempt to document the source as much as possible. Providing supporting materials along with the resolution would be helpful to respective reviewing commissions or committees. Each clause would stand alone as a complete sentence if the "WHEREAS" were removed and a period was used instead of the semicolon at

Resolutions continued on page 22 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< Resolutions continued from page 21

the end.

The final clause of the Preamble is joined to the resolving section of the resolution by a semicolon, followed usually by the phrase "now, therefore be it..." leading to the Resolving section.

There is no formula for deciding how many "WHEREAS" clauses a resolution should have. In general, the fewer, the better, provided the reason(s) for the resolution are adequately stated. It is not necessary to refer in the Preamble to every fact or circumstance that has a bearing on the intent of a resolution.

Study the Resolving section and get the exact purpose of the resolution firmly in mind. Then, start writing down the statements of fact which relate to this purpose. Organize them in a logical sequence (throwing out the weak or unnecessary ones).

Remember: *do not use a period in the Preamble.*

Preparing work on School Medals

Deveron Reaves, School Medals Chair

schoolmedals@legionmail.org

As I mentioned in last month's article, now is the perfect time for the Post School Medal Chairman to start targeting your local schools to recognize one male and one female student for the upcoming graduating

class at your area Elementary, Middle/Junior High, and High Schools.

The emphasis of the School Medals Program is the development of certain qualities within the student, including Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism,

Scholarship, and Service. All these qualities can and will go a long way for the future of themselves as well as for Country, State, and Nation.

Let's work together and build upon the future generations to come.

Scouting

Chris Ragusa, Scouting Chair

scouting@legionmail.org



Scouting Sessions at the Fall Convention

During the November 17-19 Department of Florida Fall Convention, there will be two opportunities to learn more about Scouting and the American Legion. On Saturday, November 18th, at 2:30 p.m., a session on American Legion Scouting will be held. This class will address the Legion's relationship with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in general; it is ideal for Post/Squadron Commanders and Unit Presidents

who sponsor or charter BSA units with best practices on how to support their units. At 3:15 pm, a Post Scouting Chair class will be an informal discussion on the roles and responsibilities of this important Post position, using the 2023-24 Post Scouting Chair Guide as the syllabus. Legionnaire Scouters should consider attending one or both sessions. These sessions will occur after the General Session that afternoon.

The District Scouting Chair Position

The District Scouting Chair (DSC) reports to the District Commander as his or her advisor on all things related to the American Legion (TAL) and

the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) programs and activities. The DSC represents their District on the Department of Florida Scouting Commission, which is led by the Department Scouting Commission Chairman. The position description and a timeline of recommended activities by month have recently been revised and are available under the Resources Tab on the Department Scouting site (<https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/scouting/resources/>).

Speak with your District Commander if you are willing to either help your DSC or serve your District in this role.

Women Veterans Information

Judy Casey, Women Veterans Vice Chair

womenvetsvice@legionmail.org

I had the honor of meeting some awesome women Veterans this past month, all trying to find our fellow sisters. If you are out there, give a shout-out. I am here to help work through the system, as I have been a Post-service officer for the past three years.

Post Commanders, District Commanders, and Area Commanders, I am available to visit your post and speak with your women Veterans.

I am planning a forum before the fall conference with the females. When I get a confirmed date and

place, I will send out notifications.

It's that time of year again, ladies, October, SAVE THE TATAs. Get the mammogram.

As I said before, I am willing to travel.



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Equine Extravaganza Fundraiser

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements Chair

benefits@legionmail.org



I want to start by saying congratulations to our new National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer.

I would also like to congratulate Alex Palou and the Chip Ganassi Racing team for winning the 2023 Indy Car Series with The American Legion "Be The One" Indy car, especially during National Suicide Prevention Month.

In March, Ed Padilla and I had the honor to work as Service Officers at the Indy Car St Petersburg race. With the "BE THE ONE" Team. We talked to hundreds of people about the programs and benefits the American Legion can provide.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
National Security
Americanism
Children & Youth

I also had the honor to pin a suicide awareness ribbon on Alex Palou.

Many people out there feel that the money the American Legion spent on this car was wrong. I can say, for a FACT, that this car and team saved many lives. I want to say to Alex Palou and Chip Ganassi team, "You Guys ARE THE ONE".

