



THE LEGION LINK

COMMUNICATION ★ DEDICATION ★ EDUCATION



OCTOBER 2018

COMMANDER DIANNE BOLAND

VOL. 27 ISSUE 3

From Your Department Commander Dianne Boland

commander@floridalegion.org



Greetings. August was a very busy month for me starting with a Leadership Retreat held at Department Headquarters.

It was a time for most of my team to meet, learn, and discuss the year ahead. While membership was in the forefront, many other programs and events were discussed. I found it very uplifting and was most impressed with the dedication and knowledge shown by the various officers and chairmen.

The District Constitutional Conferences (DCC) were scheduled, as were my visitations throughout the department. I tried to have every DCC reachable by myself as well as others who would be running for office but alas, I failed. I wanted to spend the time thanking each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication. The schedule will be out soon, but unfortunately, we will have one day with five DCC's scheduled.

The visitations have been scheduled with most having a training day on Saturday.

The Membership Chairman, Bruce Thurber, will be there to give training and "hands on" help where needed. I look forward to meeting with a lot of the Posts and their Legion family.

Next, I attended a Purple Heart Ceremony at the SWFL Military Museum in Cape Coral. I live nearby but never knew it was there. It is free and well worth the visit with lots to see, including a section on females in the military. If you are ever in the area, please stop by.

Then it was on to Indianapolis for National's Membership Workshop. Our Adjutant, the three Vice Commanders, and the Membership Chairman also attended. Needless to say, we learned a lot. You will be hearing more on the workshop from our Membership Chairman.

Dennis and I then drove to Shelby, North Carolina, where the American Legion World Series was held. There were eight teams who won their Regionals competing. They played fifteen games in less than a week with all games being televised. The winning

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team was Post 1 from Wilmington, Delaware. This was Delaware's first ever win. The Series this year was in honor of female veterans and of course, our female National Commander Denise Rohan got to throw the first ball. Miss American was there (a member of the Auxiliary since birth) as well as Miss Veteran.

Florida will host Regionals in our state next year.

Following this, we drove to Minneapolis

where we attended the 100th National Convention. We all had a great time. We said good bye to our outgoing National Commander Denise Rohan and welcome this year's National Commander, Brett Reistad, from Virginia.

My visitations start in September. I will be discussing membership a lot. We got off to a rocky start but I'm sure we can catch up to and surpass last year.

Communication, Dedication, Education

My Legion has to be the best tool that you have and the most underutilized tool in your box. All of the resources are there, all the guidelines are there and it is time to use them.

Setting up meetings with a purpose, with an agenda is the most important thing you can do at the Post. Post it prior to the meetings and you will get a better turn out when the membership trusts the leadership that they voted in.

Getting more involved in your communities is a key role to attain younger and new members within the programs that we have. Let's work harder on the Legion programs and do a couple very well as you cannot do them all.

With that being said, continue to strive to be the best, please trust your leadership in advice, and help to have a great year.

Teams Not Individuals

Rick Johnson, 1st Vice Commander

1stvice@legionmail.org



Good day to all. A lot has happened this past month with us celebrating the 100th National Convention.

A great time was had by all and a lot of new information came down the tubes. It's time to figure out how to maintain our organization for the next 100 years. We need to be a team and not individuals.

We can get a lot more accomplished as a team rather than individuals. I have been to a few installations and with what I'm seeing out there, we are not using the manuals supplied to you by Department.

Everything is outlined for you in the officer's guide, so let's start using them.

OCTOBER 2018	
1-2	Commander to visit District 9 🌟
1	Program Manuals Mailed
1	Send Post Service Officer Reg
1	Child Health Day
1-28	ALR Merry-Go-Round
3	Membership Goal - 60%
4-6	Commander to visit District 8 🌟
6	District 17 Meeting
7	Ms. Veteran America Pageant
8	Columbus Day
8	Send Boys State Reg Fees
13	Navy Birthday
13-16	Committee Youth Education ★
13	Coral Country Road Concert
13	ALR Central Area Ride In
14	Child Welfare BOD ★
15	Legion Link Articles Due
15	Commanders & Adjutants Conf 🌟
15-16	Commission & Committee ★
16	National Boss Day
17	Fall NEC Meetings ★
18	Last Chance for Halloween Books
20	15th District Picnic Post 138
20	ROAST Jay Conti 🌟
23	Beirut Bombing
24-27	Commander to visit District 15 🌟
25	Grenada Invasion
25	National Memorial Escort
26	National Day of the Deployed
26-28	National Scouting Conference 🌟★
27	Navy Day
28-2	National Legion College 🌟★
28-5	National Vets Creative Arts Fest ★
31	Halloween

🌟 - Commander Dianne Boland's Attendance Tentative.

