

The Legion Link

December 2012

Vol. 20 Issue 5



AIMING HIGH FOR VETERANS

FALLEN SOLDIER



NEVER FORGOTTEN

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**Al 'Gunner' Dudley
Department Commander
Commander@floridalegion.org
407.247.5232**

I hope everyone had a joyful Thanksgiving with your loved ones and friends! Just a reminder - start compiling your notes for your CPR's - It will be here before you know it!

I want to express my appreciation for all that attended the Fall Conference. The staff did an outstanding job and to all those who took your valuable time to teach classes, thank you! I will be visiting the 8th and 5th District in the upcoming weeks. I hope to see you in my travels! Congratulations to all who have met your membership goals. If you need assistance, we are just a phone call away.

Always remember, we work for you! If you don't ask, we can't help you! I want to wish all of you a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! If I do not see you this month, I will see you next year! Let's continue to make Florida the premier Department. God Bless our veterans, their families and God Bless America! Remember, every day is Veterans Day!

Art Schwabe
Department Vice Commander
Vicecommander@floridalegion.org
386.235.9990

Well the Fall Conference is over. A lot of information was handed out. Hopefully you will pass it on to those who couldn't make it to the Conferences. Project Home Front has just started

up and looks great. Great job by the people who created it .Jerry, Ryan, and Vanessa, We just need to get others involved so they can be a part of an excellent program for the Legion. It's FREE!!!!

Wreaths Across America, Pearl Harbor Day and Battle of the Bulge are three events that should be honored in December along with Christmas. We will NEVER FORGET!!!!

I hope everyone has a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's all reflect on the sacrifices others have made so we can be here to celebrate this holiday season in this Great Nation. Also think of the many men and women in uniform today. Remember holidays in the service! It's a lonely time, without family members and friends. It gives you a great appreciation of the season when you are with friends and family. Again Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

LARS: I heard that you had to shoot your dog, Fido. Was he Mad?

OLE: Well, he wasn't exactly pleased about it!!!

How many Medal of Honor Recipients are there in Florida?

A 20 B 24 C 28

When did the Baseball program start with the American Legion?

A 1919 B 1925 C 1930

Answers

1 B 24 2 B 1925

1925, The American Legion has sponsored a nationwide youth baseball program. During these past seven decades, millions of young players have enjoyed playing baseball.

Jay Conti, Sr.
Department Sgt.-at-Arms

Hi Fellow Legionnaires-

I want to thank all of the Assistant SGT @ ARMS who helped out during the Fall Conference. I know every Post had a lot going on throughout the state as it was Veterans' Day weekend, but all-in-all it was a great turn out and thanks for all the assistance.

We helped Train the American Legion Riders SGT @ ARMS as they are an outstanding program of The American Legion and follow what we do just like the Son's of The American Legion. We had a great SGT @ ARMS Class at the Conference after the General session and I thank all who stood around for the Class. There has been an overwhelming response for more of the SGT @ ARMS Books and we are printing more to meet the demand.

To date we have handed out well over 500 books and trained over 250 Legionnaires and that does NOT include all the Son's of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members who also attended the training sessions. When I attend your District or Post just ask me for a book and come to the training, you will be surprised what is **NOT printed** in the Officers guide and what **American Legion Traditions** have been disappearing from it as well.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Don't forget to hold some type of Remembrance Ceremony for Pearl Harbor Day on December 7th. Partner up with your local Fleet Reserve Branch and / or other Veterans organizations to remember that day and the famous speech by President Franklin D. Roosevelt: "**A Date which will Live in Infamy**"! Just like 9-11 we need **NOT FORGET!**

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Remember to be involved with Troops either deploying or returning home, they will be the ones who will be replacing us when we are gone. It does mean a lot to them! This also goes to those who served years ago, the greatest generation WWII Veterans. Recently PDC Larry White & I attended a welcome home from an **Honor Flight** in Ocala. The ALR members from various Chapters, Legionnaires and other Veterans organizations were lined up as far as the eyes could see. Keep them in our thoughts and prayers!