BE THE ONE



Exciting and Wonderful News

Bud Boyer, Youth Law Cadet Chair

youthlawcadet@legionmail.org



Hello Legion Families, I have some information concerning the Youth Law Cadet Program for July 2024. I have been working with Lieutenant Joshua Spargo of the Florida Highway Patrol and have received a good amount of information from him. FHP is allowing us thirty-two cadets in this year's class. We asked them to allow us two cadets from each District and they wholeheartedly agreed. This is something that the District and Post would have to decide how to choose to administer the program between them. The FHP also stated that we would need 8 chaperones per this many cadets.

The approximate cost per cadet is \$465.00 to \$500.00 and \$368.00 to \$400 per chaperone. As for 32 applicants, it is a high cost. I did some research, and in 2017, the Department had 17 cadets attend the Academy; in 2018, we had 18. So the cost, as you can see, will depend on how many applicants apply. The District and the Post will have to decide on paying for the cadets. We will work on updating the brochures with new information and getting them out as soon as possible.

I can coordinate with the wonderful folks in the Department. When we complete the brochures, we will send them to The District Chairs. My goal is to try and have all the brochures, applications, dates, and times approved and finalized by both the Florida Highway Patrol and the Department of Florida

American Legion in November. I Hope! One thing I am adding to the application is to ask that the applicants write a 300-word essay on why they have an interest in law enforcement and what they hope to take away from the academy. The essay is just in case we get more than 32 Applications.

I know this is all over the place, but hey this is me. If you would like, call me. I would rather you call me. I love to talk, and I can probably explain this a lot better.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Proud to be Legion!



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



Oscar E. Wilson Post 75: Hometown Heroes

Jim Remsburg, District 1 Historian

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime Veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism, and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and Veterans.

The American Legion Department of Florida is the nation's oldest, largest, and most active Veterans organization. We pride ourselves in taking care of our active-duty service members as well as Veterans who defended the American way of life in the past.

The City of Crestview received its charter from the Florida Legislature and was officially incorporated in 1916. Crestview's name was chosen because it is located on the peak of a long woodland range between the Yellow and Shoal rivers, which flow almost parallel on the east and west side of the city. After Okaloosa County was formed by the State Legislature in 1915, from portions of western Walton County and eastern Santa Rosa County, Crestview became the County Seat in 1917 and remains so today.

Crestview is located at the junction of three major highways; U.S. 90, State Road 85, and Interstate Highway 10, which resulted in its acclaimed designation as the "Hub City" of northwest Florida. The city is 50 miles east of Pensacola, 120 miles west of Tallahassee, and 30 miles inland from the beautiful Gulf of Mexico. Crestview's elevation of 235 feet above sea level places it as one of the highest points in the state.

Since our charter on September 6th, 1927, Oscar E.

Wilson American Legion Post 75 in Crestview, Florida has been welcoming Veterans from all branches of our Armed Forces. Today, we continue to welcome all military personnel serving our country. Joining our Post enables you to continue serving your God, Country, and Community. Our mission is to implement the goals, aspirations, dreams, peace and blessings for our country, friends and families embodied in our preamble. With all paying members of our families included, Post 75 has over one thousand members.

ALR Chapter 75 has the distinction of being the first ALR chapter chartered in the American Legion Department of Florida, and this year will mark its continuous participation in the Families First Network's 25th Annual Ride for the Toys

In an interview with the current Commander, Robert "Oz" Osmon (Crestview's Veteran of the Month) and Historian, Steve Pannasch, of Post 75, this author was imbued with the sense of pride that Post 75 has in being part of the Crestview, FL community. While other posts in District One have far-flung interests within the Department of Florida, Post 75 is a "Local Post" first and foremost. The Post prides itself in its community involvement: being involved and providing services not only for the Veterans of Crestview but the general community as well. Some of the Post 75's involvement with local help organizations include:

- Post 75 is a current member of the Crestview Chamber of Commerce,
- Crestview Mayor, J.B. Whitten's Veterans Advisory Program,
- Okaloosa County's "Adopt-a-Highway" Program,
- Crestview's annual Christmas parade,
- HELP (Health Equipment Loan Program) – wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers, etc.

provided free on loan for disabled Veterans.

