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Submit Articles at

floridalegion.org/submit or legionlink@floridalegion.org

Questions? legionlink@floridalegion.org



A Message from the Department Commander

Michael "Gambler" Raymond, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



Well, I made it through my first month rather unscathed. Boys State, Legion Baseball, and the Membership workshop are all in the books. As promised, I visited the Hurricane Ian-affected areas accompanied and photographed by our amazing Historian, Edward (definitely not Ed) Lewis. Please take a moment and view the article and photographs in our August Link. They are eye-opening!

I've managed to attend an Installation in most Districts and have already attended a District meeting or two. I really want you to know that my eyes are open, and I am taking notes. Although we have a written plan for accomplishing these ceremonies and events, it seems the problem we face is preparation. We're not preparing for the program like we should. We really need to understand that the Installation of officers is a big deal. It is vital that the way we present ourselves both visually and intellectually leaves a lasting impression with each Post! We must leave a good impression. "Repetition breeds perfection" is pretty much true in almost everything we do. But is it really how we want to prepare for these very important ceremonies? 6th District Commander Peter Gregory made a comment about how he has 25 installations in his District. Should the first 24 be practice

for the final one? I don't think so. This is why Legion Basic Training is so important. Our training has completed the preparation of our training materials, and is ready for use. I encourage all Post, District, and Area Commanders to reach out to the training coordinator in your area and schedule this very important and comprehensive training program.

Our membership plan has been instituted and is moving along very well. We are actually a bit ahead of last year's numbers, and I'm feeling very confident that our goals are achievable. Your Dept. membership chair, Bruce Carl, is busting his hump out there to assist you all in reaching your goals. We have a great plan, and we need to stick to it. But we must approach our membership goals with "Eyes Wide Open"! You must see continuous growth in your Post or District. If you need assistance, people are waiting for you to ask. Everyone from the Dept. 1st vice Commander on down is ready, willing, and able to help you achieve your goals. Remember the two keys to success in membership. If you're involved in your community and doing your programs, the rest is a piece of cake. Go to your Post tomorrow with "Eyes Wide Open" and recognize the keys that will make your Post a success. God Bless, and be safe out there.

"I'm Proud To Be Legion!"



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COMMANDER'S CHARITIES

Disaster Relief and C.O.T.A.



Convention, Training, Membership, and Activities

Chris Hamrick, 1st Vice Commander

1stvice@legionmail.org



So far, we are rocking right along. Installations are complete minus the few random snowbird posts and such. Training kicked off almost immediately after Convention, and the primary Department training materials were recently posted. We are right on track with membership so far. Let's not become complacent where membership is concerned. I'm getting this article in late due to a hard drive crash but hey, better late than not at all.

Lots of activities are going on everywhere in the Department. This is an awesome thing. We are closing out the month in Charlotte at National Convention. From there, we return to Florida and hit the ground running again. Looking forward to the 7 Bridges POW/MIA run in Jacksonville, among others, and finishing September up with the Challenge 22 event in the panhandle. Busy times we're in folks. Momentum... Continuity... Training. That's the recipe for our success this year. See you on the road. Keep it Real.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 1-30 National Disaster Preparedness Month
- 1-30 Suicide Prevention Month
- 1-30 Service Dog Month
- 1 Post Pogram Chairs Form Due ✨
- 1 5050 Early Bird Draw www.florida5050.org ✨
- 2 V-J Day (Victory over Japan) (1945)
- 2 Post 108: Picnic
- 4 Labor Day
- 4 Department Headquarters Closed ✨
- 7 Membership: 50% Goal ✨
- 7 Post 147: Learn the Facts (Benefits)
- 8 50/50 Main Draw www.florida5050.org ✨
- 9 Chapter 17: Poker Run for K-9 Line
- 9 Chapter 9: Fest Ride for Missing in America
- 9 District 12: Meeting
- 9 District 15: Membership Training
- 9 District 8: Meeting
- 9 Chapter 10: ALR Riders Dinner
- 10 District 13: ALR Poker Run
- 10 Post 138: Blood Drive
- 10 Chapter 8: ALR Meeting
- 11 Patriot Day
- 11 National Emergency Responders Day
- 13 Chapter 10: ALR Meeting
- 15 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 15 Legion Link Articles Due ✨
- 15 JSSP: 1st Targets Due & Registration ✨
- 15 Chapter 8: ALR Dinner Night
- 15 5050 Early Bird Draw www.florida5050.org ✨
- 16 The American Legion Day
- 16 National Combined Americanism Conference ★
- 16 ALR: Seven Bridges POW/MIA Ride & Ceremony ✨
- 16 District 12: POW/MIA Service

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >>

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

Time is Flying By

Jessica Moore, 2nd Vice Commander

2ndvice@legionmail.org



Is anyone else surprised at how fast the time is speeding by? I had the pleasure of attending the National membership workshop. What a fantastic opportunity to hear and share new ideas, compare and contrast procedures, and meet people from all over the country. I felt energized and am looking forward to bringing back ideas for all the Posts in Florida. Installations are wrapping up, and I look forward to

attending District meetings and checking in with as many of you as possible. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I also want to hear how you are "being the one"..... to make a difference in another veteran's life, make a buddy call, and increase our membership. The whole month of September is National Suicide Prevention Month, along with National Service Dog Month. September 11 is Patriots Day, and the last Sunday of the month is Gold Star Mother's Day. These are but a few recognized September holidays. What a perfect time to reach out to a fellow veteran and Be the One.

What you need to Know?

Jim Ramos, NEC

nec@legionmail.org



What you need to Know?
 Hello to all of our American Legion members. For September, we have attended the following:
 After we return from the National Convention, I will have new

information on our programs, resolutions, and legislative issues. Please be sure to check the October Legion Link for updated information. You are always welcome to ask questions, and I will get you answers as quickly as possible.

Please sign up for the Legislation (Action Alerts) Agenda,

NEC continued on page 3 >>



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<< NEC continued from page 2

to help our mission to make a better American Legion for all of us. If you are already a member, just double-check to ensure you are still active.

One Legislative issue still going is Flag Amendment:

“The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that flag desecration is protected speech after a self-proclaimed communist was charged with desecrating the U.S. flag. The 1989 Texas v. Johnson case invalidated the law against flag desecration in 48 states and the District of Columbia. The American Legion and veterans were outraged that the Court, in a 5-4 ruling, took away the fundamental right for the people to protect their flag.”

Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment.

The American Legion strongly supports a constitutional amendment that would return to the states the right to protect the U.S. flag. And yes, I’m 100% to protect our great U.S. flag that I fought for 20 years in the U.S. Army. Are you with me? For more information, email cfa@legion.org.

National Security is just something going on the list below:

End Forever Wars: The American Legion National Executive Committee unanimously passed Resolution No. 22, Addressing “Forever War,” at its virtual meeting on Oct. 14-15, 2020. The resolution encourages Congress to “repeal and replace outdated authorizations for the use of military force” and advocates for a “civilian-led approach of elevating development and diplomacy alongside a strong defense in order to build a better, safer world.”

POW/MIA Accounting: The American Legion continues to support total funding for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in its mission to recover, identify or account for fallen American servicemembers from battlefields worldwide.

Pay Our Coast Guard: Because the U.S. Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security, its funding is often not approved as early as the DoD branches of the Armed Services. The American Legion believes that Congress should pass legislation to ensure that members of the Coast Guard do not experience pay interruptions in the event of future government shutdowns.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2023

<< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

- 17 Constitution Day
- 17 Citizenship Day
- 17 US Office of the Secretary of Defense Birthday
- 17-23 Constituion Week
- 18 US Air Force Birthday
- 18 US National Guard Birthday
- 19 District 15: Central Area Commander Visit (Post 334)
- 22 50/50 Main Draw www.florida5050.org ✨
- 23 First Day of Fall
- 23 District 12: Training
- 24 Gold Star Mother’s Day
- 24 Chapter 283: ALR Annual Poker Run
- 24-25 Yom Kippur
- 24-30 Employ Older Workers Week
- 25 PROJECT: VetRelief Golf Tournament
- 28 District 13: Hurricane Ian Remembrance (Post 136)
- 28 District 15: Central Area Commander Visit (Post 26)
- 29 VFW Day
- 29 Post 246: Installation of Officers
- 29 5050 Early Bird Draw www.florida5050.org ✨
- 30 Challenge 22 Event
- 30 District 13: Hurricane Ian Remembrance (Post 123)
- 30 District 8: Meeting & Picnic
- 30 Post 148: ALR Monthly Dinner
- 30 Chapter 10: ALR Kissimmee Bike Night

☼ Commander attendance tentative.

✨ Department of Florida event.

★ National event.

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

National Convention Information

Jerry Brandt, ANEC

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Comrades,

First, I want to congratulate all the new officers and those who are there for a 2nd year within your Department, Area, District, and Post positions. I hope you start out strong on the goals that elected you and finish as a successful officer for this year. Please remember that the goals of the American Legion and your goals should be the betterment of our fellow Veterans and their families. If you need assistance, reach out to your chain of command, they can assist in getting you the needed training and guidance for whatever problem you encounter. Best wishes for a successful year.

On the “Be the One” campaign, on July 10th, a resolution was passed by the National Executive Committee by a vote of YES - 57; NO – 2; ABSTAIN – 0. The effect of the resolution is that The American Legion will join in a coalition started by USAA to foster veteran suicide prevention awareness. The American Legion will not be obligated to comply with any actions with which The American Legion disagrees. This resolution will initially be implemented by the Marketing Commission and later become the responsibility of the VA&R Commission. Meanwhile, all commissions will cooperate to assist in preventing veteran suicide.

The 104th National Convention is this month in Charlotte, NC, August 25-31. If you are planning to attend, please remember that unless you are on stage

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<< ANEC continued from page 3

during the general assembly, business casual is the uniform of the day. As usual, there are many events you can attend, including Color Guard and Post Band contests. Exhibit Hall and Emblem Sales, Charlotte Exhibit Hall, will be open.

But the main reason to attend the National Convention

is to learn. Classes and lectures will be available once the schedule comes out. Go to these events, reach out and meet other attendees from around the country, and find out what they do; you will be surprised at how far advanced Florida is on our various programs.

Go to the meetings, and there will be many, plus you may be assigned meetings to attend; if so, come back

with the information they give out and share it with everyone.

To learn more about the National Convention, visit www.legion.org/convention or www.floridalegion.org, News & Events, National Convention, for any updates.

I hope to see you there in Charlotte.

Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Shirley Douglas, Finance Officer

financeofficer@legionmail.org



Could you, as a Post Officer, misappropriate funds without realizing it?

When dealing with donations, the funds received can only be used for the purpose stated when the funds are received. Designated purposes can be indicated on the memo line of the check (i.e., "American Legion Boys State Program transportation"), a letter received with the donation stating the funds are for school medals, or an auxiliary member sets up a donation jar/pass the hat and states the donations will be used to help pay to replace a broken appliance in the Post's kitchen.

I have provided additional information below to help clarify how donated funds are classified.