"For God and Country"

Ron Musselwhite
Department Oratorical Chairman
oratorical@floridalegion.org

December is now here. I want to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

All Posts should have their Post contest planned by now. I know some have already completed theirs. Remember that all Post contests have to be completed by Jan. 13th.

The Area Chairs are as follows: Southern: Bill Hoppner, Central: Andrew Nagy, Eastern: Joe McNeil, Western: Jim Brennan, Southwestern: Randy Eck and Northern is Meri West.

Jerry LePore had to resign due to health reasons. Remember that the Department Finals are on March 9th at Headquarters. See you there.

Michael Clark
Americanism
Americanism@floridalegion.org

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving Day. I would like to apologize for my semi absence but my health situation has put the brakes on me. In January, please get involved/help with the 2013 American Legion Boys Scouts Jamboree - Cracker Trail. You can get the forms for Scouts and Legionnaires who can and are willing to help with the event. These forms need to be turned in ASAP so that final planning can be accomplished. These Programs are what the American Legion is all about. Boys State funds are due this month. I hope that all posts have already made provisions for the number of boys that each post can send; a very worthwhile program. Shooting Sports, remember that the targets must be ordered by the middle of next month so, like I said earlier, this should be well under way. The local Oratorical Contests should be winding up at the local Post level as District starts to get involved next month.

For the posts that do not have any Americanism Programs and the posts who may want to add an Americanism program, it is not too late to print off scholarships from the Department web site. Print the application and go to your local high school talk to the guidance counselor or financial aid. Schools are always looking for scholarships to offer their students. While you are there it would be a good time to have a "Teacher of the Year" application to give out. I am sure that you can get many ideas from the same guidance counselors. Get involved and Post Commanders, volunteer someone if no one steps up. <smile> Post Commanders, please let members know about the application links both in your meetings and your newsletter. This might get someone involved that has not been active before. This is a great way to let members know what the Legion is all about as new members and some older members don't have a clue due to the fact they haven't been told.

Hope all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please remember those who are less fortunate. For God and Country



Program Reminders

Boys State - Registration Fees due December 23, 2012. The registration fee is \$325.00 per boy.

Oratorical - Post Contests must be held no later than January 13, 2013.

Blood Donor - Holiday Drive begins Thanksgiving Day, ends New Year's Day.

JROTC/Shooting Sports - Have you contacted your High School JROTC to find out if they are interested in participating in the Shooting Sports program?? Targets are due to National January 15th



1st ANNUAL Florida Legacy Ride

February 23 - March 2, 2013

For more information contact Mike (Goat) Kirchoff
goat392@gmail.com 850.624.2503

Registration - \$15.00 per rider/\$10.00 per passenger
(A Florida State Legacy Run Pin is included)
All monies raised, after being recorded, will go directly to the Legacy Scholarship fund.

All riders make their own reservations once the District Chairman provides the recommended hotel info.

Proposed Route - Panama City to Crystal River to Fort Myers to Key West (two nights) to W.Palm Beach to Titusville to Jacksonville to Panama City.

Les Rarrieck
Department Baseball Chairman
R37377@aol.com

Our baseball season is approaching quickly. I will be starting my visits to all Areas on January 4. I am looking for a good season especially with help from Mike McDaniel. Our Senior tournament will be held this year in Jacksonville the last week of July. The Junior tournament this year will be held in Port St. Lucie at METS Stadium the third week of July.

If you are a Post Commander or a Post baseball chairman I need your help; especially in the Northern, Western, and Southwestern Areas. We really need to scour these Areas for more teams. This year we have a three-year plan to bring your teams into American Legion Baseball. This plan starts with Jacksonville hosting our Senior State Tournament. If you are a Post Commander or Post baseball chairman in the Jacksonville area please give me a call if you are interested in having a baseball team this year. I will meet with you; at your convenience to help you get your team set up. The same goes for anyone in the Panama City area or the Tallahassee area. Please call Wes Singletary in Tallahassee. If you are interested in having a team in the Southwestern Area, please give John Dollinger a call. These gentlemen will then get with me to set up meetings to get you started and in this year's program.

