

The Legion Link

October 2013

Vol. 21 Issue 3



Making a Difference for Veterans Everyday



Web Site: www.floridalegion.org

E-mail: mail@floridalegion.org

In this Issue...

Page 1

Dept. Commander
TAPS

Page 2

Dept Vice Commander
Dept Chaplain

Page 3

NEC
Dept. Sgt-at-Arms
Dept. Judge Advocate
TAPS

Page 4

Membership
ATTN: Post Commanders

Page 5

Americanism
Children & Youth
Women Veterans
Legion Riders

Page 6

Flag information
Military Liaison
Special Olympics

Page 7

POW/MIA
Law & Order

Page 8

Public Relations
State Legislative

Page 9

National Legislative
Blood Donor

Page 10

VA Care
SW Area

Pages 11-14

Areas & Districts

Page 15

Roster Changes

Page 16

Nat'l Cmdr Testimony pictures

**Art 'Ole' Schwabe
Department Commander
Commander@legionmail.org
407.247.5232**

October! Really???? Time is moving on. Things have been moving at a high rate of speed. We are just getting started and it is almost time for Veterans Day. It is time to make plans for the event. Please consider having the Legion Coloring Books distributed to your local elementary schools by the end of October. You can order the books from Department for \$20.00 per 100 books plus shipping. Don't just drop the books off. Take the time to talk to the students about Veterans Day and its meaning. Maybe hold a flag folding ceremony. Most of the youngsters do not realize what the Veterans have done protecting this great country we live in called "America". Take a group of Legionnaires with you to experience our youth in action. It is a great eye opening event for young and old. Take the coloring books to Reserve Centers and pass them out to Military personnel that you may know who have small children. Make sure you stamp your Post address and phone number on the back page which has a Legion application and Legion facts on it.

I have just completed two more District visits (the 9th and the 11th). It is great to see so many members involved in Legion programs.

The COTA program is up and running. We can all be proud of the donations being

collected for the COTA kids in the state of Florida. Remember, it is the number of members divided into the amount of donations to come up with the donations per member. It is done this way so small Posts can compete with larger Posts. Monies should be turned into the District Finance Officer by November 1, so awards can be given at Fall Conference and Convention. Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause. **YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

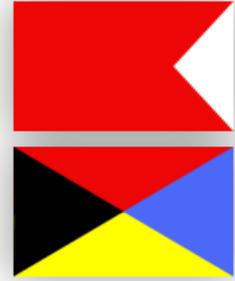
Keep sending in your membership on a weekly basis to Department. Renewal notices are being sent from National and when a Legionnaire receives it and already has paid his dues it concerns them. It will keep your phone from ringing off the hook. Our Department membership is at 56.24% and I thank all of you for your help in getting membership in. For God and Country



New NEC and NECA

Dennis Boland was officially sworn in as the National Executive Committeeman at the Florida Caucus held on Sunday, August 25th during the National Convention. Past Department Commander Harry McDowell is expected to be sworn in as the NECA at the upcoming Department Fall Conference.

Jay Conti Sr.
Department Vice Commander
ViceCommander@floridalegion.org
BRAVO-ZULU
352.287.1400



What a Great National Convention the Department of Florida had in Houston, Texas. We were seated in the front row and because of our Outstanding Legionnaire the Dept of Florida received numerous awards. **BZ To Everyone!** Speaking of Conventions, remember that the Dept Fall Conference is right around the corner so don't forget to reserve your room now! There will be a full packed agenda, LEAD classes as well as the Service Officer course and we need you to come to learn more about The American Legion.

With September Remembrance Days of Patriot Day, POW-MIA Day and American Legion Day behind us we need to start planning ahead for your Veterans Day, Veterans Stand-down and Homeless Stand-down, Halloween Safety, Thanksgiving, Pearl Harbor Day, Christmas just naming a few it don't hurt to start planning ahead. Get your entire Legion Family involved with these as it should be a Legion Family affair! Congratulations' to Post #399 Palm City and Commander Frank Maitland for being the 1st Post in Florida to attain 100% in membership! **BRAVO ZULU!**

Prior to the start of The National Convention I attended the ALR Legacy Run; Last Leg Ride in to Post 554 in Houston, Texas to meet all the Florida ALR Riders who made this long and "**HOOOOT**" Ride! What a show it was and the donations that they brought in was amazing! One particular couple Jerry & Barbie Heider from Chapter 318 Port Saint Lucie did one amazing job prior to the LEGACY Run starting.

On Saturday, June 1, 2013 they embarked on a journey, riding from Key West, FL to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, in an effort to raise awareness and gather donations for the LEGACY Scholarship FUND along the way. They then rode from Alaska to Indianapolis, Indiana for the start of the Legacy Run to the end in Houston, Texas. During 3 months of riding they handed out flyers on the Legacy Scholarship Fund, took donations (only checks) and gave addresses where they can mail checks to and how to donate online. Jerry & Barbie really made a difference not only in the record donation by the Nations American Legion Riders by raising over \$776,000 but they made a Difference for our Nations Children of fallen Veterans since 9-11-01. Jerry & Barbie Heider; **BRAVO ZULU!** "**For God and Country**"

Chaplain Steve's Spiritual Corner

Hello and God bless my fellow Legionnaires.

Going around our state and conducting my training at various districts, one topic seems to come up quite a bit. It is probably something that most don't like to talk about because it can be terrifying. That topic is suicide. I bring this topic up when i discuss one of the chaplain's qualification that concerns keeping things confidential between the individual and the chaplain. However, there might come a time when someone indicates to the chaplain that he/she is going to do harm to themselves or maybe others. This is a situation that you will have to tell someone about and must be taken seriously. This situation is an emergency and it is imperative that you contact 911 immediately. You must inform your chain of command beginning with the Post Commander. If there's no immediate danger, but the individual needs to speak to a trained counselor, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-talk (8255). Remember in dealing with situations like this never promise confidentiality. Keeping a secret keeps someone from getting the professional help they need. Contact the individual's physician or mental health provider.

Always take the threat seriously. Don't try to handle the crisis on your own. Be calm, supportive and listen, let the individual relieve anguish by talking. Be understanding. Don't let the person alone. If possible stay nearby until you are sure the individual is receiving professional care.

The bible says that we ourselves are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in us. If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him, for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple (Cor 3-16-17) September is suicide prevention month.

*By prevailing over all obstacles and distractions, one may
unfailingly arrive at his chosen goal or destination.*

~ Christopher Columbus ~

Dennis Boland
National Executive Committeeman

In my travels I have been asked many questions about The American Legion. The majority of them I can answer, but when I can't I will find the answer and let those individuals know.

Jim Brennan, Post Commander of Post 84 in Havana, FL presented the question to me, which I didn't know the specific answer. The question was when the Vietnam Veterans were first allowed to join The American Legion? Through my research and with the help of the Director, Howard C. Trace of our national Library and Museum Staff, I am able to respond to his question.

The first time Vietnam Veterans were eligible for membership was September 1, 1966 with the eligibility period beginning August 5 1964.

This was resolution #433 from the 1966 National Convention. Below are the dates of eligibility changes for the Vietnam Era. Included are the resolution, Congressional action, and eligibility dates as they were when passed.