★ - National Event

Events are subject to change. Additional details can be found at www.floridalegion.org. We share the information we are provided, please contact Program, Area, District and Posts for additional details and events.

FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 2 -4 **NOW BOOKING** RENAISSANCE SEAWORLD **407-351-5555** CODE: "American Legion"

www.floridalegion.org
 mail@floridalegion.org

CELEBRATING **100** YEARS OF SERVICE 1919-2019

2

What Are Your Plans?

Jerry Brandt, 2nd Vice Commander

2ndvice@legionmail.org



Comrades, by this time the new leadership in your Post should be installed and running.

Please, reach out to them and assist them in the various projects within your Post. They were elected by the members of your Post, please assist them because we all need assistance when moving our Posts forward.

Plan ahead, in November we have Fall Conference, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. What are your plans? Fall

Conference will highlight training. The Membership Chairman will be training on MyLegion.org, a tool we need to use. Is there a class you need? Please review the Event Agenda once updated and see which class you would like to take. Veterans Day, are you attending a parade? Or maybe be a part of the Parade? How about a picnic with our Legion Family? Or maybe a day with friends? Please remember; Veterans Day is Your Day, Our Day.

Thanksgiving Day, a day to celebrate with friends, eat turkey and ham, and enjoy. It is also that time of year that Christmas Baskets need to be mailed to our brothers and sisters in harm way. We have troops all over the world; war zones in the Middle East, Far East, and Africa; threats

in South and Central America, Europe and elsewhere. When we were deployed, we were lucky to receive a Christmas card from home. Now it is our turn to ensure our troops receive more than just a Christmas card, they need support as well.

The Department Commander will be visiting the 8th and 15th District in October. The District Commanders are currently planning the visits with the Posts. If the Department Commander, Dianne Boland, comes in do not be shy. Please visit with her, she is there for you. The Commander will be visiting 8th District, October 4th – 6th and then 15th District during October 24th – 27th.

As always, thank you for your service.

September Visits

Eunice Butts, 3rd Vice Commander

3rdvice@legionmail.org



We are now three months into our membership year. Special thanks to 4th District Commander Cherie Korn for being in 1st place as of this writing.

Congratulations Post 102 for reaching 94.44%. Posts who are presently over 60% are Post 378, 66, 100, 272, 96, 187, 293, 127, and 259. Keep up the good work.

October 3, 2018 is the 60% goal. Zone 3 had the pleasure of having Department Commander Dianne Boland on her first visitation to Districts. District 3, in which Scott Steward is Commander, was the host. Area Commander Mike Hutto escorted the Department Commander

and 3rd Vice Commander on Thursday and Friday to Posts 57, 107, 96, and 224. Thanks to each of you for your warm welcoming and hospitality of our Department Commander. 3rd District held their district meeting on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, at Post 224.

The Department Commander and Membership Chairman held a membership meeting after the district meeting. Immediately after, we were escorted by District Commander Steward and his vice commanders to Posts 291 and 383. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do in membership, programs, etc.

The Commander and 3rd Vice will be visiting District 2, September 20-22, 2018. I will have training on Sunday. Training classes are 4 hours long, and will go over membership, programs, revitalization, etc.



Proceeds benefit Veterans and their families in the State of Florida.

Improving Care for Women Veterans

Dennis Boland, NEC

nec@legionmail.org



Since the Revolutionary War, women have volunteered to serve in the U.S. military. According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, the female veteran population now accounts for 10 percent of all U.S. veterans and the number is expected to grow to 15 percent by 2030. More than 2.2 million women today have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The American Legion continues to focus on areas of concern for women veterans, such as:

Educating women veterans about the importance of identifying as veterans.