Ref: <https://www.501c3.org/misappropriating-nonprofit-funds/>

There are two types (or buckets) of funds, restricted and unrestricted.

Restricted Funds: These funds are set aside for a particular purpose. Sometimes it's temporarily restricted, meaning that the restriction could end due to a specified time limit or, more likely, by the completion of a project, such as the construction of a facility. Funds that are permanently restricted are usually meant for ongoing projects or activities with no time limit (i.e., the Post has a building fund that is used to maintain the Post facility). Alternatively, a permanent restriction could also be tied to money that is to be saved or invested in an endowment fund, the interest earnings of which can be used for a particular activity or general operations.

Unrestricted Funds: As the name suggests, unrestricted funds don't have strings attached and may be used by the nonprofit for whatever purpose it deems necessary. This money typically goes toward normal operating costs—an example, if your Post membership dues are \$40. \$29 of the membership dues received are restricted funds (Part must go to the Florida Dept. and part to National). The remaining \$11 dollars are unrestricted funds and can be used to pay for various Post expenses/programs.

It is important to remember that restricted means **RESTRICTED!** This is not a trivial matter. Donors can take legal action against a nonprofit that the donor believes is misusing their restricted donation. The last thing your charity wants is to be in the cross-hairs of the state Attorney General's office.



The American Legion, Department of Florida is no stranger to massive destruction caused by natural disasters.

Because of this, Legion Families across the United States pitch in to provide necessary, and sometimes live-saving, support to help us rebuild or repair our lives, homes, and Legion establishments. It is now our turn and honor to be able to provide this type of aid to our Legion Family in Hawaii.

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<https://qrco.de/beHy0n>



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Proper Display of Flags and Military Salute

Les Martin, Sergeant-at-Arms

sgtatarms@legionmail.org



First, I want to thank all the Posts that supported me in my bid for re-election as your Department Sergeant-at-Arms. It is greatly appreciated, and I plan on representing ALL Posts in our Department. And remember, if you want some Sgt-at-Arms training for your district, please let me know.

In the meantime, I am going to use this forum to provide some answers to some of the questions I have been asked over this past year. Here are three of them. "Can the members of the S.A.L. give the military salute? The S.A.L. is only authorized to render the military salute when wearing their official S.A.L. Cover. If they do not have their S.A.L. cover on, then they must salute with their right hand over their heart. I have been to many District and Post meetings and installations around the state and have seen members of the S.A.L. rendering the military salute with no cover on or a ballcap on.

"Being that the Riders are a program of the American Legion, can the Auxiliary members and Sons that are not

dual members (see the answer to Sons above) give the military salute?" The answer is NO. Before you were a rider, you were either an Auxiliary or Sons member. You follow the rules associated with your particular unit in the American Legion.

"What is the proper order to display flags at meetings or in a display at the Post."

Order of Displayed Flags (Peace Time)



Even though the Coast Guard is older than the Space Force and Air Force, it does not fall under the Department of Defense. It is part of Homeland Security. This is why it is displayed last.

Order of Displayed Flags (Times of War)



During a time of declared war, the Coast Guard then became part of the Department of Defense.

Displaying Flags in Your Meetings



When using the POW/MIA Chair, there is no need to display the POW/MIA flag on a stand. If you are not using the POW/MIA Chair, place the POW/MIA flag to the left of the American Legion Flag.

I hope everyone had a great summer, and if you went to the National Convention, I hope you had safe travels to and from Charlotte. Myself, Jamie Grinis and Bob Bober represented our Department as National Convention Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

Sustainment and Growth

Joe Marcheggiani, Eastern Area Commander

eastern@legionmail.org



Greetings, Eastern Area,

With August in the rearview mirror, many of the Eastern Area installations are behind us now, and hopefully, 100-degree temperatures.

Looking ahead will be a period for sustainment and growth. How many "Buddy Checks" did your post do last month? It is time to dedicate our energy

to recruitment and training. District 12's training last weekend at Post 189 in Sebastian was purposeful and well-received. The attendance was spectacular, and a lot of helpful information was exchanged.

With the school year in full swing, reach out to the various leaders in the schools and inform them of what The American Legion has to offer. Do not limit yourself to just public schools. Hundreds of private and charter schools will gladly participate in our programs if they know about them. Every post should have a committee dedicated to informing schools and students about the

benefits of Legion programs. Every young American we touch has a potential member in their midst.

As this Legion Link goes to press, a contingent of Florida American Legion Riders (to include our Commander Michael "Gambler" Raymond) is heading to Kokomo, Indiana, to take part in the American Legion Riders Legacy Run to the National Convention in Charlotte, SC. We plan to learn all we can at the convention and bring it home to our Posts, Districts, and Areas. Hope I see you there. Be the One!



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Training to Get Back To Basics

Lena Heredia-Perez, Northern Area Commander

northern@legionmail.org



Now that installations are done, we can actively continue to educate our Post officers and membership to help ensure that they can have a successful Legion year. Remember, we as leaders **ARE NOT** successful if the Posts in our areas **ARE NOT** successful.

This year the approved Department training focuses on the history of The American Legion, reviewing American Legion protocol, how to run an effective meeting, an overview of the roles & responsibilities of various Post officers, and complaint procedures to include rules governing trials/appeals. With everyone throughout the Department following the prescribed training, we will ensure that one message is resonating throughout the Department of Florida.

District / Area Commanders:

- Build your team with Train the Trainers, Legion Graduates, PDCs, and other talented members within your District/Area. Once you have built your team, please share with your trainers the various training documentation so that they can start reviewing the training so that they are prepared for the day of training.
- Schedule your training - Some may break up the

training and do a couple of segments during each meeting or hold a completely separate training date; regardless of how your District decides to do it, it is sufficient. Please note that each District / Area is recommended to hold training now and again at the end of the year so that the new Post officers have a good idea of what their duties and responsibilities are prior to taking office.

- Don't forget to submit your documentation after your training to training@floridalegion.org for their records.

American Legion Family / Future Leadership:

- As a member of our American Legion (Legion, SAL, and the Auxiliary), it is our responsibility to become educated on every aspect of our organization so we can be great stewards to our veterans and community. Therefore, I encourage you to make every effort to plan to attend the Back to the Basics Training provided by your District / Area.

Assignments for the Department Training Team are as follows:

- Southern Area Commander Johnny Castro 9, 11, 12, 13, & 14 Districts
- 15th District Commander - Randy Holeyfield 6, 7, 8, 15, & 16 Districts
- Northern Area Commander Lena Heredia-Perez 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 17 Districts

In closing, please note that our job as our training team is far from over. This year, we have set lofty goals to produce professional video tutorials on various topics, such as How to Run a Post/District Meeting, Conduct Post Officer Installation, The Election Process, How to Complete the CPR & National Addendum, etc. If you have additional suggestions, please share them with us as we work for the membership.

Let's Get Back to the Basics!

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."



Many Have Asked the Question, What's in it for Me?

Johnny Castro, Southern Area Commander

southern@legionmail.org



Many Have Asked the Question, What's in it for me?

The reality is that's a question many people ask themselves for many reasons daily. It could be as simple as what to have for dinner or the next car to purchase. In defining my life choices, there were a lot of factors to address, but rarely do I ask myself what's in it for

me.

There were standards or protocols to adhere to in the military, as everyone is aware. What do these two words mean, and why are they important? Protocol means "a system of rules that explain the correct conduct and procedures to be followed in formal situations," standards mean "something set up and established by authority as a rule for the measure of quantity, weight, extent, value, or quality." When I was young, this gave me structure and a sense of belonging where I knew I could be good.

The bottom line is that as NCOs, our primary job responsibilities were the accomplishment of our mission and the welfare of our soldiers. Remember that NCOs? Yes, our feelings played into our decision making, but at the same time, the final decision is made based on our Basic Training, AIT, FMs, TMs, and for us Army folks, and ARs. Leadership also played a role.

After joining the American Legion and other VSOs, I decided to place my energy into the Legion because

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<< Southern Area Commander continued from page 6

of what this organization has done for our Veterans historically and what it's still doing today to support all Veterans, the active-duty personnel, their families, and the communities they live in. I wanted to be a part of that. I wanted to make a difference.

In the last few years as a Legion member, I've noticed that being in a leadership role is nothing like when I was serving my country. Here's why I'm saying this. We have an outstanding leader in the Department. Membership and Back to Basic training is the priority of the many goals set for the new year. We have teams in place to support any Post needing assistance.

I've been to several installations and have had conversations with many regarding the coming year. One conversation was with someone I respect as a Legionnaire. I shared that it was important to train the Post leadership on the proper opening and closing of a meeting based on my previous week's experience. He disagreed. Why? I asked. He stated that every Post has an Officer Guide when turned to page 41, it will show someone how to hold a meeting properly. So why aren't they using the guide in running a meeting properly?

As a Post, we're provided the Officer Guide, Adjutant Manual, other position manuals, the Membership Manual, and the Post Constitution & By-Laws (CBL) to guide us in properly running or managing a Post. It sounds like being

in the military, right?

So do we need to meet with the post leadership to find out if they received the paper manuals and know how to obtain them online? Some posts may not have bridged the gap from paper to electronic and need more guidance. So, let's all get Back to Basics and start at the beginning, ensuring the post leadership has what they need and knows how to retrieve it. This will only allow the enhancement needed to help posts and their membership succeed.

If not, we'll just be asking ourselves, What's in it for me?

District Three (3) Events

Stuart Scott, District 3 Commander

district3@legionmail.org



Third District Happenings — So, what is happening in your world? While we might not know what's happening in your District, here is what is happening in the Third District; This past month we had our first District Meeting of

the new fiscal year. It was very well attended, and we were honored to have Northern Area Commander Lena Heredia-Perez, Northern Area ALR Director Denny Luke, Membership Chair Bruce Carl, District 2nd Vice Commander Jessica Moore, and the entire leadership team from the District. Our goals were outlined for the

coming year, and everyone seemed excited to meet them. Several members attended the National Convention in Charlotte, NC, where they attended meetings and training. We will hear more from them at our next District meeting (10/1/23 @ P49). We also had a District fundraiser held at Post 57, where District Commander Scott and District 1st Vice Commander Cabrera worked in the kitchen to feed all those hungry members wanting those delicious cheesesteaks!

September will bring, of course, Labor Day (9/4), the POW/MIA ride (9/16) in our sister District, the Mighty 5th, Oktoberfest (9/21-9/24) at various posts, and ending the month at another sister District, D1's

Challenge 22 event in Navarre, FL. A grand opening for Post 83, which is October 21st, Noon — late, where you will be able to see all the wonderful things that have changed during the transition from a mere office in the building to it now being a fully functional "Baker County Veterans Center," boasting support for our veteran community. All these events are an opportunity to call up your members and invite them out to see how we support each other so that we can support our veteran community. Don't forget, college football is back, so that is another way to invite current and new members to the post.