I will be talking to you all each month to let you know the progress that we've made. I will also be giving you the dates of these tournaments in July. The 2012 winner of the Senior State Tournament was Fort Pierce Post 358. The winner of the 2012 Junior State Tournament was also what Ft. Pierce Post 358. God Bless you all and Happy Holidays

Scott Grabner
Dept. ALR Chairman
alr@floridalegion.org

Legion Riders, Well our Fall Conference ALR training with the National ALR Adviser Bill Sloan was a huge success. I received a lot of positive feed back along with a few recommendations in moving the Florida Legion Riders forward in 2013. If anyone has any suggestions please let your District ALR Chairman or myself know. Again if we do not train our ALR leaders, we are setting ourselves up for failure.



With the days getting shorter and the nights getting cooler we are in the middle of our best riding weather. I always have one bike on the battery tender, so, no matter what, every chance I get I am going for a ride. As a chapter, hopefully you all are all doing the same. Speaking of seasons, Christmas is just a few weeks away! Most of our thinking moves to families and friends. What a great time of year this is. In the short time frame between now and the start of our holiday season do yourself a big favor. Take the time to make sure that your bike has a good battery, and good tires. The weather is getting colder placing a bigger strain on your motorcycle battery and tire air.

Also don't forget our "Veteran" food and toy drives that are going on all over the State. I have to say that it has been a remarkable summer meeting many of the Legion Riders across the state. I feel that each chapter has provided some great rides and done an awesome job on the charities they support across the state. I am looking forward to seeing everyone on our first Department Of Florida Legion Riders Legacy Run in February. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday. Still Serving & Riding



December Fun Facts

- 1, 1913 - 1st drive-up gas station opens in Pittsburgh, PA
- 4, 1843 - Manilla paper is patented
- 7, 1842 - 1st performance of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra
- 12, 1899 - 1st Golf tee patent granted
- 13, 1978 - issued Susan B Anthony \$1 coin
- 15, 1950 - 1st Bugs Bunny/Elmer Fudd cartoon
- 16, 1773 - Boston Tea Party
- 21, 1620 - Mayflower lands at Plymouth Rock
- 28, 1869 - 1st patent for chewing gum
- 31, 1890 - Ellis Island opens

80% Goal

January 16, 2013

Membership Report as of November 27, 2012

District/Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Robert Kiley	10,193	8,590	84.27
15	Eunice Butts	5,178	4,256	82.19
17	Michael Wolohan	4,135	3,323	80.36
7	Nancy Thomas	3,863	3,098	80.20
11	Richard Smith	4,094	3,262	79.68
2	Homer Frailey	1,365	1,086	79.56
4	Charles Ferguson	4,160	3,306	79.47
9	William Johnson	4,342	3,410	78.53
1	Verna Joyce	6,256	4,896	78.26
8	Debra Roush	8,218	6,418	78.10
12	Albert Diaz	8,424	6,546	77.71
5	Henry Combs	7,681	5,895	76.75
13	William Hauser	8,783	6,712	76.42
16	James Burgess	11,977	9,134	76.26
3	M.E Christians	1,712	1,261	73.66
14	Gary Decker	3,161	2,219	70.20
Eastern	Mark Johnson	18,617	15,136	81.30
Western	Charles Lecroy	7,621	5,982	78.49
Central	James Zipler	21,018	16,488	78.45
Northern	Robert Brewster	17,688	13,785	77.93
SW	Steven Slachta	17,001	13,130	77.23
Southern	George Rafajko	11,597	8,891	76.67
Dept			73,412	
Post 400		11,977	10,111	84.42
Post 208		2,141	2,667	124.57
Totals		107,775	86,190	79.97

Jim Ramos
Membership Chairman
membership@floridalegion.org

Congratulations to all the Districts and Areas for making the 65% goal! The 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 15th, and 17th Districts are at 75% or better and we have 252 Posts at 65% or better. Go Florida! I want to say thank you and congratulations to Post 71, Lake Wales for an outstanding job of membership recruitment to achieve 151%. As of November 12th, the Department is in 3rd place in the Southeast Region and in 9th place (75.527%) nationwide.