- Travis Schoenbeck Memorial Scholarship

Travis William Schoenbeck, born March 4, 1975, was the grandson of Walter Schoenbeck, a deceased member of American Legion Post 75. Travis graduated from Fox High School in St. Louis, Missouri, and his ambition was to earn a college degree in business management. He tragically died as the result of an automobile accident on September 10, 1995. In his memory, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 75 established this scholarship for the purpose of assisting individuals associated with Post 75 with their college education.



- Post 75 sponsors no less than three Scouting troops: #773, 30B, 30G and Pack 799,
- Post 75 participates in the Okaloosa County Red Cross' monthly Blood Donorship Program, and Okaloosa County's Pet Adoption Program.

Post 75 shares responsibility within District One leadership as it hosts the current District One Commander, Shelby Windham, as well as the District One Auxiliary President Pam Pannasch. Our current Department Chairman Michael "Gambler" Raymond has challenged each District and Post within the Department of Florida to "Be The One". Crestview's Oscar E. Wilson Post 75 meets this challenge head on as Crestview's Hometown Heros.

Upcoming Events:

- Veteran of the Month, September 7, 7:00 PM Broadcast
- Veterans H.E.L.P. (Health Equipment Loan Program) Post 75, 850-689-3195
- Ride for Toys, December 9 Crestview, FL





Sons of The American Legion National Convention Report

William Kelly, SAL NEC

The Sons of The American Legion held their National Convention August 25, 26, 27, 2023 in Charlotte, North Carolina. I was once again blessed to attend the National Convention. Our Detachment of Florida was represented by National Convention Chairman & CDR Gerard Sambets, National Assistant Adjutant & Convention Secretary Ed Sheubrooks, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Tom Klinger, Detachment Committeeman Greg Tong, 15th District Commander Mike Sherman and Member John Kinlin. Barbara and I enjoyed the 6 hour drive to Charlotte from Jacksonville and checked in to the Hilton Garden Inn about 1 block from the convention center.

On Friday CDR Sambets had the 1st meeting in which the national organization now provides a National Detachment Commanders Class. Our National Convention Committee Meetings began at 8:30 AM. My assignment was Internal Affairs which included the subcommittee reports on membership, member training & development, and convention. IA Chairman Bill Clancy informed us of some of the National Organizational changes. TAL has disbanded the SAL Oversight Committee and the SAL Advisory will report directly to TAL IA. There will be an improvement in the national officer and committee selections and notifications process. TAL Emblem Sales has a new SAL Flag Topper for your Squadron flags. The subcommittee reports included membership which had an outstanding year at 102% and over 275,000 members. They are introducing new tools, for example a Welcoming New Member Kit and New Member Letter. MT&D will be launching new classes, finishing up NMI 3, and unveiling the New Sons of The American Legion University and a SAL YouTube channel. Convention is gearing up for the New Orleans Convention in 2024.

The next meeting was the Pre-Convention National

Executive Committee Meeting to tie up all the end of the year 2023 business. The previous minutes from spring 2023 were not accepted unanimously due to a debate under discussion concerning the acceptance of the rules of The NEC. Discussion was called to question and agreed to resume at The 2023 SAL National Convention. National Lesion Kevin Mook welcomed us to Charlotte. The Century Committee reported that the results of the surveys will be available at fall meetings.

Several resolutions that were discussed and approved were allowing the National Adjutant to make administrative changes to resolutions that do not change the intent and a new SAL tri-fold brochure. A Resolution was presented to dedicate the 2023 Convention to Past National Chaplain Father Gary who passed away this past year.

The pre-convention NEC ended after another discussion of the approval of the SAL NEC rules. The last Convention Committee Meeting for me was the Finance Committee. This past year I was tasked by the National Selection Subcommittee to be the lead NEC Liaison to the finance committee.

Finance committee chairman Bill Hill (M) reported completing the 2022 SAL National Ledger according to General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the updating of the 2023 SAL National Ledger. The 2024 SAL National Budget was accepted at spring NEC. Chairman Hill informed the committee that The Sons of The American Legion will present a resolution to donate \$250,000 to TAL National Veterans & Children Foundation from the SAL Restricted Reserved Fund which is approved by Finance. Discussion on date and time stamping all resolutions was referred back to IA for discussion and a resolution.