"Coach - Mentor - Develop"

Doug Hockenberry, District 4 Commander

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Hello, Department of Florida American Legion Family. Since the Department's annual convention, we have all been busy with Post family officer installations, ensuring that our program chairs are prepared

and working with the Post leadership throughout our respective Districts as we embark on the 2023-2024 American Legion year. I can tell you firsthand

that I thoroughly enjoyed conducting the post-officer installations within the 4th District and the fact that we have several new Commanders and leadership teams eager to take their posts to new heights.

I mention new leadership teams for a reason. Many posts become comfortable with their command team, and as we all know, many Post commanders remain in the position for several years. I thank them for their commitment and dedication to the American Legion, their Posts, and their membership. However, there may

be a downside to having the same leadership team year in and year out. It makes me wonder if we are taking stock of the skills of our membership. Are we promoting growth in our membership? Are we providing our membership with the opportunity to advance? For some, these may be difficult questions to answer. And that's why I believe it is a subject that needs to be addressed.

District 4 Commander continued on page 8 >>



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<< District 4 Commander continued from page 7

Think back to when you were in uniform and as you matured within your respective service branch and career field. Your squad leader, platoon sergeant, section chief, first line supervisor, or department head had the responsibility to ensure you were proficient in your MOS, AFSC, or NEC. In doing so, they were preparing you for the next skill level, the next advancement, the next promotion. The same principle applies to us in the American Legion.

So, how do we accomplish this task within our posts?

Simple "Coach - Mentor - Develop." We have all heard the many definitions of leadership, and in last month's issue of the Link, our Department's Second Vice Commander, Jessica Moore, spoke about leadership and shared a wonderful definition of leadership. Well, for me, coming from the US Army, our definition of leadership was simple and straightforward. "Leadership is the process of influencing personnel to accomplish the mission effectively." As I said, simple and straightforward. Regardless of our service branch, we, as leaders in the American Legion, have the awesome responsibility to ensure the future of our great organization, and it starts

at the post level.

So, Commanders, Post leadership teams, I ask that you look within the ranks of your post membership and identify members who want to know more, those who always volunteer, and those who head up events at your posts. Those members may very well be your successor. Please provide them with the resources, tools, encouragement, sound counsel, and motivation to excel. Our future, our continued growth depends on it. "Coach - Mentor - Develop"

"Proud to be Legion"

"A Family that Plans Together, Stands Together, and Achieves Greatness"

Rico Thomas, District 9 Commander

district9@legionmail.org



The "Mighty 9th District" is on a great path to achieve greatness. Yet, not without our share of challenges. Commander Gambler has charged each District Commander to commit to working on membership and district training. The Mighty 9th District has its first District meeting and training. The training is led by the Southern Area Commander and the district's trainers. The district's 1st Vice Commander is working with each post on their membership. The focus is to retain current members, reach out to expired members, and work with 400 members. Currently, "The Mighty Ninth" district is ranked

3rd of the 16 districts. We are collectively working hard to keep us at the top.

The Mighty 9th District has family installations. With the exception of a few posts without homes, we are near closing that chapter of post installations. What I enjoy about family installations is the opportunity to see the success of each post family. I've humbly noticed that other family members are reaching and exceeding membership goals. Sadly, it is the Legion part of the family not making membership goals. "How can I change that?" is a big question I constantly have at the forefront of my thoughts. The 9th District's leaders are making themselves available to every post in the district. Gladly, posts are reaching out, and the district leaders are

answering the calls. We are in the planning stages for family outings, including a Women Veteran Forum.

I'm grateful to have a district staff willing to work with me on the changes I have made to District's traditions, never Legion's standards. As District Commander, I use the term "my" very loosely. My District staff is filled with many continuous years in The American Legion and has a great wealth of leadership knowledge and guidance. They keep me in line but are willing to try new ideas for the good. I'm taking this time to say earlier than later, "Thank You."

"Love and Proud to Be Legion!"

Introduction

Toni Sutherland, District 11 Commander

district11@legionmail.org



Greetings, All!
I hope all is well with you as your summer slowly creeps into fall. Soon the snowbirds will be back among us, and we'll all be enjoying a flurry of festive holiday activities, hopefully in much cooler weather!

I want to introduce myself to everyone because I haven't been involved in The American Legion for very

long - - only since July 5, 2018, which is when my sister, also a veteran, and I walked into Post 62 and joined. I moved to Florida to join her after retiring from The Department of Social Services in Missouri. Twenty-two years of cold, blowing winds and snow there had finally gotten the best of me, and I decided to ditch it all and move to the land of palm trees, alligators, pythons, and sharks. Oh, and I forgot, blue skies, gorgeous views, and the Atlantic Ocean.

I spent almost ten years in the Army doing secret squirrel stuff that no one cares about anymore. In fact, most of

what I did is talked about now on the nightly news or discussed in depth in newspaper and magazine articles. But back in the '80s, the Soviets and I were literally on a first-name basis, especially if they commanded surface-to-surface missiles. After a back injury during a tactical deployment that sidelined me from doing critical mission activities (running and push-ups), the Army decided that I was no longer deployable, and off I went back into a civilian world that I didn't want to be in. It took me years to adapt, and sometimes I wonder if I ever fully have.

District 11 Commander continued on page 9 >>



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<< District 11 Commander continued from page 8

I landed in the social work field, and I can't say that it was a bad decision and have worked with children, teens, families, offenders, veterans, the handicapped, and anyone else that needed help. It truly prepared me for my current job, which is running Emerald V, a private 31-unit Veterans' residence in Stuart. I have been there five years, and, in that time, my membership in The American Legion has made it possible for me to tap into resources that I would never have had available to me or the veterans that live at Emerald V without the network provided by The American Legion Family. I have also completed Post Resource Officer training so I can aid any veteran that needs it.

I volunteered to become the Adjutant at Post 62 not long after I became a member there. Our Adjutant died unexpectedly, and I stepped up, and not having a clue what the Adjutant did, said, "I'm pretty good with that sort of thing," and have been in the position ever since. I enjoy it immensely! It makes me feel very useful when I can help a Legion member with a problem or answer their question. I answer many calls and emails every week from our members wanting information and respond to questions from people who post questions on our website. I also ensure that our membership files are complete, that any letters that go out are absolutely correct, that our minutes are accurate, and that our other officers are doing what they are supposed to do and where they are supposed to be.

I never imagined that I would become the Commander of District 11. It was not on my radar at all! However, I was approached about running for the position, and the more I thought about it, the more I thought, why not? I had a lot that I could offer to the 20 posts within District 11, and I hope they feel the same way by the end of the year. I truly want each of the Legion members within District 11 to define for themselves what their purpose is in belonging to The American Legion. My purpose is simple - - to provide the best of whatever it is that each post and each Legionnaire needs from me whenever they need it. I believe that's what every leader within The American Legion should strive for.

District 13 Information

Eric Loyd, District 13 Commander

district13@legionmail.org



District 13 Children and Youth Chairman Dennis Boland has scheduled the Children and Youth picnic for November 4th at Post 323, Lehigh Acres. 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

District 13 Boys State Chairman Rebecca Sewell has

already visited three school open houses, giving out Boys State and Oratorical brochures.

District 13 still has one post completely closed due to hurricane damage (Post 303). Two (2) other posts only have their Tiki bars open (Posts 110 and 123). They are still looking for donations to help them.

District 13 working parties are a big success, and we will keep helping all the posts that need help getting repairs/

upgrades made.

District 13 has also reached out to Maui, Hawaii, to see if we can assist them with anything due to the wildfires, and we are awaiting their response.

District 13 motto for the year is one (1) percent more. If all the legion members give one (1) percent more, what a big difference that can make, and WE also push to BE THE ONE.

District 16

Eric Nestler, District 16 Commander

district16@legionmail.org



The TEAM for 2023-2024 is the most dedicated I have seen in recent years. First, I'm very appreciative of being trusted again to be Commander, 16th District. Second,

the officers and chairs have the willingness and commitment to train and work for the support of the Legion family. We are coordinating with Post commanders and their staff throughout the District to conduct marketing strategies, brainstorming sessions, and training. There is a lot of work to accomplish during the year, but it starts with training and ends with implementation,

reinforcement training, and support. "The only time success comes before work is in the dictionary.

T=Together E= Everyone A=Achieves M=More, we only have one shot to make a huge difference in the lives of the veterans and their families. Now is the time to make that shot count.

Post 72 Commander Jerilyn Ebbole presents Camp Kesem at USF representatives with a \$5,000.00 grant from Department of Florida's Children & Youth Fund. Camp Kesem at USF provides year-round support and a free summer camp to children whose parents or caregivers have or have had cancer.



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District 12 Information

Bruce Thurber, District 12 Commander

district12@legionmail.org

As we begin our third month of the 2023-2024



Membership year, I look forward to making Post visits, holding training sessions, and our first District meeting at Post 81 on September 9th.

As most of you know, I have finished installing the greatest group of Post officers and we are going to have a great year. Post 163 will be holding

a special POW/MIA Service at 1700 hours on the 16th of September. Our District training is scheduled for September 23rd at Post 22 in Cocoa starting at 10 am. This casual event is open to everyone Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Riders, and folks from other Districts. **Please bring a DMO with you.**

We are busy planning a District picnic for October 14th at Post 189 in Sebastian. The District Riders Chairman, John Rubino, is at the helm of this project, and we would love to have folks from across the state join us.

Our next membership goal in the 12th District is 65% by October 1st. We would also like to have 80% retention before New Year's.

National asked that each post does something special to recognize **BE THE ONE**. I would really like to hear what you are doing, so send me an email at District12@legionmail.org with your story.

A thought for your Membership Team:



THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK

It amuses me to think that your group spends so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time. Do you remember me? I'm the person you asked to join. I paid my dues and was asked to be a loyal and faithful member.

I'm the person who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk and sit with.

I sat with different people several times, but they did not pay much attention to me. I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the committees or do something, but no one did. Finally, because of illness I missed a meeting. When I came again no one asked me where I had been. I guess it did not matter much whether I came or not. Next time I decided to stay home and watch a good TV show. When I came back again no one asked where I was the month before.

You might say I'm a good person, fun loving and religious. You know what else I am?

THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK AND NEVER RENEWED.



Off to a good start, finishing well

Randy Holeyfield, District 15 Commander

district15@legionmail.org



The year has kicked off, with the installation of Post officers; Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders. Each group is fundamental for the effectiveness of The American Legion for our programs and our community impact. Every part of TAL contributes to this, like the parts of a Swiss watch. Every one of us is vital and needs to continue our stance made in 1919. Although every District has specific events and happenings, it is TAL as a whole that impacts our great nation, one we love, and we will continue to work hard to keep it the nation the world respects

(through power) and gravitates towards to live. With most, if not all, installations done, we gear up to do what we do best, support our veterans; whether they are in TAL or not, we are the voice of all veterans. *Number one (#1) is Membership*; it is the basis of everything; without our members, we would fade away. Placing membership at the front of every action we do, membership should be integrated into all events, parties, open houses, community fairs, and just about everything we do. Opportunities are always before us, so take advantage of all opportunities to gain new members, it's a matter of just asking; "Are you a veteran, would you join The American Legion? Never assume anyone's affiliation, and even if they are with another veteran's organization, they may still be able to join (the best) the

Legion Family, ask. Our Department Commander's top priority is and will be membership, so let's keep up the momentum, **Damn the Torpedoes, full speed ahead**. That saying means: regardless of what is all around you, stay focused and keep moving effectively forward (membership).