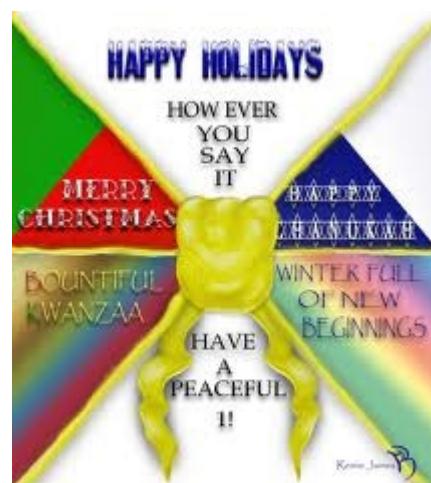
With the December goal of 75% upon us, the push now is for the January goal of 80%. Working membership takes time and effort but by using the 2012-2013 Membership Information and Awards Manual – you'll be able to cut your time in half. Use the many specially designed forms and fliers to advertise your Post and the American Legion programs. You can get everything you need to increase your membership!

With the holiday season upon us, you may find opportunities to ask a veteran to join us. But be sure that you share your appreciation with your current members. Pearl Harbor Day, Friday, December 7th is a great time to visit with and thank our WWII veterans and their families. Christmas Day is one more day to do something special for your members and families. Say thank you with a smile.

As the American Legion continues its drive to protect and preserve veteran benefit programs -especially in the area of medical care—the numerical strength of the organization is very important. Make sure your Post is doing its part in the nationwide drive to increase the Legion's position of power. I am here to assist you in your recruitment and retention efforts, please contact me at your convenience by e-mail jramos149@bellsouth.net or membership@florida.org or at 352-226-4370.

Membership in The American Legion is a matter of PRIDE
PRIDE in Tradition,

PRIDE in Heritage,
PRIDE in Accomplishment,
PRIDE in Serving
PRIDE in Belonging



Boys State

Boys State registration fees are now \$325.00 per delegate.

**Ken Nichols - Scouting
2013 Cracker Trail Director**

Dear Legionnaires, SAL, and Auxiliary members, and I'm sure Scouters,

I am so excited and honored to have been invited by both Dept. Commander Dudley and Dept. Boy Scout Chairman Montes, to address the body at our recent Fall Conference in Orlando. I had a chance to discuss the upcoming 2nd Annual Cracker Trail Competition which will be held at Tanah-Keeta Scout Reservation, February 8-10, 2013.

There is a ton of things happening in the Florida American Legion Boy Scouting program this year, with emphasis on, of course, the Cracker Trail. You can contact Carol Polk at [copolk@floridalegion.org](mailto:cpolk@floridalegion.org), me at kenlin04@gmail.com, or our Cracker Trail Program Chairman, Pietera Siegler at pietera241@bellsouth.net for a copy of the Handbook with registration forms and details which should then be returned to our registrar Carol Polk.

Pietera Siegler has put together a terrific staff of Scouters who have many years of scouting experience. Our host council has been very good to us again for making Tanah-Keeta, one of Florida's finest Scout Camps, available this year and for years to come. We have high hopes that many of you will register and come to Tequesta to learn and, we hope, you will help as scorers. Then you can take your knowledge of this program to let others know.

AMERICAN LEGION, BOY SCOUTING SQUARE KNOT AWARD

I would also like to make it known to you that are now or have been involved with the Boy Scout Program, of The American Legion Square Knot Award. If you have been through leadership training programs and may be in current positions such as unit leaders, Charter Organization Representatives, Unit or District positions, etc., you may qualify for this award. The application can be found at: http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/squareknot_update.pdf

Thank you so very much. I hope you will take this information back to your Posts and Boy Scout Council, and get together with a neighborhood Troop, Crew, or Ship, at www.beascout.org and plan on joining us at the Cracker Trail.