1966 National Convention Resolution #433

Public Act 89-550, September 1, 1966

5 August 1964 – Open

1974 National Convention Resolution #3

Public Act 93-557, December 27, 1974

5 August 1964 – 15 August 1973

1977 National Convention Resolution #249

Public Act 95-346, August 17, 1978

5 August 1964 – 7 May 1975

1997 National Convention Resolution #1

Public Act 105-110, November 20, 1997

28 February 1961 – 7 May 1975

Over the past 14 years I have had the honor to serve you as your Alternate National Executive Committeeman and I look forward to serving with you and the Florida Team as your National Executive Committeeman.

TAPS



It is with deep regret that I report the passing of 1992-1993 Past Department Commander Charles "Chuck" Francis Moreland of, Dunnellon, FL. Chuck passed away on Saturday,

September 14, 2013 at the age of 78. He is survived by his wife, Gayle, and five children; Carole, Charlene, Robert, Charles and Mark.

Chuck was a Korean Navy Veteran and a member of American Legion Post 222, with 40 continuous years of membership. Chuck served as Post Judge Advocate, 9th District Finance Officer, Department Community Service Chairman, 9th District Commander, Southern Area Commander, Department Vice Commander, Department Commander and was currently serving on National's Merchant Marine Committee as Chairman. Chuck will be remembered by many as a kind-hearted, dedicated and genuine individual.

If you would like to send your condolences, please do so through his wife, Gayle, at: 19312 SW 101st Place Rd, Dunnellon, FL 34432.

WALT "SANDMAN" EATMAN
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA SGT-AT-ARMS
6TH DISTRICT CHAPLAIN

September has been a bitter sweet month having to attend the funeral services of Mike McWatt, 13th District Vice Commander, and Chuck Moreland, Past Department Commander; two good friends and true Legionnaires. They will be missed but they are serving us and the Legion in spirit.

The sweet part was attending the 15th and 16th District Meetings and the 12th District picnic and visiting some of the nearby Post's. I will be working on revising the Sgt-At-Arms manual and hope to have them printed by the Fall Conference. I am asking that all Sgt-at-Arms of the state please try to attend the conference as we will have a Sgt-at-Arms training session. I would like us all to be consistent with our Meeting Protocol and Flag Etiquette and the responsibility of our duties as Sgt-At-Arms. If you have any questions please call me, I SERVE YOU!!



ATTENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMEN

Do not forget to order your PatColoring Books from Department Headquarters. They are only \$20.00 per 100. To order your Patriotic Coloring Books contact JoAnn at 800.393.3378 or jcolins@floridalegion.org.

FROM THE DESK OF
DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE LARRY SHEETS

In 2 weeks I will be making a concerted effort to eliminate the backlog of Post Constitution and By-Laws which are at Department Headquarters. I had intended to start on September 23, however due to a slight setback it will be the first week in October.

It is my hope to get the turnaround time down to 10 to 15 days max. I ask your patience in this process and promise to get them caught up as soon as humanly possible.

Every day I receive calls from Posts with questions, and I always answer those questions if possible. If I do not have an answer, I will get one ASAP. So far things are running pretty smooth and by everyone working together we can keep it that way.

65% Goal

October 31, 2013

Membership Report as of September 27, 2013

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
6	Thomas Biddle	10,777	5,924	54.97
16	Sidney Damsgard	12,028	6,369	52.95
15	Eunice Butts	5,329	2,796	52.47
9	John Vazquez	4,349	2,268	52.15
4	Charles Ferguson	4,198	2,189	52.14
12	Kenneth Wakefield	8,442	4,384	51.93
8	Mitch Reinhardt	8,255	4,275	51.79
5	Thomas Gora	7,810	3,992	51.11
2	Willie Jackson	1,373	701	51.06
17	Dorothy Moore	4,152	2,096	50.48
11	Frank Maitland	4,168	2,089	50.12
14	Gary Decker	3,026	1,474	48.71
1	Jimmy Martin	6,288	2,985	47.47
7	Charles Giffin	3,911	1,840	47.05
13	John Dollinger	8,811	4,094	46.47
3	Randall White	1,715	746	43.50
Eastern	Robert Kiley	19,219	10,308	53.63
Central	James Burgess	21,268	11,005	51.74
Southern	William Johnson	11,543	5,831	50.52
Northern	Michael Wolohan	17,875	9,023	50.48
SW	Debra Roush	17,066	8,369	49.04
Western	Verna Joyce	7,661	3,686	48.11
Department			48,222	
Post 400		12,067	7,735	64.10
Post 208		3,181	1,974	62.06
Totals		111,525	57,931	51.94

Douglas Deierlein
SKCS (SW/AW) USN, Ret.
Membership Chairman
ddeierlein@yahoo.com

Hello Florida Legionnaires,

Well it is already October and our membership is doing great! Sept 4th was our first goal date of 50% and I am proud to announce that 192 Post out of 293 Post made that Goal, Great Job and a big thank you to those post. Many other post were in the high 40% range, for those post please keep working hard so that you will make the next goal, which for all post is October 2nd and that goal is 55%. The Department also as whole made the 50% Goal – Bravo Zulu Team. I want to remind everyone that the 2nd round of renewal notices have been mailed out as of October 1st so hopefully every will be sending in their dues, if they misplace their first renewal notices. Please continue the great job you are doing and send in as many renewals and new membership that you can prior to the mid-year conventions as myself and the Department Commander have a challenge with the Auxiliary that if their goal percentage is higher than ours at Convention time, both Myself and the Commander have to dress up in a bikini dress, put on wigs and high heels and march into their meeting, this would not be a pretty site trust me! So PLEASE PLEASE send everything you have in! Thanks and with that said I will close until next month, so let's "Shoot for the Stars" and Get-R-Done!



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 13-15 from the Post Administrative Manual to Department. If you cannot find this manual, email cpolk@floridalegion.org.

AMERICANISM

Steve Barentine, Department Chairman

As Past Department Commander, Al Dudley said, "every day is (or should be) Veterans Day." We are approaching one of OUR most important days of the American Legion year. The month of October gives us the opportunity to prepare a major celebration for Veterans Day. What better way to express the importance of Americanism than to show our community, state and nation how important Veterans Day is to us. God Bless us all and all of our military throughout the world. FOR GOD & COUNTRY

Veterans Benefits

John Ebling

Department Chairman

As there are an increasing number of VA claims being worked on today, on 8-2-2013 a message was received that there are 498,000 claims being processed throughout the VA. The good news in that it is the first time in two years that the number is below 500,000. And we continue to see the Regional Office in St Petersburg, FL being one of the busiest offices in the VA system.

Steve Shuga

Children & Youth Program Commission Chairman

cy@legionmail.org

Department Fall Conference is right around the corner – mark your calendars for Nov 15th-17th. Confirm your Plans to support **National Family Week (Nov 17th – 23rd)** with activities in the post. Please report all CY monthly activities. Our goal is a 100% reporting from every post. Everyone benefits from timely submissions. Remember your **Coins for COTA**.

Important C&Y Program Dates

Florida's **Children & Youth Fund Grant** applications are due to Dept. HQ anytime now but **NLT May 1, 2014**. Grant requirements are located under Department of Florida **Programs Link – Children and Youth Fund** on Department website.