Well, let's look at other aspects of the coming year for the 15th District. The first District meeting was on August 19th, at Post 111 (our host), which has a facility able to house a dual meeting (Legion & Auxiliary). With these dual meetings, the spouses are able to not only travel with their counterparts but go on the same day, at the same location, for their

District 15 Commander continued on page 11 >>



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<< District 15 Commander continued from page 10

District meeting. Many posts only have one large area, and some have another site, but it's not a large one. Thank you, Post 111, for your continued support for the District and its meeting location. National Convention has just passed as well; more on that next month. On the calendar, which is sent to all Post Commanders and Post Adjutants: September 9th has membership training at Post 152, November 4th is the Past Commanders and Past Presidents Dinner, again at Post 152 (great post), where we raise a lot of the funding for Boys' and Girls' State transportation, November 17th - 19th is Fall Conference, December 2nd is another District meeting at Post 111, December 14th - 17th Florida Legion College, February 17th is the District picnic at Post 138, our other fundraising event for Boys' & Girls' State transportation. Did I mention how well we did last year? The Past President & Past Commanders Dinner had huge

injections to the District account, Wow! Thank you to each and every post for your support, and Post 138 & 152, the hosts for these events; you're the greatest. Next: March 16 is TAL Birthday Picnic hosted by Post 108 in Land O Lakes, then on March 23rd is the last District meeting of the year at Post 111, which our DCC then follows at Post 111 on May 11. All of the details are always sent to your post leadership via the District calendar, which is available to all members, ask your post commander to post the District calendar or at least the details of upcoming events. And while speaking about calendars, pay attention to the Department's; it is full of events throughout the state.

Lastly, I want to promote an event that has been a long time coming (or should have). There will be a Boys' State and Girls' State Alumni Dinner for all Alumni from times past. On Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 1700 (5 pm), at

Post 26 in Plant City. Post 26 has a huge hall with a full kitchen (2 gas stoves) that will accommodate the event, plus they are centrally located in Florida. It will be the springboard to continued (Annual) Alumni events and help to set the process of developing an Alumni Association. Many states have these, these **Staters** (a name for a Boy or Girl that has gone to it), many of which have become successful, are more than accommodating to support an association to a program that **"changed their lives,"** as many put it. So get the word out to every District and every post to let every **Stater** know about this event for a successful launch of what can and should have been developed. I assure you the food will be premium and only \$10 each (just enough to cover the cost). This event is for the gathering and not a fundraiser; let's come from far and near; even if you've moved to Florida and were a **Stater** from another state, come.

Americanism Commission

Kurt Gies, Americanism Chair

americanism@legionmail.org



"TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100 PERCENT AMERICANISM"...

Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights, and unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry, and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the worldwide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work, and thrift.

American Legion organization. It can be found in the Legion's support for a constitutional amendment to protect the US flag from desecration. It can be found through participation in patriotic holidays and observances. Americanism comes in the form of naturalization and citizenship programs at hundreds of posts. The American Legion is the nation's utmost authority on patriotic observances and traditions, including flag etiquette and proper behavior while playing the National Anthem or reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

As the 2023-24 Department Americanism Chair, it is my honor to be selected to lead the Department of Florida's Americanism mission, one of the four pillars of the American Legion (VA&R, National Security, Children & Youth, and Americanism).

question we should all be asking ourselves quite often. To me, Americanism means acting to express my love for this country and its ideals and the freedom and liberties it offers all of us. His wife served in the military for 25 years. It is why I volunteer to serve in the American Legion. It helps define my "Why?"

Through our numerous programs, we can install a little bit of our Americanism onto this great nation's youth and fellow citizens by getting involved. My charge to you is to embrace Americanism. Take charge within your Post and become excited about one of several programs the Legion supports. Once you do, the feeling of satisfaction you receive when you see your child take pride in this great nation will be amazing.

Oh, and it doesn't hurt to chat USA, USA, USA every once in a while to get the excitement going.

Americanism is a philosophy that flows through the

What does Americanism mean to you? This is the



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HOT - HOT - HOT

Terry Phillips, Baseball Chair

baseball@legionmail.org



Hot is the word; our teams, players, parents, and coaches have completed our season and endured the summer heat.

At times the on-field temperature was well over the 110 degrees mark.

Baseball is a summer sport that runs from June 1 thru August when the Legion World Series closes.

We adjusted well by playing more night games than we usually do, and this caused us to use lights on the field

which, of course, increased our costs.

This has been a tough year with cost increases in every part of our program versus budget allowance.

I will tally up the actual verse budget in the upcoming weeks as we prepare for the 2024 season.

As always, the Baseball Committee and I work our budget very tightly to make the baseball program the best experience we can for the kids.

Thank you to all that support this program and our service to our kids and communities; **WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SO MANY LIVES.**

The Baseball Committee will be meeting in October for a Summit meeting to discuss and brainstorm how we can strengthen our Florida teams in order to compete with the other SE regional teams and get a Florida team to the World Series.



Blood Donor Preparations

Jamie Grinis, Blood Donor Chair

blooddonor@legionmail.org



This past month many Posts have a continued presence in the Blood Donor Program. We are off to a good start. The biggest challenge has been telling us all how many pints are

being donated.

To all the 16 District Commanders, I need your help. Could you please send me the name of your District's Blood Donors Chair, Post number, E-mail address, and contact phone number?

Please include how many Posts in your District have a

blood drive. It takes all of us to make a difference.

Next month we will look closer into how many ways our donated blood is used to save lives.

Hurricane Information

Bill Hoppner, Disaster Preparedness Chair

disaster@legionmail.org



Greetings to all. I hope this finds everybody well. Time flies by faster than you think. Here it is, September 1st. We are entering the second half of the hurricane season. The first half of the season, from June 1 to August 30, produced three tropical storms and one tropical depression with no danger to the US. September and October show a favorable chance for storms to develop, as noted in the past. September 10 will mark the height of the hurricane season. Which means conditions are still

favorable for producing storms? Are we going to get a hurricane if only I knew? So please don't let your guard down and think the season is over. It's not.

I brought up some points in the last legion link that will be of interest to all. Did you check with your insurance company to make sure your policy is up to date? The one crucial insurance overlooked was FLOOD insurance. Do you have your important papers in order, insurance policies, birth certificates, and any other documentation deemed important? Please put them in an airtight container. Do you have a hurricane-ready kit? Have you made arrangements for your animals if need be?

Have you taken pictures or videos of the inside and the outside of your home? These are all important questions that should be considered if you have to evacuate. Have you introduced yourself to the new neighbor that moved from the north and only knows about snow? Take the time to introduce yourself and help educate them on how to prepare. It will benefit everyone in the long run. If the authorities tell you to evacuate, do so. They're only trying to help and protect you. Your house and all your belongings can be replaced why risk your life? One last thing with all the disasters last year from Hurricane Ian, the Department of Florida showed how resilient we really are.



Department of Florida

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



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Employment Awards Information

James Douglas, Employment Chair

employment@legionmail.org



December 15, 2023, is just around the corner. Do you know why this date is important?

December 15, 2023, is the deadline for the below Employment Programs

Awards.

- NATIONAL EMPLOYER OF THE DISABLED AWARD
- EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD
 - ◇ Small (50 or fewer employees)
 - ◇ Medium (51-200 employees)
 - ◇ Large (201 or more employees)

- EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD
- EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARDS

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

Submit your award 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.

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

Get to Know What National Cemetery Administration Has to Offer

Rico Thomas, Florida National Cemeteries Chair

cemeteries@legionmail.org



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is comprised of three different administrations:

1. Veterans Health Administration (VHA) - Provides health care to Veterans each year.
2. Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) - Provides a variety of benefits and services for Service Members, Veterans, and their families.

3. National Cemetery Administration (NCA) - Provides burial space for Veterans and their eligible family members and maintains national cemeteries as national shrines, sacred to honor the memory of those interred or memorialized there. The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is honored to care for over four (4) million Veterans and family members interred in 155 Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries. We assure proper memorialization for our nation's Veterans and care for them perpetually in national shrines.
https://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/NCA_WelcomePacket.pdf

Request For DD214

Records (Standard Form SF 180) to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). Get...letter to the NPRC.

Send it to:

1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63138

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.

Come and Join us at the FALC on Dec. 14-17, 2023

Jim Ramos, Florida Legion College Chair

falc@legionmail.org



Come and join us at the Florida American Legion College on Dec 14-17, 2023.

To attend, please complete the application on pages 27-30 and send it in with your application fee.

Prior to attendance, you will need to have completed Basic Training online at legion.org. Attendance must have been within the last two (2) years.

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

Florida Legion College continued on page 14 >>



<< Florida Legion College continued from page 13

Make sure you provide a valid email, phone number, and address so we are able to communicate with you. Send in your application and \$300* fee, no later than October 31, 2023. Application does not guarantee your acceptance. We will make our final selections by November 10, 2023 and inform you if your application has been accepted.

Be prepared to work hard and long hours. There will be homework and group assignments as well as the daily instruction.

Norther Area Commander, Lena Heredia-Perez, and District 3 Commander, Stuart Scott, will serve as our lead instructors.

- Lena Heredia-Perez - northern@legionmail.org
- Stuart Scott - district3@legionmail.org

If you still have questions, please email or call me at 352-226-4370 or falr@legionmail.org.

**Fees are as follows: \$100 for no lodging, \$300 for three nights of shared lodging, or \$493 for three nights of individual lodging. Fees include course, course materials, coffee, and lunches.*

Getting Started

Jim Burk, Homeless Veterans Vice Chair

homelessvetsvice@legionmail.org



There is no need to recreate the wheel. Find others in your area working with homeless veterans; the list includes:

- **Local Food Banks:** Sign up as a partner and get all types of canned goods, toiletries, water, first aid supplies, and similar items. I am a registered partner locally and

simply call up to place an order. It's free.

- **Local Churches:** A large Catholic church in my area does a food drive for me twice a year. It's always at least 2000 lbs. of canned goods.
- **Local Organizations:** Knights of Columbus, HOA groups, Veterans groups, motorcycle clubs, and other organizations are great to partner with.
- **American Legion Posts:** Posts and other Veterans Service Organizations can host collection bins.

- **VSO:** Your local Veteran's service office.
- **Think Outside the Box:** You've got some ideas now, what else can you come up with?
- **Storage:** Obtain a storage facility, either space at the post or offsite. Ask your post to pay for the storage, and it counts as VA&R for reporting.

Again, I am available to assist and answer questions 772-307-7082. Jim Burk Homeless Veterans Program Vice Chair, homelessvetsvice@legionmail.org.

