

The Legion Link

January 2012

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AIMING HIGH FOR VETERANS



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Consolidated Post Reports (CPR). The Consolidated Post Report was established in 1975 in order to assist departments in the documentation of the various activities a specific post has done during the twelve-month reporting period June 1, through May 31. The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) may be the most important document your post will complete this year. Your post's information, combined with that of other posts, is used when the National Commander and others testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of all veterans. Each post has a story to tell and when we speak collectively our strength is magnified.

The Department of Florida American Legion wants to continue to make sure that we tell our story. If we don't no one else will. We have done a good job in the past and for this reporting period I would like to have 100% reporting. There are so many different things that we do and we don't want to fail to capture all this important data.

You may ask why we are talking about it this early. It is never too early to start capturing this data to make it easy to fill out the CPR and making sure that we do not forget any data that will make our voice on Capitol Hill stronger. Yes, the Senator and Congressional personnel listen and you had better believe that they are aware of our numbers and what The American Legion accomplishes.

The Department will be keeping track to ensure that each Post will tell its story. The Department of Florida American Legion Post Administrative Manual has a copy of a tally sheet that can be utilized monthly to make this process easier.

Al "Gunner" Dudley
Department Vice Commander

I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday! However, we must realize and get the word out that all unpaid members for 2012 are in a delinquent status. So make those phone calls and mail those letters out! There is a new Veterans link out that is very resourceful. The National Resource Directory (NRD) provides access to services and resources at the national, state and local levels that support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration. The email address is www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov. I think it can be very useful to all of you. We have a lot of events coming up and a lot of work to accomplish. Remember, united we stand, divided we fall! So let's work together and Get-R-Done!!!!

I hope that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and wish all a Merry Christmas. May everyone have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



"Never forget
our POW/MIAs"

Art Schwabe
Department Sgt-at-Arms

Happy New Year!!!! This is the start of the New Year. Football playoffs and the world famous, Super-Bowl.(Go GREEN BAY!!!!) With the start of 2012 each Post should consider having a welcoming committee. The Sergeant-at-Arms is the logical person to chair such a committee. The members of this committee must welcome new members and guests, make sure they are introduced, signed into your Post and keep the Commander advised as to who should be acknowledged. This committee can also be used to encourage present members to attend meetings. As of Dec.31st, we have held basic Sgt-at-Arms training in 13 Districts with a total of 157 people taking the class. Thank you ALL for taking the time to learn about the duties of the Sgt-at-Arms. Remember many small steps will go a long way in making the American Legion the best Veterans Organization. Thank You for what you do and what you will continue to do for our Veterans and the Youth of this Great Country, the United States Of America. For God, Country and Veterans

READY OR NOT HERE IT COMES
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Loretta Young
Dept. of Florida ROTC/Shooting Sports Chair

We have reached the halfway point for the year with our school programs and deadlines are quickly approaching. When school reopens after the beginning of the New Year it is essential that every Post Chairman contacts your schools that have a marksmanship program and get the 2012 Junior Position Air Rifle Tournament form completed and sent into National with the required attachments and fee by Jan 10th. Team members and target order forms are just \$8 each so the cost is very affordable for your post to sponsor a team. So far the response has been very slow. Fired targets must be returned to National before the Feb. 1st deadline.

There will be the Annual Commanders Cup Marksmanship Meet in Titusville on Jan. 14th. Several teams from the Southern Area will be participating again and I would hope that some of the local legionnaires would come to see this event.

This is also the time of year that the JROTC Units are having their formal inspections. These are only done every three years and are well worth the time spent to see the outstanding briefings that the cadets give that explains the overall aspects of this dynamic program.

This is also the time that you should be contacting your JROTC Unit instructors to remind them of the Cadet of the Year application that is due March 1st. Applications have been sent to the schools but sometimes are misplaced. Please let us know if this happens so a replacement can be sent. Only by being involved in these programs can the value be understood, so I encourage our members to make a visit to your local school and see the cadets first hand. I would like to thank all of you who are working our youth programs. If I can be of help, please contact me. Hope all of you had a very happy holiday and remember to always pray for our troops.