Roster Changes up until November 19, 2012

Post # Title-Name

240 Commander- Ron Woolsey

106 Commander- Larry Hale

106 Adjutant- Kevin Ward

106 Post Email

222 Adjutant- John Newstreet

249- Adjutant Peter Dimaggio

395 Commander- Raymond Nelson

233 Adjutant- Mark Dorsey

180 Adjutant- Mary Jones

274 Mailing/Billing Address

155 Post Email

12- Mailing/Billing/Post Home/Phone #

8th Dist. Boys State Dist. Chairman, Robert Walker

Post 71 Fax #

382 Post Email

Larry Sheets, PDC

91 Post Email

9th Dist. ALR Chairman, Ron Boulay

74 Post Email

157- Adjutant Don Rollins

12th District ALR Chairman, James Burk

15th District ALR Chairman, Jose Romeu

New Info

PO Box 36251, Pensacola, 32516 850-453-6969 bull_ret_lt@yahoo.com

224 Franklin Blvd, St. George Island, 32328 850-653-5817

129 Long Rd, Apalachicola, 32320 850-899-0669

kward@bluemantagroup.com

aplegion@hotmail.com

3877 NW 82nd Way, Coral Springs, 33065 john@fllegion.newsouth.net

Resigned. Currently awaiting new Adjutant

121 Mill Pond Cove, Crestview, 32539, 850-420-0706 olchef@gmail.com

2793 Treasure Cove Ln, Jax, 32224 904.223.1073 markdorsey@att.net

Contact #: 954.261.3752

P.O Box 2456, Ft. Myers Beach, 33932

financeofficealpost155@gmail.com

3676 Collin Dr Ste 21, W Palm Bch, 33406 (p) 561-963-2812

[email: rwalker57@gmail.com](mailto:rwalker57@gmail.com)

863-589-5689

americanlegion85@bellsouth.net

Contact #: 305-467-7713

mark_hillard@msn.com

6517 Brandywine Dr. S., Margate, 33063 954-242-1360

boulaylt@hotmail.com

alpost74@comcast.net

Resigned. Currently awaiting new Adjutant

[email: pslride@yahoo.com](mailto:pslride@yahoo.com)

phone: 386.316.9390



**Legislative
Stanley Gold, Department Chairman
786.423.2458**

We now have seven new members of Congress from Florida. I already spoke to five of them and I will get to speak to the other two shortly. One of my legislative duties is to get to know each member from Florida and get them to vote for our Legion agenda. October 24 to November 1 I attended my ship reunion, USS Braine DD630 held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. One of my shipmates, Paul Arthur, who left the service the same time as me, September 1953, later went to college and went back into the Navy as an officer and ended his Navy career as Rear Admiral in charge of White Sands Missile Base and after that became civilian director of the same base until his retirement in 2004. Thanks to him our group received a two day special tour of White Sands.

On Monday we visited the Headquarters, J.W. Cox Range Control Center, drone control center, the Navy Desert Ship Missile Assembly building and gun sites, various launch sites such as the Patriot missiles and the Iron Domes (anti missile rockets). We watched on a computer a large rocket being fired from a ship about 300 miles away and watched two defense rockets fired about a mile apart. In a matter of two or three minutes, both hit the incoming rocket fired from the ship and bang "O" the rocket went down. What does this story have to do with my legislative report... I'll tell you -

The past two weeks we all watched on TV about 1000 missiles and rockets being fired at Israel and with their Form Iron Drums and Patriot missiles were able to 'shoot down' over 90% of the rockets being fired. Most of the rockets going over Israel cost about \$500 each and the rockets fired by Israel to knock them out of the sky cost well over \$100,000.