Fighting obstacles women veterans encounter when seeking gender-specific health care in rural areas.

Increasing the number of female providers to help veterans who have been victims of military sexual trauma.

Providing full-time gynecologists on staff at all VA medical centers.

Reducing the likelihood that female veterans are more likely than their male counterparts to be referred outside the VA system for specialty care.

The American Legion constantly strives to learn about the major areas of concern for women veterans, alerts and informs Congress, leads special events, and provides other resources for women.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

Enact legislation that will require VA to meet the health-care needs of women veterans across the country.

Require VA to report wait time for appointments and driving times endured by women veterans seeking care.

Elevate awareness about areas that hinder women veterans from getting quality VA care.

State Legislation

Art Schwabe, NECA

neca@legionmail.org



Beginning in November, Florida Residents will be voting on a number of Amendments, one of which will be Amendment # 3. Please read all of them and consider "Vote No" on Amendment 3.

The November election isn't just about electing officials. It's also about survival of every Legion, VFW, DAV, and 501-3C in Florida!! Your raffles, pull tabs, etc. will possibly be eliminated if this Amendment passes.

Working together, the Seminole Tribe

and Walt Disney have raised over \$25 million to put Amendment #3 on the ballot this November. Amendment #3 is called the "Voter Approval of Casino Gambling Initiative" and what it does is require a statewide voter initiative and the voter approval of any changes to Gaming in the State of Florida.

The ballot summary on your November ballot will read:

This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not

conflict with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts.

What the current advertising campaign fails to mention is that charitable gaming by the various fraternal organizations in Florida would also be affected. The ability to conduct instant bingo and raffles could be challenged as house banked games. It would also require any new gaming for fraternal organizations be put on a statewide ballot which has historically cost more than \$10 million (and would likely be opposed by both the tribe and Walt Disney). While the name says "Voter Approval" it is really just creating a monopoly for the Seminole Tribe. This would give the Seminoles exclusive right because they already control all casinos now and are grandfathered in already.



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Structural Procedures

Michael McDaniel, Department Adjutant
mmcdaniel@floridalegion.org



As we embark on our 100th year as the world's largest veterans service organization, it is imperative that we take time to review and reinforce our structural procedures. Our family, The American Legion

Posts (Legion), the American Legion Auxiliary (Auxiliary), the Sons of The American Legion Squadrons (SAL), and the American Legion Riders Chapters (ALR), must work together and keep the lines of communication open, if we are to continue to survive another 100 years.

When we lack communication, it is easy to lose sight of our goals, and veer off course. We, as a family, have often been guilty of not communicating. We have made many assumptions, which, in turn, creates conflict. We must create stronger lines of communication and continue working together to reach our goals and help our veterans.

At one time the Legion successfully used liaisons, in keeping the lines of communication open. Legion members were appointed as liaisons to the SAL and ALR. It was their job to report every month on what the SAL and ALR were doing in programs, fundraising, and in their local communities. It was important that these liaisons provided highly detailed reports, so that the Post understood exactly what other efforts were being made within the Legion family. These liaisons were tasked with keeping the Post's membership aware

of the functions of the SAL and ALR, and vice versa. If we were to again utilize liaisons, it is important that the right people are selected, and if found ineffective, they should be replaced immediately. Communication is key to preventing conflict later, and I recommend that each Post appoint liaisons to assist in keeping these lines open.

Finance issues are another area of concern. The SAL and ALR are Programs of The American Legion, that can exist as a Program at each Chartered Legion Post. That chartered local Legion post has an Employer Identification Number (EIN), issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This EIN number is specific to the local Post to be used for all its tax purposes, including all tax purposes of Post's Programs (SAL and ALR).

Since that EIN number belongs to the Post, the Post also has the right to direct which financial institution their Programs place the funds into. The Post has responsibility and oversight of those funds.

For the purposes of control, every check written by the SAL and the ALR should require the Post Commander's, Post Finance Officer's or Post 1st Vice Commander's signature as the second signature.

Another issue that keeps surfacing, is the Post wanting to control how the Squadron spends its money. If you read the IRS statements on 501(c) (19) Veterans' Organization, it states the following:

A veterans' organization must be operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes;

To promote the social welfare of the community (that is, to promote in some way the common good and general welfare of the people of the community).