October Holidays

- 6 Oktoberfest
- 6 – 12 Fire Prevention Week
- 13 US Continental Navy Birthday
- 14 Columbus Day observed on second Monday
- 27 US Navy Birthday
- 27 President Theodore Roosevelt Birthday
- 31 Halloween

The month of October is also known as: Breast Cancer Awareness, Clergy Appreciation, Cookie, Domestic Violence Awareness, National Diabetes, and Seafood month just to name a few. (www.holidayinsights.com)

Jim Burk ALR

Dept of Florida Chairman

This month I thought I'd write about a particular Rider mission we just finished; The Wounded Warriors In Action Foundation (wwiaf.org). It was founded in 2007 in Apollo Beach Florida. Their mission: to provide world class outdoor sporting opportunities to Purple Heart recipients.

Our mission was to escort 6 heroes from Post 81 in Melbourne west to the Brevard County Airboat Association to let them participate in an alligator hunt. This has been an ongoing event that Post 81 has sponsored yearly. This year they were put up at the Hilton on the Beach, provided a free lunch and locally free limo service, and dinner at Post 81.

Early 9/21 40 to 50 Legion Riders, escorted by the Brevard County Sheriff's office, took them to the site. I talked to several of them from places like Alabama, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. True American heroes. The local Boy Scout troop presented the colors and sang the National Anthem under a beautiful blue sky.

This is just example one of the Riders representing The American Legion. Every day, across Florida, we are striving to make a difference in a Veteran's life.



Homeless Women Veterans

Michelle Wakefield

womenveterans@legionmail.org

In Brevard County and within District 12 we have formed a core group of individuals to gather items needed like clothing, hygiene products and other necessities, for female veterans.

During the past 2 months we have been able to get beds, tables, chairs and a variety of other furniture to enable 2 women to move into permanent housing. Most recently, thanks to the generous donation from Robert Sahagun Post 359 Port St John a soon to be homeless woman veteran was given a bus ticket so she could go and be with family in Texas.

In time and with additional resources the plan would be to expand throughout Central Florida and the entire state. For God and Country



Jay Conti Sr.
Department of Florida;
Vice Commander
"BRAVO ZULU"

Flags fly at half-staff between the summit
and bottom of a flagpole.

Or do they fly at half-mast?

Many people use the two terms interchangeably when they see a flag flying below the very top of a flagpole. However, there is a distinguishable difference between the two terms.

Half-mast is the term used to flying a flag midway between the summit and bottom of the flagpole on a ship, with the 'mast' in 'half-mast' being derived from the ship's mast. Half-mast is reserved primarily for ships when flags fly halfway during times of distress or mourning.

Haze Grey and UNDERWAY!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Special Olympics
Dianne Thibodeau, Chairman

Greetings: This month I attended a couple of Special Olympics events and had a wonderful time! You should try it yourself!!! The first was their golfing competition held in Kissimmee. One day I spent bringing athletes to various places on the course for competition. The heat was unbearable but the athletes didn't seem to mind. The next day I got the honor to help with the awards ceremonies and even got to present a few. A week later I went to Cocoa Beach to help with their Surfing Competition.

Some history on the Special Olympics: In 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the first International Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field in Chicago, in the belief that the lessons athletes learned through sports would translate into new competence and success in school, in the workplace, and in the community. Above all, Mrs. Shriver wanted the families and neighbors of people with intellectual disabilities to see what these individuals could accomplish, to take pride in their efforts, and to rejoice in their victories.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me by phone or email. Diannethib@bellsouth.net. (321) 733-4951 (home) (561) 315-0679 (cell)



Military Liaison
Jim Ramos
militaryliaison@legionmail.org

We are almost half way into the new membership year and continue our search for new members. We must now renew our intentions to continue our support for our fellow Veterans and their families. How can we do this? Operation Outreach! This valuable program can help your Post recruit new members and ensure the retention of those members for next year. It is our turn to mentor and help them now! Each Post can make a difference in the lives of today's Veterans by hosting an event or program to help and assist our troops.

Operation Outreach is the perfect opportunity to meet the leadership of the nearby military bases. By contacting the Commanding Officers of your local National Guard and Reserve units as well as the active duty components we can make that connection with our military. These important sessions will enable us to tell who we are and what we do as we highlight the Four Pillars of the American Legion

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
National Security
Americanism
Children and Youth

While we may not see increased membership right away we want to be there to support the troops and their families. As you apply the Operation Outreach program, you are sure to create interest in the American Legion and ultimately – increased membership. The more time and effort you put in to Operation Outreach the more the American Legion and your Post will benefit.

You can enter local military bases with the proper identification to include a retired military ID and other acceptable federal and state generated identification. Stop by or call the Base Visitor's Center to get the correct information for specific base access. Then contact the following individual positions and groups and provide them with the details of your Post events and membership information for the American Legion.

Retiree Activities Officer
Retirement Service Officer
NCO, CPO and all ranks Club representatives
Public Affairs and Legal Offices
Managers of Base/Post Exchange (BX/PX) and Commissary

Local Base/post newspaper and websites

Visit legion.org/membership and click on Operation Outreach. This informative website will detail the steps of the program and provide easy access to the Operation Outreach booklet. If you need help, please contact me at (352) 226-4370 or by email at:

militaryliaison@legionmail.org
or
jramos149@bellsouth.net

John Dollinger
POW/MIA Chairman
POW/MIA Update

During the American Legion National Convention a review of the POW/MIA program included:

Update on the Congressional mandate to staff and identify 200 POW/MIAs a year by 2015. This included moves in Hawaii to accommodate larger JPAC staff and the addition of a Laboratory Annex at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska to identify remains

Explanation of new techniques used to identify remains.

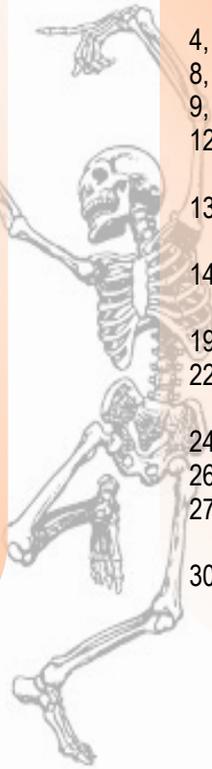
A discussion of the GAO report on duplication of efforts in the POW/MIA community. There were nine (9) recommendations, including possible options for an accounting community reorganization.

Developments at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) and the efforts to identify the remains in the common grave sites.

Information was presented on the issues facing JPAC in Vietnam due to the high acid level in the soil and the passage of time making identification of remains difficult.

October Fun Facts

- 1, 1958 NASA begins operating
- 2 Guardian Angels Day
- 3, 1913 First U.S. Federal income tax under the 16th amendment
- 4, 1955 The Dodgers win their first World Series
- 8, 1871 Great Chicago Fire
- 9, 1888 Washington Monument opens to the public
- 12, 1492 Columbus reaches one of the Bahama Island naming it San Salvador
- 13, 1976 3,300 year ol mummy is identified as King Tut's grandmother
- 14, 1964 Martin Luther King awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- 19, 1752 Ben Franklin flies a kite
- 22, 1797 First parachute jump; Andre-Jacques Garnerin in Paris
- 24, 1945 United Nations is founded
- 26, 1825 Erie Canal opens
- 27, 1492 Columbus 'discovers' Cuba and names it Juanna
- 30, 1938 Orson Wells panics nation with his broadcast of 'War of the Worlds'



Law and Order

Tom Gora, Law and Order Chairman

This program primarily focuses on recognizing the heroism of local law enforcement officers and fire fighters/paramedics every year. However, the recent shootings at the Washington D.C. Navy Yard opens the door for us to speak a bit about fire arms and security at our Posts. Remember, in our preamble we pledge to maintain law and order.