At White Sands they are working 24/7 to change this hit ratio to 100%. I for one will try to make sure our members of Congress know this before they cut any funds for this project.

On Tuesday we took a 138 mile bus ride within this base to visit the Trinity site (the first Atomic bomb test site on July 16, 1945). We also saw many other points of interest on the way there.

I also would like to add that Paul Arthur's wife Joy was one of the top workers and designers of the Patriot missile.



**Bonnie Carter, FALPA President
4211 Helena St NE
St Petersburg, FL 33703
727-521-4049
dincwaz2@tampabay.rr.com**



Have you ever tried to read a newsletter that has more pictures than words? It's easy to fill space with clipart when there are so many different programs available. But if you aren't careful you'll be sending your members a comic book and not the information they really need.

Before I finish with a newsletter page I reduce it to 50% so I can see the whole thing. I sit back and watch where the text and graphics lead my eyes. Do I have too many graphics? Are the graphics for different stories too close together? Should I replace two smaller graphics with one larger one? If I haven't put any art on the page, do I have room for at least one? Sometimes too many words are as bad as too much art. Making little changes to your newsletter can make a big difference.

Want to be a member? Dues are \$5.00 per year and include a quarterly newsletter filled with tips and suggestions to help you make the most of your talents. We also have a CD available with graphics, fonts, patriotic poems, speeches & articles especially made for the American Legion Family. The National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) dues are \$10.00 per year and also include a quarterly newsletter. You don't have to join NALPA to join FALPA. Ps. I'd love to get your newsletter!

**FALPA/NALPA
Membership year is from July 1 to June 30**

Name _____ Legion/Aux/SAL Member # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

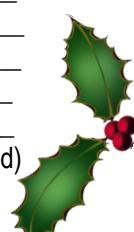
Phone () _____ Email _____

I am a member of Post/Unit/Squadron _____ Dist. _____ Area _____

FALPA \$5 _____ NALPA \$10 _____ New member _____ Reinstatement _____

Cash _____ Check _____ (make check out to FALPA. NALPA dues will be forwarded)

Mail to: Pat Johnson, Treasurer, 5430 Friendly St, Port St John, FL 32927



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Legion related Legislative Actions

Congress returned Tuesday, November 13, to face a crowded agenda. First, three new representatives were sworn in who will finish the remainder of terms of those House seats that were left open due to a representative's death or resignation. These freshmen will thus have seniority over all the other freshmen who will be sworn in on January 3, when the 113th Congress officially begins.

The Senate must also direct its attention to avert sequestration, or defense spending faces a dramatic, automatic, across-the-board cut of \$51 billion in fiscal year 2013, and \$500 billion over ten years. The American Legion has lobbied both legislative bodies that such a steep reduction would cause severe, if not irreparable, harm to our national security. Some new spending decisions must be made to avert endangering the defense programs of our nation. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta called the possibility of sequestration a "doomsday button."

Congress must also address the "Doc Fix" bill to ensure doctors will be adequately reimbursed for treating Medicare and TRICARE patients. Failure to find an agreement on this issue would result in nearly a 30 percent reduction in payments to doctors.

And there are other issues that must fit into a short time period before the new year arrives, including passage of a Senate bill (S 3276) to extend authorities of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. This measure is set to expire at year's end and is considered essential by US intelligence officials. Finally, the Stolen Valor Act is essentially complete and should be passed and sent to the President; otherwise the legislation dies with the end of the 112th Congress and must be re-introduced for action on January 3 with the swearing in of the 113th Congress.

Senate Approves Veterans' COLA Bill, Goes to President

On November 13, the Senate passed by unanimous consent a bill - H.R. 4114 - to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 1.7% for veterans. The traditionally non-controversial bill was held up in late September by an unnamed senator who subsequently removed the hold on the bill. The bill has already been passed by the House of Representatives so it now goes to the President for signature. The veteran's COLA affects several benefits, including veterans' service-connected disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

House Reviews Veterans Employment Challenges and Initiatives of the 112th Congress

On Thursday, November 15 the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity convened a hearing to discuss the continuing employment difficulties facing veterans and the programs to help them find work in a difficult economy. Legion staff was on hand to hear from the Departments responsible, including the Departments of Labor (DOL) and VA. Overall veteran unemployment is 6.3 percent, representing about 689,000 individuals. For Post-9/11 veterans, unemployment was above the national average at 10 percent, or about 209,000 Americans.