To assist disabled and needy war veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.

To provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

To carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces and to comfort their survivors

To conduct programs for religious, charitable, scientific, literacy, or educational purposes.

Any of the above items are reasonable donations. Any donations to Legion Charities are certainly reasonable.

Your Programs contribute a great deal of their time, money, and service, and have earned a say in the donation of those funds. A Post should never impede a sensible donation by their Programs.

At the end of the day, our organization needs to remember, what makes us strong is our ability to work together and communicate effectively. We must continue to do so for the betterment of our organization, our members, our veterans and our communities.

**STAY ALERT
WITH
MOBILE ALERTS**

TEXT FLCONF TO 74121

Upcoming Events & Updates

Jeff Durden, Sgt-at-Arms

sgt-at-arms@legionmail.org



We had a good turnout for the National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Thanks to Randy, Joan and Leann for carrying the banner and to Sam and Ron

for carrying the Department and US flags

for the parade. Wish it would have been outside but safety first.

We will be updating the Sgt-At-Arms duties and responsibilities this year. If you have any input or questions on what we need to look over, please bring them to Fall Conference and we will go over them. Fall Conference will be November 2nd thru 4th, 2018.

Upcoming events are as follows:

- Oct. 3rd, 60% membership goal
- Oct. 8th, start sending in Boys State Registration.
- Order your Halloween coloring books by the 15th, forms due to Department.
- Oct. 20th, Roast of PDC Jay Conti.

The Sergeant-At-Arms manual can be found on the website under resources. I am working on training material for your needs, let me know if I can assist you in training.

Reminder on Annual Dues & Dates

Larry Sheets, Judge Advocate

judgeadvocate@legionmail.org



There is a Post Commander that I know of that believes that membership dues are not due until after December 31, when a member's dues become delinquent.

Well my friends, that is just not the case. In the National Constitution in Article X, section 4, it plainly says that Annual Dues shall be payable October 20 of each year, for the succeeding year.

If a member wishes to pay his/her dues now, the Post Adjutant should accept the dues and either issue the new card or mail it.

Now is also the time when Posts should compare their Post Constitution and By-Laws to the new Department Constitution and By-Laws and make sure the Post is in compliance with Department.

Amending Constitution & By-Laws

There appears to be some misunderstanding among a few people about how a Post submits its Amended Constitution and By-Laws for review and approval.

The procedure is as follows:

Post Commander appoints a committee to go over the Post Constitution and By-Laws and make recommended changes. These changes are approved by the Post

Membership. The amended Constitution and By-Laws are sent to Rachel Castleberry at Department Headquarters, along with a cover letter on Post letterhead stating the date of the Post meeting that they were approved by the membership and the changed Article(s)/Sections(s).

Rachel will then scan them and place them in a file and email me a copy. I will go through them and note any changes that need to be made for

approval, and send them back with a letter explaining why the change or changes have to be made. Rachel will send the Post a copy of this letter and the changes will have to be made for approval.

After the changes are made, the Post resubmits them for approval.



CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

For God and Country

Barry Roberts, Chaplain

chaplain@legionmail.org



I would like to inspire everyone to always consider “For God and Country we associate ourselves for the following purposes” in helping to make decisions for the good

of the order and purpose of our great American Legion.

It is very important that we know about

God and our Country in order to make decisions relating to our purposes. God is a God of purpose and He gives us the Bible, the Word of God as a direction for our lives. The Bible is filled with history of wars and battles fought physically, morally and spiritually. I encourage you to read this love story of how much God loves you, the weapons and resources He has provided to you to protect yourself from those that oppose you in battle and in life.

Our founding fathers of the American Legion took that to heart in the

description of our organization. Let's be proactive together in preserving “For God and Country” and let's be proactive together in reaching out into our communities and serving our veterans and their families. Let's be proactive together and lets go help somebody... I am here for you. Feel free to join and participate on Facebook, www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

Historian Facebook

Gerald Kaufman, Historian

historian@legionmail.org



We started our hundredth year off with a bang at the 100th National Convention and we need to continue throughout this year here at home. As we start our celebrations throughout the Department, please do not forget to invite the Department Historian to your event. Also, the banners that

flew at the Department Convention are available for you to check out for your Post, District or Area events. There is no charge for you to check them out, but you are responsible for pick up and return to the Department Headquarters.