Don't worry, no lecture on the political discussions on gun-control, we are a non-political organization. As veterans, regardless of service branch, we all have been trained in the use of firearms and many of us choose to continue our familiarity and ownership of firearms by possessing a Concealed Weapon Permit in the State of Florida. When coming out to your Legion Post to attend a program event, meeting, or social event, your concealed weapon should stay secured in your vehicle and should not be brought into the Post. Hopefully your Post has such language in your House Rules especially if you have a canteen or bar in your Post. We should never assume that "something like that could never happen here," because it can! Remember in the past year or so here in the state of Florida when there was a shooting resulting in deaths outside another Veterans Service Organization (VSO) during a poker run? Bet they thought nothing like that would ever happen there either. Possessing a CWP and owning firearms are a right of choice in this state and nation but the inside of an American Legion Post is no place for them. Lock it up in your truck, car, or your side bags, then come into the Legion building for some safe family fun and a successful event!

To local Post Law and Order Chairman. Ever wonder how to invite a law enforcement officer or fire fighter/paramedic to compete for the annual awards by the Department of Florida? Watch your local news. What better way to learn of the heroism displayed by your local first responders! We read about the good things these people do all the time, save the articles and then when the time for award submissions come make sure the supervisors of those you read about get the application and instructions on how to complete them. **There will be more detailed information coming out in the 'Link' and in the mail to you for the application process and the deadline of May 1, 2014 for submission of nominees for the Department Awards.** The time leading up to May should be used to start identifying local first responders that deserve to be submitted for these awards, and there is no better way that to stay in touch with local news about first responders in the cities and counties around your American Legion Post.

William "Rick" Johnson
Public Relations Chairman
publicrelations@legionmail.org
954-242-4496

We need to get our image out there and it is every Posts responsibility to do that. If you have a special function going on, please let the public and your local newspaper know that we are involved and what you are doing. The only way for us to get our name out there is for the Post to let the community know what you are doing and why. Let them know what the Legion is about and what we stand for.

Get involved in your schools, community and area to get the image out. We have a new coloring book offered by Dept which is the Stars and Stripes book. Let's pick a school, visit the class, have a contest and praise them and post it at the school. I think if we start doing that at the school level, our image will follow. Please let Department know of any special functions going on so we can plan ahead and support you in any functions happening. It does not cost us anything to spread the word on what the Legion is doing. You have a lot of tools available for you to use, just check the Dept web site as they are on there. So, let's get the dust off and start using them. Remember that we operate on the Four Pillars and what a great foundation they are to help us. Get your Post officers involved in the programs and help support them.

We are based on volunteers but don't waste their time. Please praise them on what they do. Never turn down a person, just keep them involved. If there is anything we can do please contact me or Vanessa at Dept and we will be glad to help you in any way possible. Remember a positive image is always a good one. Please have all of your contact information correct so we can get in touch with you. So have a great year and use the tools that Department and National have for you and let's keep moving forward.

Department Legislative Chairman
Paul Martel

Your Department Legislative committee was very busy this month. On September 9-11th, 2013 we went to Washington D.C. for the testimony of our National Commander Daniel Dellinger before the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs. After he's speech on the 10th, which by the way was done very well, your committee went to the hill to meet and greet our 27 Representatives and 2 Senators with the Legislative Priorities for the 113th congress. I am proud to announce to you, that we saw face to face, 17 Representatives and one Senator out of 29, the rest we spoke with their Legislative Directors. The response from the Representatives and Senators was very positive from, opposing further increases in Tricare fees to Protecting our Flag. That is because of the dedication of your representatives who went to Washington to speak on your behalf. Which were:

Department Commander Art Schwabe
National Executive Committeeman Dennis Boland
Past National Commander Clarence Hill
Department Adjutant Mike McDaniel
Past Department Commander Fletcher Williams Jr.
Past Department Commander Phil Hearlson
Department Oratorical Chairman Ron Musselwhite
Past Post Commander Jerry Clark
National Legislative Vice Chairman Stanley Gold
Past National SGT-at-Arms Paul Martel

When you go to the National web site, you will see a picture of our National Commander Dillinger. Look in between him and an aide and you will see our own Stanley Gold, HE IS EVERY WHERE.

On the state level, we hope to have our own priorities in place in a week, so that you can speak to your state Representatives and Senators, and we will all be on the same page. The information will be sent to you by e-mail. If you are not on the state point of contacts list and want to be, please contact me and you can be part of the fun. May God bless you all and may God bless AMERICA.

NOW AVAILABLE
HALLOWEEN
COLORING BOOKS

Department has Halloween Coloring Books available for purchase and distribution to the Elementary classrooms in your area. The order form is on page 12 of the Post Administrative Manual. Supplies are limited—get them while they last! The cost remains \$20.00 per 100 books. Send orders to Department Headquarters with attention to JoAnn Collins by mail or by email: jcollins@floridalegion.org.

ORATORICAL
Contest Dates

Must be completed by:

Posts - January 12, 2014

Districts - February 2, 2014

Areas - February 23, 2014

Dept. - March 8, 2014

Stanley Gold
Department Legislative Chairman
786.423.2458

September 9-11 I was in Washington, D.C. for our National Commander's testimony before the joint committees of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs. This meeting took place at 10:00 am on the 10th at the Senate building. Accompanying me from Florida was our State Legislative Chairman, Paul Martel, NEC Dennis Boland, PNC Clarence Hill, Department Commander Art Schwabe, Department Adjutant Michael McDaniel, PDC Fletcher Williams, PDC Phil Hearison, Ron Musselwhite and Gerald Clark.

In the National Commander's speech were seven major items:

1. Shielding veterans and the Department of Defense from harmful budget cuts.
2. Opposing further increases in Tricare fees, including prescription drugs fees.
3. Properly funding the VA to ensure quality Health care and benefits for Veterans
4. Providing quality education through the Post 9/11 G I Bill
5. Assisting veterans with jobs
6. Eliminating VA claims back-log
7. Protecting the American Flag

After that meeting we all spent the next two days visiting all 27 members of the House and our two Senators. We made sure they knew what we were there for. Now it's up to our members to contact their Congressman and ask them to support our Legion Agenda.

BLOOD DONOR CHAIRMAN
Bob Koger

Fellow Legionnaires, do you know that the American Legion Blood Donor Program is probably the least expensive American Legion program in which your post can participate?

Least Expensive? Yes, least expensive, but my fellow legionnaires, the blood donor program is probably also the most urgently needed, most humanitarian, patriotic program your post could possibly support.

Urgently Needed? According to a report made public by the American Red Cross this past July, blood supplies have dropped to dangerously low levels in the United States. Nationwide, 17,000 pints of blood must be collected every day to meet medical demands, but during the month of June alone, 50,000 fewer pints were donated than is required to maintain a safe inventory. Presently, the nationwide blood inventory stands at only half the blood products that were in supply this time last year, resulting in a plea being transmitted nationwide for donors of all blood types, so I ask of all of you, please consider stepping up and make a blood donation to help maintain our blood inventory at a safe level.