POW/MIA Day Information

Denny Luke, POW/MIA Chair

powmia@legionmail.org

Did you know the 3rd Friday of September is the National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter? Since then, each subsequent president has issued the same annual proclamation.

As such, on the national level, a ceremony is held annually on the National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is the third Friday of September. Traditionally a ceremony is held at the Pentagon, which features members from each branch of military service and participation from various high-ranking government officials.

In addition to the national-level ceremony, National POW/MIA Recognition Day observances are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitals, schools, Veterans' facilities, and hopefully at many American Legion Posts throughout our 55 Departments.

No matter where they are held, these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned and those who still remain missing.

Since 1999, the POW/MIA Accounting Agency has created a poster commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The annual edition of the poster continues to honor this tradition. You can order your 2023 poster at: <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebPosters> they are free to you and your Post.

Now I want to ask you, what are you and what is your Post doing for the National POW/MIA Recognition Day/weekend? Many locations will honor the memory and plight of our POW/MIAs on the traditional third Friday, 15 September; however, several localities will hold their event on the 3rd Saturday, 16 September, to allow more participation in their working community. That is the case in Jacksonville, where we will be holding a Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Ride and follow-on ceremony on

Saturday, September 16th.

If possible, please join your Department of Florida Officers who will be traveling to Jacksonville for the 3rd Annual Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Ride & Ceremony. I encourage any who can attend to please do so. The ride is awesome, and the ceremony is quite moving. This year we expect Mrs. Meghan Wagoner, Scott Speicher's daughter, to be a special guest in attendance. For those of you who do not know, Scott Speicher was the first person to be shot down over Iraq during Operation Desert Storm on 17 January 1991. His remains were not recovered until 2 August 2009. He was assigned to a Squadron that flew out of Cecil Field Naval Air Station, where the National POW/MIA Memorial is located. A F/A-18 with his name immortalized on the cockpit is on display at the memorial.

The ride and ceremony information/registration can be found on the Department website: <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/legion-riders/special->

POW/MIA continued on page 15 >>



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<< POW/MIA continued from page 14

events/pow-mia-ride/ and the Nation POW/MIA Memorial website: <https://powmiamemorial.org/>

I encourage all to visit The American Legion Department of Florida website, <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/powmia-remembrance/about/> to learn more about the POW-MIA program. Under the resources tab, you will find a link to the Defense POW-MIA Accounting

Agency (DPAA), Library of Congress Vietnam Era POW-MIA Database, National League of POW-MIA Families, National Alliance of Families for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen and the POW-MIA Chairmans Manual. The National American Legion website link 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 July, over 81,000 DoD personnel are still unaccounted for. For FY 2023, the DPAA has identified 75 personnel from WW II, 31 from the Korea war, and four from the Vietnam War for a yearly total of 110 Service Members recovered and identified.

As of the end of July, over 81,000 DoD personnel are still unaccounted for. For FY 2023, the DPAA has identified 75 personnel from WW II, 31 from the Korea war, and four from the Vietnam War for a yearly total of 110 Service Members recovered and identified.

**FLORIDA'S 3RD ANNUAL SEVEN BRIDGES
POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY RIDE & CEREMONY**
September 16, 2023
LEARN MORE: www.floridalegion.org/riders

Hurricane Information

Gene Smith, Immigration Chair

immigration@legionmail.org



Immigration Legalties

Thank you, Mr. Commander, for allowing me to continue as the Department Immigration Chairman.

I want to refresh and update Florida Legionnaires on the status of foreign-born non-citizen U.S. Marine Paul Canton. I have been working on Mr. Canton's case for about five years now. Let me refresh. Mr. Canton came to the United States from Australia under a student exchange visa back in the early 1990s. Mr. Canton liked what he saw and was interested in remaining in the United States. He explored ways to obtain citizenship and elected to serve in the United States military.

Mr. Canton joined the United States Marines on a delayed entry program. The United States military became involved in an armed conflict in the Middle East. Unfortunately for Mr. Canton, the active conflict status was lifted before he actually reported to basic training. This occurrence has affected the current status of Mr. Canton today. Nevertheless, Mr. Canton served in the United States Marine Corps for four years and

then served three years in Marine Corps Reserves for a total of seven years of service to his newly found country. According to Mr. Canton, remembering what his recruiter told him, he assumed he was a U.S. Citizen and lived his future life accordingly. He marries a U. S. Citizen and starts a family.

Mr. Canton became gainfully employed and paid his share of taxes. He obtained his driver's license. He was even given a voter registration card. How did he do these things? He used his DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty in the United States military, all the while thinking he was now a U.S. citizen. Unfortunately, some voter registration clerk's error cost him later down the road. Everything was going great until Florida required Mr. Canton to come in to renew his driver's license. At this point, he had no valid documentation to prove citizenship other than his DD-214 (which he thought was his ticket to citizenship). Unfortunately, for whatever reason, he had not completed the remaining steps for naturalization once he left military service. I am not convinced he was instructed by the Marine Corps out processing what he had to do to obtain his naturalization citizenship further. He immediately, after learning of his status, reported to Immigration in Orlando, and in my opinion, Paul Canton's nightmare began. Immigration has him as being immoral

because he illegally voted with his voter registration card that a clerk somewhere issued him. Immorality is grounds for deportation and denial of citizenship evidently.

Regardless, here we are in September 2023, and Paul Canton, former United States Marine, is still not a citizen. He has been in the immigration system since the incident with the driver's license back almost five years ago. His lovely wife has passed away since. She was deeply stressed by not knowing what tomorrow would bring. His children experience the trauma from all the hoopla and uncertainty. I thought the federal law Veterans Service Recognition Act 2022 would help him. Unfortunately, it does not consider the thousands of foreign-born non-citizen veterans from the past decades who need help. The 2022 Act applies only to current members of the Armed Forces and those within the grace period. Mr. Canton does not fall within the Veterans Service Act of 2022.

Where do we stand with Paul Canton? Rambana & Ricci, PLLC, Immigration Attorneys, have filed legal action on behalf of Paul Canton. Hopefully, once all parties are served process, the case can move forward, and the outcome will be in Mr. Canton's favor.



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National JSSP Marksmanship Meet and Mariner JROTC Marksmanship Training Clinic

Loretta Young, JROTC/JSSP Chair

jrotc@legionmail.org



I was fortunate enough to be invited as the volunteer staff for the National 32nd American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Three-Position Air Rifle Competition held at the USA Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs July 20-22. There were 15 Precision Finalists and 14 Sporter Finalists competing in the event, along with chaperones and coaches. The competitors arrived on Tuesday and had orientation, equipment fitting, and training on Wednesday. That evening we were hosted by Legion Post 209 Colorado Springs for a hamburger/hotdog barbecue and a DVD presentation on the Marksmanship Program. Thursday and Friday were two full days of competition for prone, kneeling, and standing positions. The final eight competitors for the shoot-off for each Precision and Sporter Category advanced to the final competition, held on Saturday morning, and is standing only with ten shots each announced by the visiting National Americanism, Sons of the Legion, and Auxiliary staff. That evening there was the Banquet and Award Ceremony with the presentation of the trophies, plaques, and medals to the various winners for each category and position. The Department of Florida was very fortunate to have the Sporter 2nd Place Award Runner-Up, Nathan Krokstrom, from the Mariner JROTC Marksmanship Team.

He received several medals and the 2nd place plaque, along with a \$1,000 Scholarship Award, which the Auxiliary sponsored. The Mariner JROTC were also the Florida State Sporter Winners, who were in attendance at the Department Convention and will receive a National Sporter Team Plaque to be presented later. I was also fortunate to be invited by the Mariner JROTC Air Rifle Team SAI, MAJ Williams, who held an Instructor Training 2 Day Clinic at the school cafeteria at the end of July for preparation for the upcoming year 2023-24. The Marksmanship Clinic included instructions on how to form a club, the rules of the competition, budget requirements, fundraising, and grants. Cadets were also available for demonstration as hands-on for the instructors with coaching for tournaments. It was a great turnout of instructors throughout the state as well as the local Lee County area. I want to thank Post 90, Cape Corral, and Chairman Dennis Stebbins, who, along with other post members, attended and assisted in sponsoring the event. It's easy to understand why Post 90 received the Department award for Best JROTC and Best JSSP Program Award. They are an example of the value of the Legion programs and the importance of investment in our youth.

The school year will be underway when this issue goes to print, and I want to reinforce my plea to be proactive in reaching out to the schools in your area and make that connection to support their JROTC and JSSP

programs. Please be mindful that dates are important and follow the guidelines that will be in your packets. The Postal JSSP is open on September 1st. It's an online application, and requirements are the same for the coach to take the Safe Sport Training and background check, and the teams must be affiliated with an American Legion Post. The team minimum is still four persons, and all the information is on the Department and the National website under programs. If there are any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me by phone/text/email. I wish you all much success in this year's programs, and thanks in advance for all you do for our youth.



Nathan K., JSSP National 2nd Place Winner



Post 90 JSSP Chairs Don Teasley (Past) and Dennis Stebbins (Present).

Carrying Concealed Firearms in Your Post

Daryl Bass, Law & Order Chair

laworder@legionmail.org



ABC News recently claimed that in July 2023, there was a 66% decrease in Police officers killed in the line of duty over that same period in 2022. However, the Officer Down Memorial page (Internet) states that in July of 2023, 14 law enforcement officers across the nation were killed. This was the highest in many years. ABC claimed that the decrease was due to Covid. I don't know what that has to do

with it, but I know 34 died of gunfire. Not to get into a 2nd Amendment right to bear arms argument, but the increase and availability of firearms on the street is of considerable concern.

This past year Governor DeSantis signed a bill allowing legal gun owners to carry concealed firearms without a permit. As a retired law enforcement officer, I am not sure if this is a good thing. It could place firearms into the wrong untrained hands. I was approached by one of my American Legion brothers, who asked if there was anything in the Legion ByLaw prohibiting concealed carry in the Post. My Post has a canteen, so my answer was simple, federal law prohibits firearms in places that serve

alcohol. I get that some will still carry. As Legionnaires in leadership roles in the American Legion, we should recognize this fact and consider the consequences. We may all want to review our Post ByLaws concerning this matter. Okay, I'm done.

Remember to honor these community heroes by recognizing them in your Post. Law enforcement fire/paramedics, all of our first responders. Law & Order Chairs, please call me or e-mail me about any events honoring your first responders, and I will put it on my calendar.



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Legislative Information

Stuart Scott, Legislative Chair

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♪ "I'm just a Bill, sitting on Capitol Hill," Well, actually, no, it's not... yet!

Because it's still rolling through our heads, waiting to come to life on paper. Now is the time to put it into action. If you want something submitted, then please email me your proposal. I meet with our lobbyist regularly, and we review the submitted items, do our assessments based on the current climate in the legislature, and see if we can find good sponsors for the ideas. We are preparing for committee weeks

beginning 9/18-22(H), 10/9-13(S), 10/16-20(H/S), 11/6-9(H/S), 11/13-17(H/S), 12/4-7(H/S), and 12/11-15(H/S).