Remember that there is a new Facebook page titled Historian American Legion Department of Florida where you can post your own pictures or find pictures from the Department Historian. If you have pictures you would like to share or news articles that you would like to share go to the Facebook page above and download them there.

There are still approximately 20 posts who have not submitted anything for the Centennial Website. It is never too late to do so. Below you will find the user name and password for the Centennial Website as well as the new Facebook page address. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Fall Conference at Sea World.

100thannvdept@legionmail.org
Melanie1969
Historian American Legion
Department of Florida (on Facebook)

New Transmittal

Bruce Thurber, Membership

membership@legionmail.org



As we enter October the online transmittals will begin in MyLegion.org. The program is simple to use; however, it takes a little set up. When it comes on-

line you will see on your first page in the left column a new category PROCESS MEMBERSHIP. After you click on this link, you will come to the first page and need to click on Manage Payment Method. This is where you set up your e-Check information which is the only payment method available when using this feature. The account must be a valid business checking or savings account held on a US Bank. Once you have set up your banking information you click

on edit and your batch will open. At this point you begin processing membership. You can add, new members, transfer in new members and renew members. REMEMBER all transactions require payments, so if you have a NON-PAYED transaction continue to send to Department for processing. The program will also monitor for possible dual transactions or possible transfers

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<< *Membership - from page 9*

instead of new members. Once you have transmitted your batch it will take 7-10 business days to clear, however member information is immediately updated.

If an e-Check is declined an email will be sent to the Post Officer whose information is on file so that the banking information can be fixed.

Advantages to using the online transmittal tool:

1. Counts are added to the Target Date membership report immediately
2. Members are immediately suppressed from any renewal notices
3. Once the Post submits payment it prevents duplicate payments
4. Average time for paper transmittals is 4+ weeks; this is instant
5. Post saves money by not having to

ship transmittals to Department

6. Department does not have to process transmittals

Contact Information:

For support using MyLegion features contact National Customer Service at:
 Phone: 1-800-433-3318
 Email: myLegion@legion.org
 Office hours: 8:00-4:30 EST

RENEW-REINSTATE-RECRUIT

Membership

Jay Allen, Central Area
centralarea@legionmail.org



Greetings: by now most of the installations are done, but we are still working on the membership.

I keep telling my

Commanders that state that we are in the capital of snowbirds "I understand but work on the ones that are still local."

I've been continuing Post visits and working on some minor problems popping up around the Area but we are doing great.

We are working on the plan for the 100 Year Birthday Celebration. A little history: March 15th, 1919, members of

the American Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first American Legion Caucus. We are looking forward to continuing our next 100 years.

Also looking forward to the Central Area Training sessions this year and we are looking at a new and different way of doing it. Stay tuned to find out how thinking outside of the box for training works.

Important Dates in October

Mike Hutto, Northern Area
northernarea@legionmail.org



Fall is here and the Conference is just around the corner. The dates for the Conference are November 2 through 4. Every Post should send at least one delegate.

The membership goal is 60% on October 3. This year I am giving an award I call the Golden Gavel to the Post in

the Northern Area that has the highest Membership percentage as of May 31, 2019. It will be presented at the Northern Area Caucus at the Summer Convention. Don't forget to use mylegion.org and recruit from DMS.

Coming up in October is the Navy Birthday on Oct 13.

Halloween coloring book order forms are due no later than Oct 15th at the Department.

The Northern Area Ball will be at Post 57 in Lake City on March 23, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Entrees will be chicken or fish

catered by TGI Friday's. Social hour will be 6-7, dinner 7-8, dancing 8 until ?. Tickets will be \$15 single and \$25 couple. Music will be provided by Gina, an excellent artist, playing 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's country and jazz. Contact me at 352-490-1756 for tickets and info.



CELEBRATING



Membership, Just Ask!