Humanitarian? Every pint of blood you donate can save up to three lives, and all anyone has to do is just look around and they will see that there are thousands of small children suffering from brain tumors, leukemia, and other forms of cancer and illnesses that need thousands of pints of blood every day to help them live. There are hundreds of work place and auto accidents every day that require thousands of pints of blood. There are thousands of seriously ill patients in hospitals throughout your community, our state and nation that depend on people like you to make blood donations so they might survive.

Patriotic? At this moment throughout our communities, our state, our nation, and the world there are some 20 – 25,000 of our young military soldiers with severe wounds and unimaginable burns suffered in battle in Iraq and Afghanistan that need thousands of pints of blood and blood products every day to help them recover to an active, independent, and fulfilling life.

Remember, fellow legionnaires, all this blood and blood products that are so desperately needed can only come from someone like you; it cannot be artificially manufactured. It takes only 30 – 45 minutes of your time every two months to make blood donations. Is that asking too much of oneself to save someone's life?

In most instances, your blood donation will save the life, or at least help someone you will most likely not know. On the other hand, heaven forbid, you or a member of your family, before this day is over, may be in need of a lifesaving blood transfusion.

As the Department Blood Donor Chairman, I hope every American Legion post in the great state of Florida will make a sincere effort to recruit a blood donor chairman for your post, and encourage your membership to participate in regularly scheduled blood drives. Any blood bank in your area will be more than happy to help you set up a blood bank account for your post and help you schedule blood drives.

This past year, only 75 out of 290 posts statewide had a blood donor chairman and actively participated in blood drives. Folks, I know we can and only hope we will far exceed that number this year.

Several posts have told me that they do not have enough members to have a blood drive. Even with a small membership, a post can still set up a blood bank account for their post, and motivate their eligible members to donate blood. You never know when someone from your post might have an emergency and need to tap that blood bank account for a life-saving transfusion.

Only 3% of the people eligible to donate blood actually donate on a regular basis. In regards that, I ask this question: are you going to just sit back and be one of the 97% who are unwilling to make a blood donation to save a life, or are you going to be a hero and join the 3% who unselfishly donate their blood on a regular basis. Remember the life you save could yours or one of your loved ones.

I sincerely urge you, become a hero; join that 3% and save lives. You will be extremely glad you did. For God and Country

**VA Announces Award of Patient-Centered Community Care Contracts
Contracts Provide Expanded Access to Community-based Care**

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that Veterans will have greater access to quality health care through a new initiative: Patient-Centered Community Care (PCCC).

"PCCC is an innovative solution that helps VA medical centers continue to provide quality care efficiently," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This will be a valuable option for VA medical centers to use to expand our Veterans' access to care."

Under PCCC, VA medical centers will have the ability to purchase non-VA medical care for Veterans through contracted medical providers when they cannot readily provide the needed care due to geographic inaccessibility or limited capacity. Eligible Veterans will have access to inpatient specialty care, outpatient specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care, and limited newborn care for enrolled female Veterans following the birth of a child.

"PCCC provides a regional contracting vehicle for VA to work with local community providers to give Veterans access to high quality care," said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "It will also help VA in our continued efforts to ensure timely and accessible services are provided to Veterans for non-VA medical care."

In total, VA has awarded two contracts under PCCC, one to Health Net Federal Services LLC and another to Tri-West Healthcare Alliance Corp. These companies will set up networks in six regions covering the entire country. VA expects to have these regional contract networks available to its medical centers by the spring of 2014. The awarded contracts, estimated at \$9.4 billion, include one base year and four option years.

PCCC is part of the overall Non-VA Medical Care Program. It will provide all VA facilities with an additional option to purchase non-VA medical care when required Veteran care services are unavailable within the VA medical facility or when the Veterans benefit from receiving the needed care nearer to their homes.

Among the many benefits to the Veterans and VA under these new contracts, VA will enjoy standardized health care quality metrics, timely return of medical documentation, cost avoidance with fixed rates for services across the board, guaranteed access to care, and enhanced tracking and reporting of non-VA medical care expenditures over traditional non-VA medical care services.



**Debbie Roush
Southwestern Area Commander**

Greetings from the Southwestern Area. We have had a very busy few months since Department Convention. We have completed installations for almost all of our Posts and it has been a great time meeting and talking to everyone. We're in the midst of planning our Post visits to get out and see all of you. Please invite me to your events and I'll do my best to get there. My email address is southwesternarea@legionmail.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

We completed our Department Training session at Post 103 in Punta Gorda in August. It was a great learning experience and all I have spoken to were glad they had attended. A big thanks to all the Department Officers and Chairmen who made presentations.

We are beginning our District meetings with the 13th District leading off on September 22nd in Fort Myers Beach. The 8th District will have their first meeting on November 2nd in Avon Park. On October 20th, the 8th District is having its 2013 golf tournament at IMG Academy Golf Course in Sarasota with an 8:30 AM shotgun start.

Our membership is progressing although not as quickly as we had hoped. We are currently at 54.2% of goal. There are a lot of people out there working hard, so let's help and get those renewals and new members in. The Southwestern Area Membership Chairman is John Dollinger, the 13th District Commander. Please contact him or me with any questions you may have. If each of us brought in just one new member this year, we could double our membership.

I encourage all of you to really work on your retention this year. We should not let these valuable members fall through the cracks. Take the time to get on the phone or go see them and ask how we can help. We must communicate with them so we know if they need help, or why they don't want to renew. Make everyone feel important.

Lastly, we should all have a goal to mentor the newer members and get them actively involved. We have to be able to replace ourselves as we must be able to teach and keep This Greatest Veteran's Service Organization – The American Legion at the forefront in helping our Veteran's. For God & Country

William "Rick" Johnson
Southern Area Commander
Southernarea@legionmail.org
954-242-4496

Western Area
Verna Joyce
Commander

Well, August has been a very busy month. I attended the National workshop in Indy and had a great time and learned a lot. Our motto this year is Just Ask I have got with the District Commanders to come up with a training plan for membership and each Post should have been contacted. Let's get this started now and not get behind. I went to the National Convention in Houston as it was my first one. To see how the other side of the Legion works is very gratifying to see our membership dollars at work. We are a very strong organization with a great voice and a strong one. Listening to all the reports and speeches I assure you we are moving in the right direction.

As everyone knows by now, we lost a very close friend, Chuck Moreland, from Post 222 and he will be missed but never forgotten. He has touched numerous souls in his years as a Legion member.

We just had the Department Commander down for his visitation in the 9th and 11th Districts. I want to thank all the post we visited for your hospitality and kindness during his visit. Let's start to get more visible within your Communities and get our positive image out there. Ask yourself a question, if your Post was to close down today, would the community miss you not being there. If the answer is yes then you are doing your job. If the answer is no, well we need to work on our relationship within our community.

One more important issue I have noticed being out within

The race is on and Western Area is off and running to meet their membership goal of 55% for October. We really want the Department Commander and Adjutant to feel the wind beneath their wings so we're headed for 110%.