Robert "Bob" Scott
Department of Florida



Last year is now history; and we had our share of successes and failures. The coming year looks bright. The Boy Scout Program is moving forward, and the American Legion Boy Scout Skills Adventure Camporee is coming down to the wire. At this writing we have 110 Scouts and 14 Chuck Wagons. This looks like a wild weekend. When we named it we missed the mark. For it should have been called the Florida American Legion Boy Scout Skills Adventure Competition for that is what it is. The Patrols will test their skills against each other and the winner will have bragging rights of being the Best of The Best. Everyone is invited to come out and root for the Scouts. After the competition I invite you to stay around for the campfire awards ceremony. It's going to be a great weekend.

At this year's Fall Conference I challenged each District to Charter two Boy Scout troops. If you can't charter a Boy Scout Troop then sponsor a Troop. Get involved with the Scouts. They are a great organization. (A side note, all the astronauts were Eagle Scouts.) Remember next month, February 10th through 12th is the Camporee. Let's get out and support the Camporee.

My parting word is: "Man does not make the times, but the times make the man." So until we meet again, may the good Lord take a like'n to you, and may you be in heaven 10 minutes before the devil knows you are dead. Yours in Scouting - For God and Country

85% Goal

February 1, 2012

Membership Report as of December 20, 2011

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
4	Jay Conti	4,065	3,558	87.53
6	Robert Kiley	9,710	8,481	87.34
2	Homer Frailey	1,322	1,110	83.96
3	Larry Krull	1,686	1,414	83.87
9	Richard Davitt	4,390	3,660	83.37
17	David Corning	4,188	3,465	82.74
11	Richard Smith	4,208	3,477	82.63
16	James Burgess	11,991	9,863	82.25
8	Debra Roush	8,284	6,728	81.22
5	Jerry Brandt	7,405	6,000	81.03
1	William Bingle	6,197	5,002	80.72
14	Gary Decker	3,171	2,556	80.61
12	Mark Johnson	8,357	6,735	80.59
15	James Zipler	5,286	4,210	79.64
7	Nancy Thomas	4,002	3,153	78.79
13	Steven Slachta	8,682	6,826	78.62
Eastern	William Walsh	18,067	15,216	84.22
Northern	Jim Ramos	17,344	14,437	83.24
Southern	George Rafajko	11,769	9,693	82.36
Western	Charles LeCroy	7,519	6,112	81.29
Central	Charlie Wing	21,279	17,226	80.95
SW	Gregory Putman	16,966	13,554	79.89
Dept			76,238	
Post 400		14,133	10,398	73.57
Post 208		1,697	1,810	106.66
Totals		108,656	88,446	81.40

Bob Brewster
Membership Chairman
membership@floridalegion.org

First, I hope that all of you had a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year and that you were able to spend this time with your family and friends. I also hope that you kept all of our vets, young and old, in your prayers.

Now - on to membership. All of our Districts and Areas are hitting their goals on time. But now the hard work starts because several of our Districts and some of our Areas have less cards turned in this year than last year at this time. That is not good. Also on the negative, we only have 5 months to finish up. When I first started going to the Department conventions many years ago, they were held in July. Then last year our convention was in June. This year it will be held in very early June.

At our upcoming January meeting, I will share with you ideas to make sure we all hit our goals this year. I appreciate and applaud you for all that you have done this year. A lot of people can talk the talk, but fall far short when it comes time for the walk. Again I stress, it is time to knock off the bull and work with the Posts that are not succeeding. If you are not capable of doing the work with the Posts, you have an out. Call me and let us set up a program. I will be glad to come in and actually work with the Post. Failure is not acceptable, only success is. I have no intentions of letting Florida down this year. It will not happen on my watch.

Again, thank you for all you have done. God Bless you and yours, and let's all get together to make this a successful year. For God and Country



Larry D. Sheets
National Vice-Commander

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank the Legionnaires of Florida for their diligence and hard work which resulted in Florida surpassing the 75% membership and meeting the target date on December 14, 2011.

Nationally, Florida sits in 29th place with 79.369%, and in the Southeast Region we are in 6th place. I have no doubt that Florida will attain 100% in membership this year.