A session for 2024 will begin on January 9th and last until March 8th.

We are seeking sponsors again this year for the driver's license bill, which is to exempt those with a veteran designator on their DL from paying renewal fees. We are also watching the climate in regards to gaming. With rumors of a possible special session to address some changes to gaming falling through, we will keep our ears

to the walls of the Capitol to see any advancement in the possibilities of changes on our behalf.

Are you part of The National Voice for The American Legion? Make your voice heard by visiting votervoicenet/AmericanLegion/home and submitting your concerns to your Congress Members. Current action items are; VA deducts the retirement pay of veterans with a disability rating of less than 50%. Let's not penalize them for their injuries; Support Arlington's Expansion so that we can preserve Military Honors; Pay the Coast Guard; Support our Veterans' Caregivers; Repeal the Iraq War Authorizations; Pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.

Working Toward Basics

Bruce Carl, Membership Chair

membership@legionmail.org



The first months of the new year have come and gone. We had an exciting time in Indianapolis at the National Membership workshop. There were many things to learn about and plenty of members from other states to network with. One of the biggest takeaways from the workshop was the necessity to work on the DMS list, which was a big part of our Florida membership plan. As of the writing of this article, we only had 13 transfers Department-wide. That is a very low number considering that was the main focus of the membership team between July and October.

The Department of Florida finished first in the nation in new membership last year with over 9000, beating out the second-place finisher by 3,000. Kudos to everyone! Another big focus was on doing the "buddy checks." Many Departments brought back unrenewed members simply by contacting them and checking to see if they needed anything.

The membership team and the Department officers have been holding monthly Zoom meetings. This allows us to be on the same page with where we are, ideas for

improving membership and how we approach them, and other suggestions from team members. We aim to get your Post, District, and Area to 100%!

Every Post should still concentrate on getting the DMS400 members into your Post between now and October before they renew into the 400. Your regular members will be renewing on their own during this period. There are also opportunities to gain new members using whatever works for you in conjunction with the ideas provided. This is not a one-person mission but a team effort. Get a small group of individuals to help make the phone calls and send out emails. Let everyone know what your Post does for the community and the activities you have. Remember, the younger Veterans want to volunteer and do things, so find out what their interests are. Don't be afraid of change, as the "way we have always done things" doesn't apply anymore. There will be more suggestions coming in the next edition of the Legion Link when Phase 2 of the plan goes into effect.

The Department Commander wants to go "back to the basics" this year. We have found over the years that providing District and Area training is usually a waste of time and money. Typically, we are "preaching to the choir," and those that need the training are the ones that don't come. By training at the Post level, the trainers can concentrate on that Post's specific needs and

questions. This will benefit the Post, District, Area, and Department in the long run.

I hope everyone is using all the tools (suggestions) that have been given to you to work the mission. The PowerPoint I sent out provides many suggestions, but that does not mean you can't use your own as well. District Commanders should set up training based on your Post's needs. Not all Posts need the same training, so it may vary from Post to Post. If you need help or training with membership, please let them know, and the membership team will come to you and provide the training you need. I have been setting up a schedule to attend a District meeting in each District. By the time this issue comes out, I will have already been to quite a few. Please feel free to ask me questions while I am there!

Many membership awards are available for you to earn, and I want to give away as many as possible. Many of these awards are already available to earn before the Fall Conference. Please check the membership manual for the awards you can earn by the Fall Conference. We should "Be the One" to prevent suicide and "Be the One" for membership. Let's all work together as a team to get Florida back to the top at National! We got this.



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Northern Area Membership Information

Bob Brewster, Northern Area Membership

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Here we go again. It's the beginning of August, and many of our Posts are working membership hard. Every Post should have a membership team consisting of at least three members or more working together. What should they be doing?

1. Processing membership as soon as it comes into the Post. Why? Because if you let it sit for any period, it will be much harder to process and will burn out your membership team.

2. Your Post should have an early bird stamp. All cards now processed should get the early bird stamp. You should set an early bird time period. Our Post uses the early bird stamp until the week of Thanksgiving.
3. Your membership team should meet at least once a week. They should process the cards as soon as possible. It is a good time to check your members' addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails to make sure they are correct. It seems that some members change their e-mails more often than their underwear.
4. If your Post has a newsletter, your membership

team should have an article about membership there. You must work membership as hard as possible from the beginning of the year. The first 30% to 50% renewals are the easy part. You will have a tough year if you haven't been making phone calls and talking to members at meetings and in person.

5. A special note to all Posts in the Northern Area. I am your Area Membership Chairman. I am here to help you, not to harass you. If you are having problems with membership, do not suffer in silence. Contact me sooner than later. My home phone number is 904-272-1619.

National Security at Risk

Raymond Olsen, National Security Chair

security@legionmail.org



As I write this, we are in the middle of Anti-Terrorism Month. We can discuss the security of the borders in Texas and the Southwest. How about our borders in Florida? In 2022, approximately 35,000 illegal immigrants were illegally crossing into Florida and the country. This year there is an expected 300% increase of 135,000 illegal immigrants entering Florida. With drugs, human trafficking, crime, and overcrowding in our city and state, and other states in the country, this is the biggest threat to National Security. Second to this is food supply terrorism. The drought and wildfires in America and Canada, and countries in Europe, are seriously affecting national resources and the world's food supply. Not to mention the Soviet attacks on grain shipments leaving Ukraine. Attack the food supply, and a country weakens and becomes a target. China is attacking our technical infrastructure

and buying up real estate like crazy. What can you, as a post, do to stop this? Education and awareness are the main weapons we have. Write your representatives and senators. Tell them to quit focusing on making the other side look bad and work on protecting our borders, stopping the infiltration of China, and keeping the world's natural resources flowing.

September is Disaster Preparedness Month. The weather predictors predict a serious hurricane season with 21 named storms and three (3) Class 3 or better storms. I do not have to tell you about Maui. Hurricanes passed nearby the islands, but the wind and power grid failures gave rise to a devastating fire which has destroyed a significant portion of the island. Ninety-nine dead and climbing at the time I am writing this. I recently attempted to contact Post 8 in Maui, a beautiful post on the coast, to see how they are fairing and if they need anything. I am anxiously awaiting a response. They got the double whammy from the storm and the fire. We have been in that position in Florida. It is not if there

will be another natural disaster, but when. We need to be ready. Do our posts have non-perishables stored for when they are needed? Does each Post have a Disaster Preparedness Plan for themselves, phone trees, buddy checks, flashlights, and tools available? Have we done those ancillary things, like blood drives, food drives, clothing drives, blankets, diapers, etc? We have to be ready to help our Veterans, their families, and the community at any given time.

If I have accomplished anything, I hope you are thinking about National Security. Find an information source you trust and believe in, or a couple of them, and pay attention to what is happening in our state, country, and world. Think about what you can do as a Legion family member to keep us secure and in a state of readiness for whatever comes at us. Remember, "If we close our doors, will we be missed" is the true value of the post in our communities, and it was the key factor in every Post visit I did as a District and Area Commander.

Sign up for TEXT ALERTS.  TEXT **FAL** to **41372**

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Timing is Everything

Meri West, Oratorical Chair

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This year, in an effort to save money, the National office moved the National contest to Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MI. It's a small college equidistant to Detroit, Toledo, Fort Wayne, and Grand Rapids. That changed the date for the National contest, which created a domino effect for departments.

We aim to have about a month between contests at each level, with the Department contest being held about a month before the National contest. That way, only a little time has elapsed since students have given their speeches.

The new date for the National contest is May 17-19, 2024. The new date for the Department contest is March 30, 2024, at the headquarters in Orlando.

The dates for the other contests are here:

- **Post Level**
December 1, 2023 - January 21, 2024
- **District Level**
January 22, 2024- February 10, 2024
- **Area Level**
February 11, 2024 – March 09, 2024

- **Department Finals**
March 30, 2024

These are the time frames for each respective level to have their contest.

And speaking of timing, the school has just started this week in most of FL, so this is when the Oratorical chairperson and volunteers can start working on their programs.

I am in the process of writing an addendum to the manual that discusses the duties of a chairperson in more detail.

But for those interested, it's a lot of recruiting. If you are a Post chair, you need to be recruiting people to help visit the schools in your geographic area. Then you try to recruit students to compete. This program's most challenging part is finding students who will participate. Then if you get some contestants, you need to recruit some judges and timekeepers!

I will give many more details about your duties as a chairperson and try to help make it less intimidating. In the meantime, feel free to text or email me.

I encourage you to get in the habit of learning to delegate some of your responsibilities to these kinds

of people. This program is very labor intensive in the beginning, and it's easy to get discouraged. Florida is a big state to cover, and the more we have on our team, the better. Be creative in finding ways or tasks to delegate to others.

I have already delegated one task to Huey Fourquet of Post 83 in Baker County. He will write all of the judges' biographies for the Department contest. This is a huge benefit to me as I spend a lot of time writing, re-writing, and emailing the judges to get the information.

I thank Commander Michael Raymond for the opportunity to serve by chairing this program again. Ask for help or guidance any time you need it. I will send out a mass email to everyone soon, but feel free to email me so I can start updating my spreadsheet!

If you want a phone call, it's best to text me first to say---can you call me? Texting is the fastest way to get in touch with me. My cell is 904-704-0936. And my email is oratorical@legionmail.org.

Repetition and Communication!

Judith Richards, Post Development Chair

revitalization@legionmail.org



The Area Membership Chairs and your Department Membership Chair are highly motivated to make this year a huge success with membership. Thank you to them and to each of you who are working with your posts and communities to communicate the importance of the American Legion!

Revitalize by reaching out to your non-renewed members. Utilize the online reports, letters, and labels!

As mentioned in many communications from Department staff, the Florida 50/50 Raffle is a way to bring in new members! Are you sharing the information in your communities? Work with your media contacts, your city council, and the chambers of commerce to have the flyer shared throughout the community! Work with Jennifer Cooper to get a personalized URL and QR Code for your post.

<https://www.florida5050.org>

We are working together with several Districts for Post Revitalization and Development. Are you in a location that needs to develop a new post? What are the criteria for development or revitalization? Please refer to the link below!

<https://www.legion.org/membership/newposts>

Please contact me if you have any questions!



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Resolution Direction

Clarence Hill, Resolutions Chair

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While the Preamble section (the WHEREAS clause(s) that describe the problem) precedes the Resolving section (the RESOLVED clause(s) that detail suggestions on how the problem should be dealt with), the Resolving section should be written first. Once the intent of the resolution is clearly stated, it is much easier to decide what statements need to be in the preamble to make clear the reasons for the resolution. During committee discussions or floor debates, the Resolving section is always amended first and the Preamble section last, as changes in the Resolving section may require changes in the Preamble section.

The Resolving section begins with the word "RESOLVED," usually printed in capital letters and followed by a comma. Between the opening word and the statement of the intent of the resolution, there should be the following information: the identification of the resolving authority, the circumstance and place of the action, and the date of

the action.