During the past couple of months the Western Area has been very busy completing the post installations. Our visit to Houston for our National Convention was good and the Western Area was well represented from both the First and Second Districts. We received a lot of valuable information and most of all witnessed the election and installation of our new National Commander Dan Dellinger. It was a great convention.

First and Second District took time out to remember the 12th anniversary of 9/11. Many posts held ceremonies or attended community ceremonies.

POW/MIA Recognition day on September 20th was observed throughout the area as well.

As the days go by we are coming closer to the day that our hometown communities are going to see an influx of troops being brought back from Afghanistan and they will need all the support and help we can possibly give them so now is the time for our Legionnaires to prepare the programs of our organization to ensure the transition is seamless.

For God and Country I serve you all.



1st District Commander
Jimmy Lee Martin,

The 1st District is off and running at full speed. All 21 Post Officers have been installed and I have already scheduled some of the posts for their first Official Visitations. Our membership numbers are good, 54.49% to achieve our first Membership Goal of the year.

On August 17, 2013 we conducted our first 1st District Meetings. The Panhandle had so much rain that day that Post 356 at Lynn Haven was almost flooded, but we still had 10 Post represented at the meeting. That is a sign for me, that the Posts in 1st District are looking to get involved with what we are trying to do this year. As this is my second time as 1st District Commander it is great to see so much representation at my first District meeting this year. My agenda included items such as the problems we had with transportation to get our 22 Boys State representatives to Tallahassee. Because of the money issue, we voted to hold a 1st District Golf Tournament at Elgin AFB in Niceville, FL at 12:00pm on Saturday December 7, 2013. Awards will be held at Post 221 Niceville at 5:00PM. It will be held to raise money to help cover the cost of the transportation for Boys State next year. We also voted to hold a 1st District Picnic at Hurlburt Field in Ft. Walton Beach on Saturday March 15, 2014 at 9:00AM.

We talked about the Quarters for COTA; Children Organ Transplant Association. It was decided that when a Post in 1st District has COTA canister full of money, they would send one check to our 1st District Finance Officer, Chuck Olsen. He will deposit the money into our account and keep track of how much money each Post donated so Department will give recognition at the end of the year for Posts and Districts.

We discussed the procedure for purchasing the American Legion License Tags for your vehicles. Because my 1st District ALR Chairman, Mike Kirchoff was on the American Legion Legacy Ride, I briefed everyone as to what he and I expect from the ALR Chapters in 1st District. We are wanting more participation between Chapters to support the other 1st District Chapters functions/Events as much as possible. I also expect the Chapters to support their respective Post and Functions that happen in the District. I want to see the Riders more involved in the American Legion Programs. The American Legion Riders were created to support the American Legion. It was a membership tool to increase membership in the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. Somewhere along the way, some Chapters forgot that. I still think of all of us as a big Family.

I will attending Post 379's 14th Annual Putt-Putt Golf Outing on October 19, 2013 on Pensacola Beach. Unity is the word for the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Rides. I plan on working towards that, will you?

District 4
Commander Chuck Ferguson

District 4 held its first meeting of the year on September 7, 2013 at Post 155 in Crystal River. The turnout was exceptional – a full house that included a number of guests who spoke to the attending Legionnaires. Guests included Department Vice Commander Jay Conti, Department Chaplain Steven Newman, Department Chairmen – membership Military Liaison Jim Ramos, Children & Youth Steve Shuga and Post Development and Revitalization Jerri Brandt. Department Chaplain Newman later conducted as a first time Chaplain training session following the District meeting. Some 20 Legionnaires, Auxiliary and others attended the training session. District 4 Oratorical Chairperson Pam Styx shared some ideas she took from an earlier training session on conducting a proper oratorical contest and offered her assistance to any who seek it. Pam can be reached at (352) 245-5480.

Following the District 4 meeting, a Chili cook-off contest was held; there were nine (9) entries; three chili chefs were selected by the judges to receive trophies. Dave Staples of Post # 77 chili pot was selected for first place, Ed Van Buren of Post 16 chili came in second and Norman Brumett Commander Post 77 entry came in third. The meeting was topped off with lunch consisting of standard fare hot dogs and, of course, several different flavored Chili dogs.

I extend my thanks to all who took the time to attend the meeting and to all our guests who shared their experiences and provided guidance to District 4 Legionnaires.

The next District meeting will be held on December 7, 2013 at Post 58 in Dunnelon; registration at 9 am with the meeting starting at 10 am.

5th District News - Tom Gora, 5th District Commander

In significant 5th District news, Emory Austin, Past Commander Post 137 has been appointed as 5th District Vice Commander by Department Commander Schwabe to fill that vacant position in compliance with Department By Laws. Jeff Durden who previously occupied the position resigned due to his out of state work requirements. We thank Jeff for all his hard work over the years and wish him well. Emory Austin joins Robert Brewster as 5th District Vice Commanders. We invite everyone all around the state to read about this and other 5th District news at our web site www.a15thdistrictfl.org. Plenty of fun in the 5th District while bringing focus and donations to various Legion programs; read on below how our Posts do it in the 'Mighty 5th'!

Congratulations to American Legion Post 129, Jacksonville Beach, who celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Post with a flag dedication and pig roast on Sunday, September 15, 2013. The Post 129 Riders will also be sponsoring a Poker Run on October 12 to raise donations to purchase wreaths at Christmas for the Wreaths across America project at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Speaking of the Jacksonville National Cemetery, there will be a mass internment of 12 veterans' cremains on November 8, 2013 at 1 p.m. These veterans' cremains were found by Legionnaires working the Missing in America Project. We extend invitations to all Legion members and Department staff to attend this solemn ceremony.

Palm Valley Post 233 recognized the Law Enforcement and Fire Fighter of the Year with an awards ceremony at the Post on September 14th. There were a few dance contests conducted during the successful back to school backpack event at Post 197, the kids had a great time! The American Legion Riders at Post 137 recently conducted a poker run to raise donations for the Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Congratulations to Post 37 who recently "gave birth" to the American Legion Riders, Chapter 37. The ALR Chapter 283 did it again, another very successful 'Peds Care' poker run that benefits local pediatric hospice care units. Post 88 sponsored the American Legion baseball champions this year in Northern Florida!

Post 54 is busy planning their carnival booth at the annual Fall Festival at the Lake City V.A. Hospital on October 19 and for their annual Toys for Tots Poker Run on October 26; a recent blood drive at Post 54 raised #57 usable pints of donated blood. Post 401 in Hilliard will host an auction at the Post on October 12th. The Auctioneer will be State Senator Aaron Bean and all proceeds go to the West Nassau County High School JROTC. Post 137 really drew out some big stars for their annual follies event on September 21st as those attending were entertained by the likes of Marilyn Monroe and Cher!

5th District folks are getting their pitching arms ready for the 5th District Annual picnic on Saturday, October 5th at Post 137. There will be a dunking tank there, hence the need to get those arms ready to hit the target! And boy will there be targets, for sure. Green shirters such as the Department and District Commanders will sit on the bench inside the dunking tank, so come out and watch them get dunked! There will be face painting, snow cones, music by the pool, and plenty more fun!

Please keep the 5th District Blood Donor Chairman and Past Commander of Post 009, T. 'Cleve' Cleveland in your thoughts and prayers. He has been ill, in and out of the hospital and recovering at home the last couple of months.