A centerpiece of the committee's work in the 112th congress was passage of the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program as part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act (Public Law 112-56). This new legislation addresses the lack of training opportunities for prior conflict and older veterans. As of November, VA had approved 62,295 applicants toward the 99,000 participant limit.

Delays in Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits processing were addressed, but VA noted that automated processing - initiated September 24 - is beginning to have some positive effect in that particular back log. The problem is due, in part, to the success of the new GI Bill and to the poor economy and some veterans are electing to obtain further education as they are unable to find work. Since the program's inception in August 2009, VA has issued over \$23 billion in benefit payments to over 860,000 beneficiaries. During the 2012 fall academic term, VA received enrollments for over 470,000 participants attending institutions of higher learning, with another 9,200 beneficiaries enrolled in non-college degree programs.

Also discussed were various aspects of the transition and employment services provided to service members and veterans and how they could be improved to address current and future needs. About 300,000 service members will be separating from the military each year over the next 5 years, totaling approximately 1.5 million individuals who will be looking to start new careers in a challenging economic environment.

A webcast of the hearing and written testimony is available at the following link: <http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/review-of-veterans-employment-challenges-and-initiatives-of-the-112th-congress>

*Wishing you all the timeless treasures of the season -
warmth of home, the love of family and
the company of good friends.*

Children & Youth
Steve Shuga, Department Chairman
C&Y@floridalegion.org

December is a time of family, community, and culture. Various religious beliefs are expressed due to their origins, customs and popular traditions. I wish you all safe, happy, and spirited holiday's ahead as we endure and witness the customs and courtesies that have been protected by those that have passed before us, by those here amongst us, and by those who continue to serve in harm's way as we enjoy the many festive occasions this month. Keep our military families in your prayers!

Children & Youth Program materials that may assist families and friends during this holiday period include: *Child Safety, Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Suicide, School Safety, Missing and Abducted Children, Accidents (automobile, drowning, firearms), Substance Abuse, Play it Safe, and Family Support Network.*

The 2012 Temporary Financial Assistance and the Florida Gilchrist Fund ends December 31st and it starts all over for 2013. Assistance is available providing you meet the basic program requirements of each program. Contact Cliff Collins at the Department Headquarters for additional information.

If you are seeking to make that last minute donation for the calendar year and are unsure where you want it to go, please consider making your tax deducted donation to The American Legion Department of Florida Children & Youth Fund or The American Legion Children Welfare Foundation.

Your Department Children & Youth Program Chairman has created a special **FAL CY Pin for 2012-2013**. They are being sold for **\$5 each**. A special edition, first ever **FAL Children & Youth Challenge Coin** will be introduced beginning January 2013. The coin represents the Fourth Pillar of The American Legion as well as the entire American Legion Family on the reverse side. They are being sold for **\$10 each**. This is expected to be a special keepsake item for those who collect, seeking a special gift, or have a desire to support the Florida American Legion Children & Youth Programs. Funding will be used to support Children and Youth activities during 2013. I thank you for your support as it truly ensures "**A Square Deal for Every Child**"!

Monthly Program Reminders

- ❖ Plan you C&Y activities at least two months ahead & Order your resources early.
- ❖ Monthly Reporting of Post C&Y Program activities due to Department HQ (Attn: CY) between December 15 thru December 31, 2012.

(NOTE: If you miss the deadline, send it in regardless!)