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Christopher Carlton opened the 51st Convention and

dedicated the convention to Past National Chaplain Father Gary.

The Detachment of Florida was presented with the National Child Welfare Foundation US Udie Grant Award for the most donations for CWF by the entire Florida Legion Family. CDR Sambets also accepted for the Detachment the CWF Regional award for the most donations in the Southern Region and the certificate for surpassing the \$1.00 per capita.

Day 2 began with the Detachment of Florida proudly welcoming TAL Department of Florida to the SAL Convention Floor. A big thank you to NEC Jim Ramos, and 2nd Vice Jessica Blair Moore for taking time out of their busy schedule to support the FL SAL at convention and thanks to the FL Legion Family for their support.

The Detachment of Florida Legislative Commission Chairman Bill Kelly was proud to accept the Sons of The American Legion 2023 George B Evans National Grassroots Veterans' Advocate of the Year Award. He accepted this award on behalf of the 1700+ members of Lakeshore American Legion Family 137 in Jacksonville, FL. the 22,000+ members of the Detachment of Florida, The membership of the Department of Florida and the 375,000+ members nationally of the Sons of The American Legion for all of your support of Veterans Legislative Advocacy. This is for all of you who contacted your local and state legislators, those of you who joined Voters Voice and contacted your Congressman and Senators, all of you who marched on your state capitols, all of you who attended Washington Conference and spoke personally to our legislators, and all of our Detachment and National commissions members who coordinate our legislative activity all for our Veterans. Thank you. That evening we attended the Leading Candidate Donald (JR) Hall's reception sponsored by

SAL NEC continued on page 26 >>



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< SAL NEC continued from page 25

his Detachment.

On Day 3 the Sons of The American Legion elected Donald (JR) Hall as National Commander along with 5 National Vice Commanders for 2023-2024. National Commander Hall in his inauguration speech laid out his year by explaining his slogan, Representing More Than Me. Everyone of us represents the entire American Legion Family. National Commander Christopher Carlton, seeing no more business to come before him, closed the Sons of The American Legion 51st Convention.

Immediately following the National Convention's close is the Post National Convention, National Executive Committee meeting. This meeting is to swear in the NECs, confirm the recommendations of the advisory committee, and the subcommittee on selection of Officers. Then these nominations by the National Commander for the 2023-2024 appointments are confirmed by the vote of the National Executive Committee. This is the first year the SAL will mirror TAL by not selecting

all the commission, committee, chairman and committeeman until the fall meetings. The National Commissions and Committees term will now run from Fall Conference to Fall Conference.

Several new resolutions coming out of convention committees were the new organization for the membership subcommittee and the removal of the line item on the National Consolidated Squadron Report pertaining to Josh Dogs which no longer exist. With no more business to come before the Executive Committee the Commander entertained a motion to adjourn.

The American Legion has discontinued TAL Family Parade so the Department of Florida has moved its Florida Family Convention Party to Sunday Night. As in the past, except on special occasions, most of the SAL left Monday morning missing the Monday Night Florida Party.

Commander Eunice and Adjutant Bruce Comer planned a party with 3 bus loads of Family Members bussing 35 miles to South Carolina from Charlotte.

The Sunday liquor laws required a trip. TAL Post 34 in Rock Hill South Carolina was a beautiful large brick post. The hospitality was great and the food and drink were very good.

The next day, Monday, while The American Legion and Auxiliary had their meetings and prepared for their convention on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we made the drive back to Florida.

I would like to thank Ed Sheubrooks, for besides doing all of the National duties, he found time to do all the duties of the Detachment Secretary. I would also like to thank our Detachment Commander & Convention Chairman Gerard Sambets, our ANEC Tom Klinger, Committeeman Greg Tong and all the rest of the Detachment of Florida delegation who helped make it a successful National Convention.

October we will be attending the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, In.

Post Everlasting

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



Claude "Sisco" Deen, Jr.