TAPS

It is with deep regret to report the passing of 13th District Vice Commander Michael McWatt, of Port Charlotte, FL on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at the age of 62. Michael is survived by his wife Janette. Michael was a Vietnam Navy Veteran and a member of American Legion Post 110 with 8 continuous years of membership. Michael will be remembered by many as a dedicated and genuine individual.

If you would like to send your condolences, please do so through his wife Janette at 465 Flamingo Blvd. # A, Port Charlotte, FL 33954-2737.

Chuck Giffin, 7th District Commander

August was a busy month for all of us. Since the Department Convention I have installed new Officers for five Posts in the 7th District. I have had seven (7) District Certifications visitations, and one (1) regular District Meeting.

Department Chaplain Steven Newman held a Chaplains school just after our regular meeting. After a great lunch, we had an installation of new officers for the American Legion Post 34 Officers. The President of 7th District Aux. installed the officers of Auxiliary Unit 34. Also, the Past National Commander of the S.A.L was present to install the Squadron 34 officers and the L.R. District Commander installed his local officers.

I was with the Post 8 Honor guard posting the colors for the Wounded Warriors Monument in Lakeland. Post 4 was represented also.

A great big THANKS to the Post 8 Boys State Foundation for renting the bus to transport 38 Delegates from Polk Co. to Boys State in Tallahassee. Also, a big THANKS to all 7th District Posts that participated in the Boys State Program. The Boys State Golf Tournament will be held Sept. 28, 2013. Hole Sponsors and Teams are staidly coming in. I'm looking forward to welcoming all the Department Officers and teams that are planning to attend.

Various Posts are having Patriotic Programs around Polk Co. on or near 9/11. Winter Haven Post 8 Honor Guard participated with the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce on 9/07. The Honor Guard along with the V.F.W Honor Guard and the Polk Co. Fire Fighters Honor Guard, posted Colors at the beginning of the Program. Post 8 Commander and myself worked at the Membership table handing out literature, greeting the public and answering as many questions as possible while giving out Membership applications.

I attended the 9/11 Program at Post #71 held at their post Home. Commander Ira "Andy" Anderson started the Program at 5:00 PM sharp. The colors were posted by Linda Hays American Legion Honor Guard, Lt. Dave Black Lake Wales Police Dept. and Brittany Sweney Lake Wales Fire Fighters Color Guards. The Keynote Speaker was Lake Wales Mayor Eugene Fultz. Also speaking was Police Chief Chris Velasquez and the Fire Chief Jerry Brown. The newly formed Post # 71 Honor Guard rendered a 3-man Rifle Salute to honor the 9/11 Victims.

Even though we had a late start with our membership, District 7 did achieve our 50% goal. Yours in Service, For God and Country

Esteemed Commanders and Friends;

It is that time of year when we prepare for our annual 9th District Past Commanders and Presidents Ball.

This year's event will be held at American Legion Post 222; 4250 NE 5th Avenue, Oakland Park, Fl.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person with a sit down dinner and entertainment by the fabulous Big Band "Nostalgia". Dress is formal. Cash bar from 6-7pm, with dinner at 7pm.

As you know, in order to defray the cost of this event and our programs, it is imperative that we sell ad space to our program journal. The "District" cannot survive without Post support and the generous contributions from businesses and friends.

I respectfully request your support by purchasing an Ad and/or tickets to assist in making our Ball a success.

The prices for the ads are as follows:

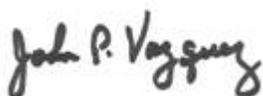
Business	Posts & Units	
Full Page	\$75.00	\$100.00
½ Page	\$50.00	\$75.00
¼ Page	\$25.00	\$50.00
Business Card	\$15.00	\$30.00

Please enclose copy of your Ad with a check made out to: American Legion 9th District. Cut-off date is October 25th to allow time for printing.

Mail checks to: American Legion 9th District; 85 Gulfstream Road; Dania Beach, Fl 33004

I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at the Ball.

For God and Country,



**John P. Vazquez
Commander/9th District**



- Program Reminders**
- ✓ **Boys State** - Registration ✓
 - ✓ Fees due December 23rd; fees ✓
 - ✓ are \$325.00 per boy. ✓
 - ✓ **Oratorical** - Post Contests ✓
 - ✓ must be held no later than Jan- ✓
 - ✓ uary 12, 2014. ✓
 - ✓ **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 partici- ✓
 - ✓ pating in the Shooting Sports ✓
 - ✓ program?? Targets are due to ✓
 - ✓ National January 15th ✓

14th District Events Schedule
Gary Decker, Commander
2013-2014

Updated as of September 16, 2013

- Sept. 29, 2013 – Boys/Girls State Dinner at 4:00 p.m. At Post 31-South Miami.
 To be attended by Department Commander, Art Schwabe.
- Oct 12, 2013 - District Roundtable/Meeting - Starts at 10:00 AM.
 Sign In 9:00 AM at Post 31-South Miami. Followed by Lunch.
- Nov. 9, 2013 – **“Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans”** Parade, Downtown Miami. Starting at 12:00 p.m. Post 144, 346 and others expected to participate.
- Nov. 10, 2013 – 34th Veterans Day Parade in Miami Lakes, starts at 8:30 a.m.
 Post 144 and Post 346 have already committed to participate.
- Nov. 11, 2013 – Veterans Day Ceremony City of Hialeah, starts at 11:00 a.m.
 Post 32 and Post 144 co-hosts and participates with guest speakers.
- Nov. 11, 2013 – Veterans Day Ceremonies, various events sponsored by Post 346 Miami, and Post 374 Key Biscayne. Time-Place TBA.
- Nov. 15 - 17, 2013 – Dept. Fall Conference – Hilton-Walt Disney World
- Nov. 16, 2013 – Flag Retirement Ceremony, hosted by Post 346 and other Veterans Organizations, and Boy Scout Troops 83 and 97.
- Dec. 1, 2013 – Junior Orange Bowl Parade, Coral Gables.
 Post 346 has already committed to participate.
- Feb. 8, 2014 – Flag Retirement Ceremony, Town of Miami Lakes.
 Hosted by Post 144
- March 8, 2014 – Dept. Oratorical – Dept. Headquarters – Time: TBA
- April 12, 2014 – Dept. Commanders Homecoming – Post 7, Clearwater
- May 31, 2014 – 14th Dist. Constitutional Conf – Starts at 10:00 AM.
 Sign in – 9:00 AM at Post 31 - South Miami.
- June 12 - 15, 2014 - Department Convention – Renaissance-Sea World
- **In addition, the District Commander will be conducting Post Visitations every other week throughout the year beginning in September. These visitations will be used to ensure that our Posts are operating properly, to reinforce the need for increased membership, participation in Legion Programs, and to provide support and leadership training to Post Commanders and Post Officers.**
- NOTE: Schedule subject to change. Additional dates may be added

HALLOWEEN COSTUME WORD SEARCH

Find the Halloween costumes hidden in the puzzle below. They are hiding forwards, backwards, up/down, and diagonally. As you find them, cross them off the wordlist.