Important C&Y Program Dates

- ❖ Accepting 2013 Boys State Registrations (\$325/delegate), until **December 23, 2012**.
- ❖ Posts are encouraged to seek out Florida's Senior High School candidates to apply for the **American Legion General Scholarship**. See your Post Administrative Manual for application. Candidate applications are due at Dept. HQ no later than **March 1, 2013**.
- ❖ Florida Children & Youth Fund Grant applications due to Dept. HQ no later than **May 1, 2013**.

As we thrive to fulfill **The American Legion's Fourth Pillar**, by providing the "**Whole Child**" concept, let us all do our very best to ensure that every child has a home, health, education, character, and opportunity to be a productive, well-rounded citizen that will guide and lead us into the future.



Happy Holidays from your Department Staff





Robert's Rules for Raising a Point of Order

Dick Mondro, Department Judge Advocate

If you notice a breach of the rules, especially if that breach impinges on your rights or the rights of other members, you rise — quickly, mind you, even if you interrupt a speaker, or you'll be too late — and say, "Point of order!" A Point of Order, an infraction of the rules, or improper decorum in speaking must be raised immediately after the error is made, but it must be valid. A point of order is not raised because you disagree with or do not like what is being said and it must be germane to the main motion.

When you're recognized, you state your reasons for thinking your rules aren't being followed correctly. A point of order can be raised at any time when any member notices a violation of the rules. The chair's duty is to make a decision, called a *ruling*, on the point of order. He may need to check the rules or the bylaws, or ask the parliamentarian for advice, but in any case, a point of order is usually ruled on immediately.

What must the chair do when a point of order is raised? Immediately, when a point of order is raised the chair must stop the speaker or stop the process of the meeting and deal with the point of order. Having heard the point, the chair must rule immediately subject to conferring with relevant authorities about the validity of the issue raised in the point of order.

There are three possible statements a chairperson can make, 1. "That is not a point of order". This is made when the point of order which has been raised is not a point of order. It is most likely a statement of opinion or similar and should be dealt with quickly; 2. I will accept your point of order and therefore ..." In this instance the chair will continue the meeting according to the correct procedure, having had attention drawn to a breach or irregularity; 3. "I do not accept your point of order" In this case the chair will continue with the meeting as if there had been no interruption.

Can a Point of Order be Debated? No debate is permitted on a point of order beyond fair reasonable clarification of procedures or rules. Can a Point of Order be Challenged? Yes, but this should be done with great caution. If a person in a meeting believes that the ruling given by the chair in response to a point of order is incorrect, then the procedural motion "dissenting from the chair's ruling" should be moved immediately. This motion disagreeing with the ruling of the chair should be seconded and put to the vote without debate. The result of the vote will determine whether the ruling is upheld or reversed.

Special Note: There are some legal technicalities here, which should be considered if your meetings are likely to have legal significance. There is not a clear-cut legal ruling. There are legal precedents, which say the ruling by the chair on a point of order cannot be challenged, and others which say it can. The wisest way to deal with this is before the event, by including a specific clause in your constitution or standard orders, which either allows a challenge or denies it. (It would be wise to allow challenges.)

Should Points of Order be Recorded in the Minutes? Generally no, unless the rules state that they should (and this is extremely rare and unnecessary). In most organizations, points of order are not recorded.

Examples of correct "Points of Order"

- ❖ the speaker is not speaking to the motion
- ❖ allowing this person to move this motion contravenes standing order
- ❖ the speaker is repeating the same points he has already made
- ❖ the motion contravenes our by-laws
- ❖ the specific facts the speaker is giving are incorrect. (Note: this is not a statement of opinion, but of fact and assumes the person raising the point of order can validate the point)
- ❖ the speaker's time limit has expired
- ❖ the language the speaker is using is offensive
- ❖ the meeting no longer has a quorum. (If members leave early, a quorum may be violated)
- ❖ Examples which are not valid points of order
- ❖ that's not true
- ❖ I disagree with that
- ❖ I want to explain why I said that
- ❖ the speaker shouldn't be allowed to say that
- ❖ how long do we have to listen to this?
- ❖ I can't hear what the speaker is saying



Season's Greetings