Michael Raymond, Southwestern Area
southwesternarea@legionmail.org



One thing that kind of stuck in my mind after returning to my Post after the National Convention were the membership awards. It proved a point that any one of us could actually achieve the distinction

of "Recruiter of the Year" by just asking! David Witucki, of Post 490 in Houston

TX, recruited 578 new members and won the coveted "Recruiter of the Year" award by just asking! That's exactly what he told the entire Legion delegation when presented with his award. Is it really that simple? While travelling through my District last year with Past Commander Steve Shuga, there wasn't a single person he met that he didn't ask if they served. It does work folks. He got several new members just by asking. There are so many ways to start a conversation that leads to a new member. I hear some people say they just aren't good at selling

but honestly, the American Legion sells itself! Letting people know we have qualified service officers that can help them navigate the VA system is one of my favorite tools. Inviting them to your Post for a ceremony or function is always a good way to bring new members in. Let's face it folks, this is the perfect time during our 100th year celebrations to get the word out about what we do. So please, don't cringe when someone mentions the word membership. It's as easy as just asking!

Thoughts on Membership

James Burk, Eastern Area
easternarea@legionmail.org

We all hear "membership, membership, membership". Here are some of my thoughts on the subject...

Invent new events to attract members. Think outside the box. Here's some examples:

- Post 318 in Port St. Lucie invited

all area recruiters to hold their regular meetings at the Post. Dozens joined. They also stay in contact with returning service members as they are a reliable source for more new members.

- Host a family day with clowns, face painting and other activities to attract younger families.
- Set up a recruitment table at your local VA clinic or hospital. Almost everyone you meet there is eligible to join. Don't

forget the employees.

- Set up a table at stores like Bass Pro, Harley Davidson etc., to educate the public about who we are and what we do.
- Visit other fraternal organizations like the Knights of Columbus, Moose and Elk lodges.

I could go on and on, but I think you see the importance of "thinking outside the box!"

Live It Well

Rev. Willie Branch, District 17
district17@legionmail.org



Be good to yourself. At the same time, demand the best from yourself.

Be good to yourself, not just in a superficial way. Reward yourself for the great work you always expect from yourself.

In return, never settle for less from yourself than a constant commitment to excellence. Look always for actions that will improve your life, your world, your situation, and then take those actions.

Let every passing day deepen your enjoyment and appreciation of life. Utilize every day, every opportunity to give new value to life. Put forth great effort. Treat yourself to

great enjoyment.

This beautiful, miraculous life is yours. In all its aspects, live it well.

This is in Honor of Pete Bluto, Commander Post 6, a 12 year member and Fred Whatton, a 23 year member, Post 267. Both entered Post Everlasting as the result of a long battle with Agent Orange.

WHAT WOULD YOUR FALL CONFERENCE BE LIKE? TELL US: floridalegion.org/myfc

Centennial Celebration

Gerald Kaufman, Centennial
historian@legionmail.org



I have great news for all of you concerning our Centennial Celebration. The dates are set, the entertainment has been signed and we are counting down until our party. Ticket sales are now online, and hotel and campground information are online.

Here are the particulars:

Date: January 18 & 19, 2019
Place: Rock Crusher Canyon Citrus County Crystal River Florida
Entertainment: Friday Night- Scooter Brown opening for SISTER HAZEL
 Saturday night - Buddy Brown opening for AARON TIPPENS
 Letters from Home will perform each night.

There will be food, drink and fun for all. You can now go to:

www.vetsinvadethecanyon.com

From there you will find your ticketing, hotel and entertainment information. Rooms and tickets are limited so first come first served.

For those of you who wish to sponsor this event please contact the Centennial Chairman.

Gerald A Kaufman
historian@legionmail.org

407-218-9139

Again, I look forward to seeing all of you in January.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

Children & Youth Update

Vickie Van Buren, Children & Youth
cy@legionmail.org



At this writing, I have not yet attended the American Legion National Children and Youth Conference. I hope to bring back many ideas on how we can better support the Children of our veterans and insure the integrity of the family unit. If you have not done so already, please order your Halloween coloring books and Halloween Safety Brochures. All brochures are available for downloading at https://www.legion.org/publications#children_&_youth. Brochures are no longer free but are

available for downloading and printing at your convenience. You can also send the brochures to your schools electronically. We will try to have brochures at the Fall Conference for you to take back free of charge.