Sid Damsgard
Commander 16th District

Greetings to all from the 16th District. Now with installations over we are getting down to the business of supporting our veterans and children of our area. This week Post 104 Riders hosted a benefit to raise money to feed the vets at Bay Pines. The event featured a great dinner and an in house poker run. It really shows what the riders can do for their post. September events of note include a POW/MIA remembrance celebration hosted by Post 305 St. Pete Beach at the community center for details contact the post. On September 28th there will be a poker run put on by the Riders of Post 238 Safety Harbor to benefit The Legacy Fund. Hope to see a lot of riders in support of this worth charity.

This is a great time of the year for golf in the Pinellas county area and we have a couple of tournaments scheduled. First Post 125's S.A.L. will host a tournament on the 19th of October with the proceeds going to All Children's Hospital and CODA. Anyone interested can still get in this tournament by contacting the post. October 20th Post 275 Auxiliary will have their 4th annual tournament at Countryside Golf course. This is one of the premiere private courses in Pinellas County and should be a great time with an after tournament party at Post 275. All proceeds for this tournament will be going to CODA. At this writing there were no other big events planned in the 16th District. We look forward to Commander Schwabe coming to the 16th District to display his considerable golfing talents and I expect that the trophy will be going home with him. For God and Country

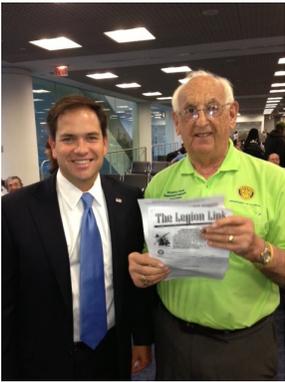
ROSTER CHANGES RECEIVED UP TO SEP. 23, 2015

308 meeting date/time- 2nd Wed 7pm
332 Adjutant- Ruth Quillian 6041 Ranchwood Drive, Cocoa, FL 32926 321.69.1805
283- Adjutant- Nancy Senter 261 Sondra Cove Traile, Jacksonville, FL 32225 (094) 502-7524 mombluestar@att.net
129 Commander- Danny Rodriguez 117 Dolphin Blvd. E. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 (904) 686-4969 zeug58@live.com
219 meeting date/time 1st Thur 6pm
38 Adjutant- Randy Lee Morrison 2315 Central Ave #1, Ft. Myers, FL 33091 (239) 919-4715 post0038@yahoo.com
192 mailing/billings address PO BOX 7003, Ft. Myers, FL 33911
6 Adjutant- Neil Rabinowitz 2017 Courtland Blvd, Deltona, FL 32738 (386) 218-6457 neilrabin1@gmail.com
173 Adjutant- Debra Nowakowski 8924 Napa Loop, New Port Richey, FL 34653 (928) 710-7886 debranowakowski@yahoo.com
117mailing/billing/email/web 189 Cassia Ave SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909 website: www.al117.com email: alpost117@msn.com
8 Adjutant- Frances Parrow 4925 Cypress Gardens Rd, LOT 3, Winter Haven, FL 33881, (863)662-4042
fparrow@hotmail.com
8 Commander- Stephen Anthony 503 Little Lake Ct., Winter Haven, FL 33884 (863)324-0794 paratal@aol.com
402 mailing/billing address/phone 17680 Ashley Dr., Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025
27 Commander Joseph Vogue 10490 SE 138th Place Rd. Summerfield, FL 34491 (352) 288-0765 jvoge1@embarqmail.com
27 Adjutant- Brian Voge 1718 SE 8th St. Ocala, FL 34471 (352)662-8581 brian@voge.us
394 Commander Douglas Latford 780 Waterside Rd, Palm Bay, FL 32909 (321) 953-2596 dlatford@cfl.rr.com
71 Adjutant- Steven Galbavy 4610 Caloosa Blvd. Lake Wales, FL 33859 (410) 725-1505
steve.gee@hotmail.com
25 Adjutant Robert Peters, Jr. 41 Belle Tower Ave, Lake Placid, FL 33852 (317) 996-9594 robepete8@aol.com
242 Adjutant Josephine Hudson 701 Story Partin Rd, Orlando, FL 32833 (407) 568-0015 jhudson5@cfl.rr.com
308 meeting date/time 2nd Wed 7pm at Pembroke Pine Recreation Center, 7400 Pines Blvd, Hollywood
233 Adjutant Sheri Martinez 260 S. Roscoe Blvd, Ponte Vedra, FL 32082 (904) 576-2342 adjutant@al233fl.org
154 Adjutant Derrick Johnson 3663 Louisa St. Marathon, FL 33050
9 Commander Steven Johnson PO BOX 2141, Callahan, FL 32011 (904) 716-5909 al-post9@hotmail.com
9 mailing/billing/phone # 10737-101 New Kings Road, Jacksonville, FL 32219 (904) 619-7431 al-post9@hotmail.com
252 Commander Bruce O'neill 10899 103rd Ave. Largo, FL 33778 (727) 614-5198 boneill50ish@tampabay.rr.com
225 Adjutant Richard Mass 11614 E. Salmon Dr, Floral City, FL 34436 (352) 726-8877 rmass@tampabay.rr.com
225 Commander Fredrick Daniels 10155 E. Dollarosa Ct, Floral City, FL 34436 (352) 422-2449 fredandwife@yahoo.com
293 Commander John Lahert PO BOX 1942, Interlachen, FL 3248 (904) 874-8425 robinlahert@hotmail.com
NEC- Dennis Boland 314 Lake Ave., Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 (239) 369-4399 paratrooper@embarqmail.com
NECA- Harry McDowell 217 Lake Dr., Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 (239) 963-8383
17th Dist. Boys State Dist. Chairman Lindsey Morris, 747 Lotus Ln. Daytona Beach, FL 32114 (386) 258-6521 lmorris72@cfl.rr.com
2ND Dist. Legion Riders Chair Roger Hays, 3153 FCI Village Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32311 (850) 408-0643
alrchapter84@earthlink.net
17th Dist. Legion Riders Chair Jim Medcalf, 244 Conifer Ln. Ormond Beach, FL 32174 (404) 664-6455 jhmedcalf@aol.com
Assistant Judge Advocate VACANT AT THIS TIME
Sumpter County VS,-Neal Yarosz 7375 Powell Road, Suite 141, Wildwood, FL 34785 (352) 689-4450
neal.yarosz@sumptercountyfl.gov
13th Dist. Vice Cmdr Andrew Burkett, 1623 Lee Ave., Lehigh Acres, FL, 33972 (786) 351-5486
donna.burkett@gmail.com
Boys State Board- 5 year Term George Wehrlig, PDC P.O. Box 1846, Lake City, FL 32056, (386) 397-9366, wehrlig@bellsouth.net
Boys State Board- 1 year term Larry White, PDC 3193 N. Hyssops Pt., Beverly Hills, FL 34465 (352) 212-8750
larrywhite155@tampabay.rr.com

*The best luck of all.
Is the luck you make for yourself
~ Douglas MacArthur ~*



Commanders
Testimony
Opening Session



Marco Rubio, Stanley Gold



Paul Martel, John Mica, Stanley Gold



Rich Nugent; overhead
is a picture of his three
sons, all in the military



Stanley Gold, Joe Garcia



Stanley Gold, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Paul
Martel



Stanely Gold, Lois
Frankel, Paul Martel



Stanley Gold, Alcee Has-
tings, Ron Musselwhite,
Jerry Clark



Paul Martel, Jeff Miller, Stanley Gold



Stanley Gold, Dennis Ross