With deep sadness, we report the passing of Past Department Boys Scout Chair Claude "Sisco" Deen, Jr., of Flagler Beach, Florida, who passed away on Thursday,

August 31, 2023 at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; 3 sons (from a previous marriage), Devin, Brian, and Sisco; their children, Evan, Billy, Sage, Scarlet, Jasper, and Juliana; and Gloria's sons,

Seth and David; their children, Hannah, Tom, and Elsa.

Sisco was a U.S. Air Force Vietnam Era Veteran and a Flagler Post 115 member, with 58 continuous years of membership. Sisco served as Post Commander from 1997-99. At the Department level, he served as Boys Scout Chair from 1986-02 and Scholarship Chair from 2000-02. At the National level, he served on the Legislative Council from 1987-90, 1993-94,

and 1999.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 pm on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at the Cattleman's Hall at the Flagler County Fairgrounds, 150 Sawgrass Rd., Bunnell, FL 32110. Condolences may be sent to his family at P.O. Box 637, Flagler Beach, FL 32136.

To view Sisco's obituary: Claude Sisco Deen Jr. Obituary — Flagler Beach, FL (dignitymemorial.com)



PLEASE SUPPORT
DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



MEMBERSHIP TARGET REPORT

September 28, 2023 (51.19%)

District 4	Doug Hockenberry	57.01%
District 14	Thomas Frank	56.68%
District 2	Doyle Combs Jr.	56.13%
District 9	Rico Thomas	55.33%
District 7	Rick Orzechowski	54.50%
District 17	Jim Bowers	54.34%
District 3	Stuart Scott	53.91%
District 12	Bruce Thurber	52.48%
District 11	Toni Sutherland	52.05%
District 1	Shelby Windham	51.75%
District 15	Randy Holeyfield	50.92%
District 5	Miguel Garcia	50.68%
District 6	Peter Gregory	50.16%
District 8	John Rauh	48.72%
District 16	Eric Nestler	47.13%
District 13	Eric Loyd	46.72%
Southern	Johnny Castro	54.26%
Northern	Lena Heredia-Perez	53.22%
Western	Sonny Decker	52.37%
Eastern	Joe Marcheggiani	51.19%
Central	Bob Matheson	49.20%
Southwestern	Harold "Bud" Boyer	47.62%
Post 400		53.48%
Post 208		52.73%

NEXT GOAL: October 12, 2023

55%

DEPARTMENT TRUSTED. LEGIONNAIRE APPROVED.

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



 **LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST**

www.thelit.com



"JUST BECAUSE I LIVE DANGEROUSLY DOESN'T MEAN SHE HAS TO."

Service often takes you away from family. USAA is always there for them when you can't be. We deliver the financial peace of mind and support you deserve. Checking. Savings. Credit cards. Loans. Auto & life insurance. Mutual funds. Even free financial advice. Get all you've earned.

Visit usaa.com today.



*** BI-WEEKLY DRAWINGS ***



WIN BIG & SUPPORT VETS

HUGE PRIZES

50/50 VETERANS RAFFLE

ENTER ONLINE
florida5050.org

 Department of Florida

RAFFLE



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The American Legion official license plate.



PLEASE SUPPORT DISASTER RELIEF & C.O.T.A.

INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY ★ PURPOSE

www.floridal legion.org
legionlink@floridal legion.org



Student Application
December 14-17, 2023
Department Headquarters, Orlando

Section One – Personal Information

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email Address _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

Section Two - Military and American Legion Service

Branch(es) of Service _____ Dates of Service _____

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

List American Legion Offices previously/currently held and when:

Date Completed The American Legion Extension Institute (Required) Month _____ Year _____

Section Three – Education and Career Information

Educational Background (Check highest level achieved)

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

_____ Associate Degree _____ Bachelor’s Degree _____ Postgraduate Degree

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

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

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

FLALC Selection Committee Letter

The FLALC Selection Committee will review applications and make the final selection by November 10, 2023. In 300 words or less, tell them why you want to attend the Florida American Legion College and how you would apply the knowledge you will acquire and will help your District and the Department of Florida. This is an important part of the selection process and it is an opportunity for you to present yourself in your own words. Your comments must be typewritten (use pages 3 & 4).