An example of a resolution initiated by a Post: "RESOLVED, By Post No. _____, The American Legion, Department of _____, in regular (or special) meeting assembled in (place and date), That ..."

The word "That" (with a capital "T") is the first word that immediately follows the resolving clause and introduces the clause, which is the object of the verb "RESOLVED." It aids the reader in finding the point at which the meat of the resolution begins, and it aids the drafter of the resolution to launch a strong and unmistakable statement of intent.

Some examples:

RESOLVED, ...That The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to ..."

RESOLVED, ...That The American Legion is opposed to repeal or weakening of..."

Although each resolution should deal with only one

subject, it is often necessary to attach additional clauses to a resolution's Resolving section to cover matters that are closely related to the main intent. This is especially useful for detailing how and by whom the intent of the resolution is to be accomplished.

Examples:

"RESOLVED, ... That ...; and, be it further RESOLVED (as many as are required) That ...; and, be it finally RESOLVED, That ..."

Note that the identifying information is stated only once in the first RESOLVED clause and is not repeated in subsequent clauses. A period is used only once—at the close of the last clause in the Resolving section. Remember, the entire resolution is one continuous sentence.

The resolving section clause(s) should be able to stand on its/their own, even without the Preamble section, whereas clause(s) preceding it/them.

Preparing work on School Medals

Deveron Reaves, School Medals Chair

schoolmedals@legionmail.org

Now is the perfect time for the Post School Medal Chairman to target your local schools. Make appointments to begin talking with the guidance counselors and their principals', at elementary, middle/junior high, and high

schools. Make a plan of action so that when the time comes to attend the awards ceremonies and present the medals, you are helping the young students to understand and develop the qualities of courage, honor, leadership, and patriotism so they may become outstanding citizens in their communities. District Chairman are available to you, as

they can help you and me. We can teach and guide you, and we want to thank you for all you do. Now let's start planning for our future leaders as they begin their lives going forward.

Special Olympic Fundraising and Volunteering

George DeAngelo, Special Olympics Chair

specialolympics@legionmail.org



I want to thank our new Commander Michael "Gambler" Raymond, for allowing me to serve my 4th year as Chair for Special Olympics Florida. I am looking forward to having our best year. I have been the Commander at Post 321 in Cooper City Fl. for the past 3 years.

The American Legion has continued to raise more and more money each year. This past year we were just short of \$100,000. I would love to see us go over \$100,000 this year. As a family, we were at \$150,000, so thank you all.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Activities exist for those of all ability levels, from the highly

functioning to the severely challenged. Anyone may participate if they meet the eligibility criteria of having an intellectual disability or similar developmental disability; there is no age limit.

Florida serves over 58,000 athletes and unified partners with 38,000 dedicated volunteers and coaches supporting this cause. That being said, The American Legion has taken Special Olympics as one of its obligations this year.

Special Olympics continued on page 21 >>



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<< Special Olympics continued from page 20

This charity needs our help; we are one of their biggest supporters in Florida. All the money donated through The American Legion stays right here in Florida to support our athletes.

I am asking all posts to come up with a fundraiser for Special Olympics. No effort is too small, you can play bingo, do raffles, have a picnic, or do a poker run; just putting a jar at your post will allow your post to raise donations. If you need any ideas or need help, please call me, George De Angelo, 954 801-5543

If you want to volunteer, go to Special Olympics Florida to see where you can volunteer.

So please, get involved in this great cause. Thank you, and God Bless.

Equine Extravaganza Fundraiser

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements Chair

benefits@legionmail.org



I had the honor to set up an information booth at the Equine Extravaganza Fundraiser Held by Spirit Equine Therapy Eric Anderson.



I want to share another example of During the Equine

BE THE ONE

Extravaganza, Eric announced why he was not charging an entry fee for this event. He said he wanted to make sure everyone could make this event, even the ones who can't afford it: especially Veterans, Veterans' Families, and 1st Responders. And let them know there's help out there for PTSD Counseling and Therapy.

During his announcement, a little girl went up to him and hugged him and said her Daddy was a Veteran and committed suicide, and she wanted to thank him for doing this event.

I got to see a 6 foot 2 Marine (Cowboy) CRY, So I can say Eric Anderson is definitely an example of BE THE ONE. Eric also told me he believes we have the best team under Project VetRelief Strategic Partners.



If you want to learn more about Spirit Equine Therapy, please call Eric Anderson. (352)455-0803

Flag Retirement Ceremony

On Sunday, August 6, 2024. American Legion Post 69 Juniors and Girls Florida Central Florida Softball Team teamed up and held a Flag Retirement Ceremony. I am so proud of those children. They retired over 500 flags.



Pact Act and Other Information

Alan Cohen, VA&R Chair

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Greetings, fellow Legionnaires! It seems like yesterday that we were wrapping up our Department Convention, and suddenly, it's September. By the time you read this, we'll have been to the National

Convention, and the American Legion will have a new National Commander.

I'd like to spend a minute addressing what seems to be some confusion regarding claims in connection with the PACT Act health-related claims. Yes, the deadline has passed by which claims that were filed, if granted, may have been backdated to August 2022. That does not

mean, however, that claims cannot be filed at any time. They certainly can. However, if granted, these claims will not be backdated past the date they were filed. Also, veterans who served in the war in Korea forward can still avail themselves of free screening for illnesses related to their service. Take advantage of this benefit at your local CBOC or VA hospital.

VA&R continued on page 22 >>



<< VA&R continued from page 21

Also connected to healthcare, in early August, the VA literally rolled out an initial fleet of 25 mobile medical units throughout the country. These vans or trucks move from one location to another and provide private space for eligible veterans to meet with healthcare providers, including primary care, mental health clinicians, women’s health, and more. The first of these mobile units here in Florida began their services at the Lake Nona VA hospital. Speaking of Lake Nona, I recently had the opportunity to participate in a preview of a new and highly advanced aid for veterans with profound hearing loss. This aid, called Xander Augmented Listening, is essentially a pair of glasses that “hears” what someone is saying and prints it out on the inside of one of the lenses of the glasses. This

will be next-level and enable hard-of-hearing veterans to be more comfortable carrying on conversations.

Continuing with healthcare, the VA has begun implementing the Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act. To sum up, this legislation expands breast cancer screening to toxic-exposed women veterans under age 40. It provides a risk assessment to determine if a mammogram is warranted, including toxic exposures, family history, and other factors. As with so many other diseases, early detection is key, so please spread the word about this.

In closing this month’s article, I feel it necessary to revisit an issue I’ve spoken to before. There continue to

be groups and even individuals who present themselves as knights on white chargers, so to speak, offering to help veterans file claims and ultimately charge for their services. Some have gone so far as stopping just short of guaranteeing results. First, only some can guarantee results in connection to compensation claims. Second and most importantly, no veteran should have to pay for help filing a claim. The American Legion, as well as other recognized and reputable VSO, provide this service free of charge. Please be warned to avoid anyone who wants to charge a veteran or their family for this help, even if it’s requested as a “donation.” Should you or anyone you know be solicited for a pay-to-play fee in any form, please notify us so we can help.

Exciting Stuff for our Women Veterans

Joan Suelter, Women Veterans Chair

womenvets@legionmail.org

In the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand strides that are being made to assist and empower our proud women veterans. From the ribbon cutting ceremony for the first women veterans transitional

home, “Ashley’s Cottage,” located in Fruitland Park, to the anticipated two-story home being built from the ground up, “Ashley’s House” in Eustis Florida, my gratitude to the many volunteers spearheaded by “Villages for Veterans” is enormous. Their mission is simple. Provide a safe environment for those women veterans when it’s

needed the most, helping with temporary housing, job assistance, benefits assistance, support system, fellowship, and camaraderie. I look forward to providing more information regarding “Ashley’s House” in the coming months, till the next time.

Assisting Women Veterans

Judy Casey, Women Veterans Vice Chair

womenvetsvice@legionmail.org

I would like to first thank Michael “Gambler” Raymond for selecting me for the Vice Chairman for Women Veterans.

My goal this year is to work with my homeless sisters, finding affordable housing and/or shelters for them and, if children are involved, finding a safe environment.

Another goal is to BE THE ONE!

I have been a Post service officer for the last three years. Over those years, I have worked with approximately 400 women veterans from Military Sexual Trauma (MST), benefits, disabilities, and homelessness and working with Project Vet Relief, assisting these women veterans in paying bills.

I want to visit as many women veterans as possible, setting up forums and visiting the posts.

Area Commanders, District, and Post Commanders, I am available to assist your women veterans.

Encouraging Youth Law & Order

Bud Boyer, Youth Law Cadet Chair

youthlawcadet@legionmail.org



Hello Folks,

I am Bud Boyer. I am serving as the Southwestern Area Commander for the 2023 -2024 year. I have also been called upon to serve as the

Chair for the Youth Law Cadet Program.

As most of you know, this is a program for our young high school students, both male and female, to learn firsthand about law enforcement.

For reasons beyond our control, this program suffered some setbacks. Those reasons are behind us now, and we

need to bring this program back and have a successful one again.

I know I will need a lot of help, and I am asking all 16 District Commanders and the 5 Area Commanders for HELP.

Youth Law Cadet continued on page 23 >>



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www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.org



<< Youth Law Cadet continued from page 22

I want to get this off to a good start by asking each District to send just two (2) applicants. The idea behind this is that not all posts can afford to send anyone, but if they all work together and have fundraising events,

the opportunity will be there for the young folks that want to go.

As the American Legion, we can help motivate these young folks to consider law enforcement as a potential

career choice and ultimately help "To maintain law and order.

Oh, heck yes, I will send all the information I have to all the Districts as soon as I verify the dates and cost.

New Shirt Designs/Unity Ride Information

Jim Wineland, Legion Riders Chair

alr@legionmail.org



We have a few of our challenges behind us now. As an example, nobody could match Holiday's Summit proposal, so we will return on January 31st for the Meet & Greet and classes the following three days. OCC will be our Rally location for In-State 2024, and we will have the Bike Raffle tickets available for distribution at the Fall Conference.

The Good Stuff! Bev & I are looking forward to reviewing all the new shirt designs. We have received a few, and based on what we've seen so far, we have some real designer talent within the ALR and Legion Families. The deadline for the competition closes on September 15th; details are on our website.

POW/MIA escorted ride; we still have room for a few more bikes; come and join us; it's all set up on our website. It's twenty dollars (\$20) per bike and a twenty-five-hundred-dollar (\$2500) donation going to the POW/MIA facility.

In-State Unity Ride, still looking for Posts. Here is the current status by Districts, D1 – 2 Posts, D2 - 3 Posts, D4 – 1 Post, D5 – 5 Posts, D6 – 4 Posts, D7 – 2 Posts, D8 – 4 Posts, D9 – 2 Posts, D11 – 0 Post, D12 – 3 Posts, D13 – 0 Posts, D14 – 0 Posts, D15 – 1 Post, D16 – 3 Posts, D17 – 0 Posts, for a total of 32 Posts so far. We need about 40 more posts to jump in, especially on the East Coast. They do not have to have Chapters to be included in the ride. If you are interested, let us know how many bikes you can handle; if you are interested in serving snacks or dinners, please forward it to LegionRiders@legionmail.org.