It is a great honor for me to be serving as National Vice-Commander, and in my travels I am proud to say that I am from the Department of Florida. Thank you again

Dianne Thibodeau
Department Children & Youth Chairman
C&Y@floridalegion.org

Hello again. I want to start by wishing everyone a safe and "Happy New Year". Due to the early Convention this year, we only have five months left. What events have you got planned? It's not too late to start. Remember to keep the American Legion Family in mind. The Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion and the Riders themselves can be very helpful when planning, raising the money and doing the actual work needed.

National's website (<http://www.legion.org>) as well as the department's (<http://floridalegion.org>) has a wealth of knowledge available. National states "Through a variety of internal and external programs, The American Legion Children & Youth Division strengthens families, provides services to young people, and meets the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs of our nation's youth." You need to view what's there; what's available.

By now you should be familiar with the schools. Maybe you planned an event this month at a local Daycare. Things such as Play it Safe, Child Safety, Missing Children, and Fireworks Safety. Hopefully you got your local police and fireman involved. Did you inform the Community? Let the papers know. Keep the public informed.

If you didn't have time to do these programs due to the holidays, why not start planning now to do it in February. This is Americanism Month. Present a flag at schools and/or have a Four Chaplains ceremony. Also, keep in mind Presidents Day.

March is the time to have a big birthday party for the American Legion. Let the community know "What and Who the American Legion is".

Keeping in mind that April is Children & Youth month, make plans for a function or two to raise money for this worthy cause. The Child Welfare Foundation, Operation Military Kids, Special Olympics, the Children's Miracle Network, COTA, etc. - the list is endless for children in need who need our help. My personal push is for each post to donate to the Child Welfare Foundation. A dollar per member would be ideal but anything would be greatly appreciated.

Last but not least is once again paperwork. Remember our Consolidated Post Report (CPR) that gets filled out at the end of year? *IT IS VERY IMPORTANT* we report all that we do. In order to report all, you need to keep track on a monthly basis. Encourage your fellow volunteers to turn in their miles and hours on a monthly basis also.



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p.s. - I'd love to get your newsletter!



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.

-----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

ATTENTION ALL POST COMMANDERS

Has your Post Boys State Chairman, Oratorical Chairman, or Blood Donor Chairman received their manuals from Department?? Have any of your Post Chairmen received the most updated information on their program from Department?? If not, please send pages 12-14 from the Post Administrative Manual to Department. If you cannot find this manual, email cpolk@floridalegion.org.

Michael Clark

Department Americanism Chairman

Happy New Year to all and I hope that you had a very Merry Christmas. May this year bring all the best to everyone. There are two points that I would like to make. First is now the time to get in and talk to the guidance/financial aid counselors at the school boards. Feel free to contact me as I have already sent a package out to the Area Commanders last year, and I will send you the same package. The next point and very critical, please keep up on the dates for the various Americanism Programs. Not having the forms in by the due date and filled out properly could make the individual or post ineligible. So please pay attention to the directions on each and every program. Again Happy New Year to everyone... For God and Country.

Roster Changes

<u>Post # Title-Name</u>	<u>New Info</u>
110 Adjutant- William Rambo bo23142@comcast.net	23142 Hemenway Ave, Port Charlotte, 33980 (631) 514-4179 ram-
80 Commander- Walt Eatman 174 Mailing address	6386 Jess Court, St. Cloud, FL 34771 (407) 489-4473 walteatman@msn.com PO Box 15704, Fernandina Beach, 32035
395 Membership Dues	\$35
92 Cdr- Richard Snyder	701 Atlantic Shores Blvd # 203, Hallandale, 33009 (h) 954.455.4926 rsnyder1019@att.net

January Fun Facts

- 1888-2 Drinking straw is patented
- 1914-5 Henry Ford pays an unheard of \$5.00/hr to his employees
- 1789-7 2st National election in the USA
- 1901-10 Texas oil boom began
- 1971-12 *All in the Family* debuts on TV
- 1920-16 League of Nations inaugurated
- 1929-17 Popeye the cartoon character debuts
- 1922-24 Eskimo Pie is patented
- 1935-24 1st canned beer sold in New Jersey
- 1929-29 1st Guide Dog school in the US
- 1930-31 Scotch Tape is 1st sold

ORATORICAL Contest Dates

Must be completed by:

- Posts - January 8, 2012
- Districts - January 29, 2012
- Areas - February 25, 2012
- Department - March 10, 2012