Last Name _____ First _____ Member ID _____

Section Five – Lodging and Accommodation Information

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

Check with Department Headquarters for hotel special accommodations, such as handicap accessibility or special dietary needs (please list on a separate page what those restrictions or special needs might be). Any outstanding charges must be cleared at checkout with the hotel. **A \$300 Registration Fee is required for rooms, coffee, and lunches. The Fee MUST accompany the application.** Changes to hotel locations will be communicated by email. For those students that don't require a hotel room, your registration fee will be \$100.

Preferred Hotel Roommate _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

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

(1)	(2)	(3)
(4)	(5)	(6)
2. What are the candidate’s goals for advancement in The American Legion?
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
3. Why do you believe this candidate should attend the Department of Florida American Legion College?
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
4. What might this candidate be doing for the American Legion in:

One year: (a)	(b)	(c)
Five years: (a)	(b)	(c)
5. Within the next five years, might you comfortably elect this candidate as your (Check all that apply):

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

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

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

Last Name _____ First _____ Membership ID _____

HOW TO SUBMIT:

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

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

Last Name _____ First _____ Membership ID _____

HOW TO SUBMIT:

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

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



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 501(c)(19) 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>

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Department
of Florida



www.florida5050.org



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS'



HILLBILLY HOEDOWN

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

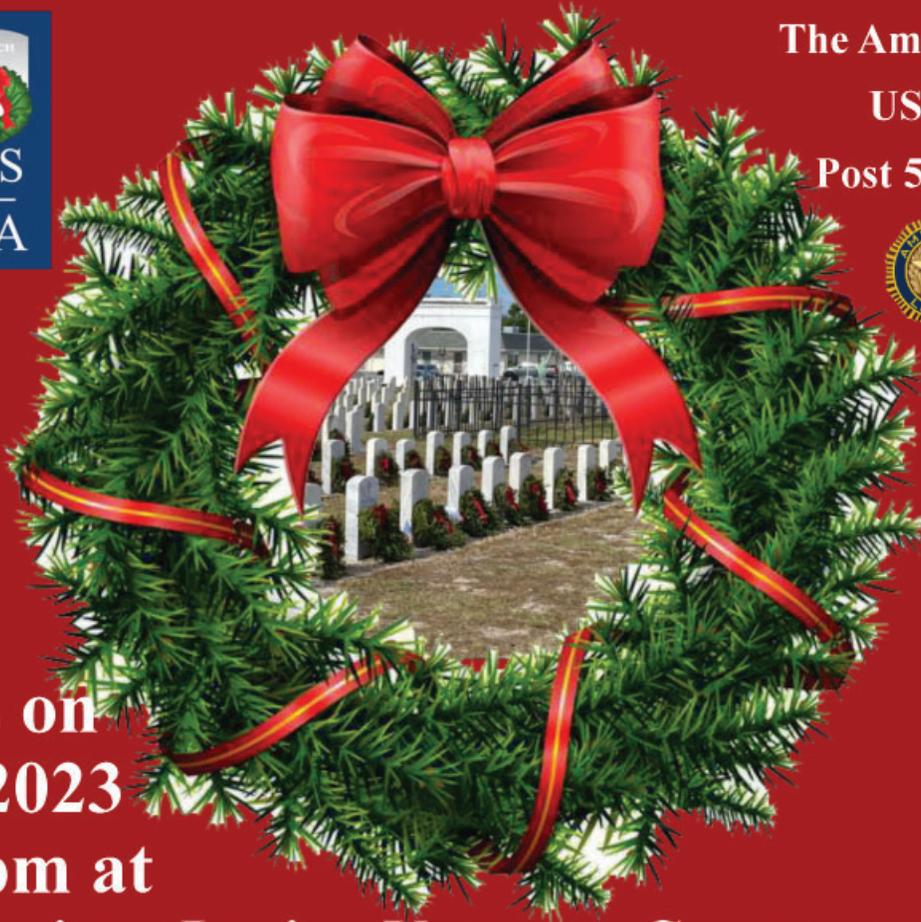


Questions or Concerns:
Dennis Boland (239) 641-1224





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



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



**RAIN
OR
SHINE!**

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

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


**FamiliesFirst
NETWORK**
An Affiliate of LifeView Group