Please let us know if you would like to get involved with any part of the planning or operation.

Thanks to all that participate, RIDE SAFE; looking forward to seeing you soon!

Your 2023 – 2024 Schedule:

- **Department Convention**
June 15-18, 2023
- **POW/MIA Ceremony, Jacksonville**
September 16, 2023

- **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
- **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"

Save the Dates

Dennis Boland, District 13 Children & Youth Chair District 13 Children & Youth Picnic

When: Sunday, November 5, 2023, starts at 11:00 am

Where: American Legion Post 323

1124 Ashler Ave Lehigh Acres

Why: All monies raised will be donated to Boys' & Girls' State transportation

How: Games for children & adults, 50/50's, baskets, donation for lunch

USO Show

When: Sunday, January 14, 2024, starts at 4:00 pm dinner to follow

Where: American Legion Post 323

1124 Ashler Ave Lehigh Acres

Why: All monies raised will be distributed between the Child Welfare Foundation and Florida's Children & Youth Fund

How: Donations toward dinner, 50/50's, baskets

Comments: Do you have a hidden talent? Like to lip-sync

a song from the olden days, have a costume from the USO days? Participants are needed to make this a success. Call to sign-up now. Then you have several months to practice. Get your friends to help. Show them we can laugh at ourselves while having a good time.

Point of Contact: District 13 C&Y Chair Dennis Boland (239) 641-1224



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Post 382: A Culture of Compassion and Service

Loreen Skobel, Adjutant of Post 382
Jim Remsburg, District 1 Historian

Northwest Florida is, arguably, one of the most beautiful areas in the United States of America with its white quartz, soft sand beaches, and mild climate. It's also diverse ecologically with its rolling hills, coastal estuaries, and agricultural plateaus. Santa Rosa County alone has, as of 2022, 192,268 permanent residents, and the Panhandle of Florida has the third largest concentration of military veterans, one and a half million, following California and Texas and is the home of District One's Post 382 - Navarre, The American Legion Department of Florida. Post 382 is a remarkable American Legion Post because its members have developed a "Culture of Compassion and Service" for the military veterans that reside in District One.

Post 382 is a medium-sized post with a giant heart. As of 2023, it has 534 members, with 147 GWOT members. Post 382 members are active within the 2023 District One's leadership team, with the following members currently serving:

Jason Skobel - District 1st Vice Commander and Western Area Riders Chair
Loreen Skobel - Western Area Training Chair
Chuck Olsen - Western Area JAG, District 1 JAG, and Western Area Internal Affairs
Thaddeus Leonard - District 1 Sgt-At Arms
Bill Trainor - District 1 and Western Area Boys State Chair
Troy Touchton - District 1 SAL Commander
Rusty Zender - District 1 SAL Sgt-At Arms
Sam Touchton - District 1 Auxiliary Sgt-At Arms
Sonny Decker - Western Area Commander

Shawn Daugherty - Western Area Chairman for National Security

Post 382 is the hub of "Collaboration over Competition," a semi-formal coalition with its members serving as representatives of the following Northwest Florida non-profit service organizations:

Defenders of Freedom Florida
Panhandle Warrior Partnership
American Yakers
Pensacola Veterans Support Organization Network (UWF and PSC)
Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge
Starfish Project
Shadows of Strength
Pirates on the Panhandle
Greater Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce
Emerald Coast Wounded Warriors
Krewe of the Karibbean
The Her Foundation

This coalition has banded together as a united force to benefit the veterans and residents of our local communities. They collaborate to support one another in the advancement of each organization's goals. Out of this collaboration, the Challenge 22 event was conceived to address and help mitigate the following situation. In 2021, research found that 30,177 active-duty personnel and veterans who served in the military after 9/11 have died by suicide as compared to the 7,057 service members killed in combat in those same 20 years. That is, military suicide statistics are four times higher than deaths that occurred during military operations. The Challenge 22 event is now in its third consecutive year

and has achieved the following:

- Advanced awareness in local communities throughout the district of the issue of veteran and military suicide,
- Provided a venue for regional activism in the successful mitigation of this issue,
- Illustrates the love and support of the American people towards our military active-duty and veteran personnel,
- Encouraged hope and support for the individual veteran and active-duty service member in their journey through the military service and after their return to civilian life,
- Increased awareness of our service members and veterans of the support organizations and benefits available to them, and finally,
- The Challenge 22 event proceeds made possible the following donations to Project Vet Relief and The Defenders of Freedom Florida Foundation:
 - » 2021 - \$35,000 for Project Vet Relief,
 - » 2022 - \$50,000 for Project Vet Relief and \$35,000 for The Defenders of Freedom Florida Foundation,
 - » 2023 - pending

District One was a major contributor towards the Department Commanders' charity of choice, Project Vet Relief, in 2022 and received the Event of the Year Award from the Center for Strategic Military Excellence Alliance for 2022. Truly, Post 382 illustrates the capacity for achievement within the American Legion, a shining example and inspiration to all the posts in the Department of Florida of how to "Be the One."





September is Suicide Prevention & Awareness month

We are fighting to end veteran suicide by working with mental health programs and services for Post-Traumatic-Stress Disorder, a major factor in veteran suicides.

Raising Awareness - Informing Local Communities
Through various PVR/SPI events or engagements, it is PROJECT: VetRelief's goal to raise awareness on the staggering statistic on veteran suicide, which is reportedly 22 veterans a day! Whether it is a ruck walk, educational seminar or speaking engagement, there is no shortage of opportunities to alert our communities on the importance of mental health within for veterans and understanding the severity of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Working Together - Building a Network
PROJECT: VetRelief thinks there are a variety of ways to treat mental health and we recognize there are already organizations who provide services to veterans. We also believe that this community of organizations need to work together to end veteran suicide. We have compiled a list so that we can refer veterans to these programs. We are

working to increase Florida's footprint so that veterans will know they have resources that are near them.

Sponsor Veterans - Fund Strategic Partners

Each quarter we provide monetary grants to our strategic partners through our funding cycles. Our funding either sponsors veterans through their processes or allows these organizations to expand or enhance their programs. We use a vetting process to identify credible organizations that have a minimum of 2 years experience, result based references and values that align with our mission.

Above is a photo with most of our Strategic Partners, but visit our website for a full list: www.projectvetrelief.org/spi



PVR Golf Tournament Celebrates 10th Year!

In 2014, our now Board President, Bob James, decided to host a charity golf event to benefit veterans and their families. This tournament has grown into one of our largest fundraising events for our program, and has brought in over \$512,000!

We are forever grateful to Bob, his wife, Rita, and his RL James Team for their constant support of PROJECT: VetRelief!

Current Legion Year: July 2023

24
Veterans Received Financial Support

\$34,118
Provided as Emergency Assistance

15
Suicide Prevention Strategic Partners

DIAL 988
24-Hr Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



MEMBERSHIP TARGET REPORT

August 31, 2023 (46.21%)

District 4	Doug Hockenberry	52.52%
District 7	Rick Orzechowski	50.47%
District 17	Jim Bowers	49.59%
District 9	Rico Thomas	49.11%
District 2	Doyle Combs Jr	48.68%
District 11	Toni Sutherland	46.73%
District 15	Randy Holeyfield	46.29%
District 1	Shelby Windham	46.19%
District 6	Peter Gregory	45.77%
District 3	Stuart Scott	45.60%
District 5	Miguel Garcia	45.27%
District 14	Thomas Frank	44.51%
District 12	Bruce Thurber	44.29%
District 8	John Rauh	44.15%
District 16	Eric Nestler	43.21%
District 13	Eric Loyd	41.76%
Northern	Lena Heredia-Perez	47.83%
Southern	Johnny Castro	46.92%
Western	Sonny Decker	46.55%
Eastern	Joe Marcheggiani	45.12%
Central	Bob Matheson	45.07%
Southwestern	Harold "Bud" Boyer	42.93%
Post 400		51.77%
Post 208		49.42%

NEXT GOAL: September 7, 2023

50%

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*** BI-WEEKLY DRAWINGS ***



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 Department of Florida

RAFFLE



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The American Legion official license plate.



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www.floridalegion.org
legionlink@floridalegion.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>

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www.florida5050.org



Department of Florida



SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

FLORIDA'S 3RD ANNUAL SEVEN BRIDGES POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY RIDE & CEREMONY

Sponsored by: The American Legion Riders Department of Florida

Police Escorted Ride from Adamec HD Baymeadows, over the Seven Bridges, crossing the St. Johns River, and ending at the National POW/MIA Memorial (6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville FL 32221) for a POW/MIA Ceremony at 1:00 PM.

All Riders Welcome!

Scan QR for:
Event page
Hotel Info
Registration



limit to 250 motorcycles or trikes (no autocycles)

- Meet & Greet on Friday Night September 15 at American Legion Post 283 (9459 Fort Caroline Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32225) at 5:00 PM
- After Event Social at American Legion Post 283
- Registration 8:30AM-10:15AM at Adamec Harley-Davidson® 8909 Baymeadows Rd Jacksonville, FL 32256
- KSU 10:30AM
- Cost: \$20.00 Per Bike

POC: Denny Luke, POW/MIA Chair
904-403-0181

POWMIA@Legionmail.org

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COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2023-2024



Name: _____ Post: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DELIVERY METHOD

Pick Up at HQ Orlando Pick Up at Dept Fall Conference Delivery*

**Additional shipping fee of \$10 is required for delivery.*

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. You will be notified prior to shipment.

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SHIRT OPTIONS

Style	Size	Qty																			
Men's w/Pocket	XS		S		M		L		XL		2X		3X		4X						
Men's	XS		S		M		L		XL		2X		3X		4X		5X		6X		
Ladies	XS		S		M		L		XL		2X		3X		4X						

TOTAL

Shirts are **\$35 each**, add **\$5 each** for extended sizes 2X-6X, price includes personalization. Please see the next page for personalization options. If tax-exempt, please include a copy of the exemption form, if not already on file.

Delivery is a flat rate of \$10. Pickups at Headquarters and Fall Conference are free, however, please wait until you receive notification your order is ready before picking up.

Subtotal	\$	
Tax (6.5%)	\$	
Shipping	\$	10.00 or Free Pickup
Grand Total	\$	

PAYMENT

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters: **Email** (emblemsales@floridalegion.org) | **Fax** (407-299-0901)

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

Cash Check # _____ Credit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____



COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM

2023-2024

PERSONALIZATION You are allowed up to two lines of personalization, with up to 20 characters on each line, including spaces and special characters. (Line 1 example: First Name Last Name. Line 2 example: Post # Title)

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

Size: _____ Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Line 2: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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CONTACT A VICE COMMANDER FOR TICKETS
CHRIS: (321) 313 - 3469
JESSICA: (239) 839 - 0602

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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