I am currently reviewing the Department of Florida Children and Youth Guidance booklet to be used by your Area/District/Post Children and Youth Chairmen. After I return from the National Children and Youth Conference, I will finish the booklet with up-to-date guidance from National.

The Children and Youth pins are on order and will be available by the Fall Conference. I am also having Department go out for bids to use our logo on a Rider patch for those ALR

Chapters holding poker runs etc. for Children and Youth.

When I return from the National Children and Youth Conference, I will be meeting with the Children and Youth Picnic Planning Committee to finalize the festivities for our event on April 6, 2019, at Post 117. In the interim, I will also be attending many District meetings and events throughout the year. I will be soliciting baskets from each District to raffle at the event. It would be nice to have some youth themed baskets this year.

Please email me at Vickie.vanburen@yahoo.com if you are having a Children and Youth fundraising event. I would love to attend when I'm available. See you soon...

FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

January 31 – February 2, 2019



Where? Department Headquarters in Orlando

Hotel Accommodations at the Altamonte Springs-Orlando Hilton Hotel

Who Can Attend? Any current member of The American Legion Family

- Must complete American Legion Basic Training Course prior to the college. This is a FREE on-line course offered by The American Legion.
 - Complete an application which you can find on-line at -
<https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/florida-legion-college>
 - There is a \$200 fee to attend to offset hotel, meal, and refreshment expenses. Continental breakfast served at the hotel, lunch provided Friday and Saturday, with refreshments and snacks available during breaks. Your post can pay this for you, or you can pay your own way.

What subjects are Covered?

Team building exercises; History of The American Legion; Introduction to Resolution Writing; The Department Commander's 10 Point Success Plan; Relationship between National, Department, and Post; State Legislative Priorities; Membership; Programs and Public Relations; Fund Raising for a Non-Profit Organization; Internal Affairs and Department Complaint Process; Post/District Meetings and Elections; Department Program Awards; Veteran's Entitlement Programs; Consolidated Post Reports

SPACE IS LIMITED, GET YOUR APPLICATION IN EARLY!

Tom Gora, FALC Chairman - DeptLegionCollege@legionmail.org

904-583-4597

Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest Program

Gene Smith, Immigration

immigration@legionmail.org



The Department of Florida subscribes to the National organization's policies on Immigration and Naturalization. The Legion's primary focus is on "the security and protection of our Nation's borders, the assimilation of immigrants into American society, immigration quotas and citizenship and naturalization matters." The organization is opposed to illegal immigration and the granting of amnesty to "any and all illegal aliens."

We support Federal and State laws and the enforcement of said laws imposing sanctions upon employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants. There are certain industries in the U.S. that face "persistent and/or seasonal labor shortages." A temporary workers program is supported for these industries as long as there is an established quota enforced by the proper government agency.

The American Legion has remained opposed to any mass acceptance of legal immigrants that cannot be readily absorbed into mainstream America. The American Legion certainly stresses concern and opposes allowing large numbers of immigrants in where they displace veterans from housing or employment.

The American Legion does not directly "assist with individual immigration admissions, appeals or deportations." However, we will try to direct those individuals to the correct Federal Agency

or in the Department of Florida's case, an Immigration Attorney for resolution and assistance.

One of many Immigration topics in the news lately is the termination of the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program. I have been granted permission to run an op-ed written by Elizabeth Ricci, Esq., Immigration Attorney, Rambana & Ricci, PLLC, a Tallahassee-based law firm concentrating on complex immigration cases across the U.S. Ms. Ricci is a Supporting Partner of The American Legion, Department of Florida. Her commentary is titled "There is Hope for Immigrants Enlisted in MAVNI"

"With each passing week, it seems pathways to U.S. citizenship become harder to navigate. For many immigrants, one such course has been to serve their adopted country as members of our military, putting their lives on the line in exchange for the prospect of citizenship.

In yet another roadblock, nearly 50 foreign-born reservists who enlisted in the military under a special recruitment program were abruptly discharged earlier this year. The program – called "Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest" or MAVNI – offered expedited citizenship to immigrants with valuable medical, engineering or foreign language skills.

The Defense Department gave little explanation for the sudden discharges, aside from telling some service members they are security risks. MAVNI discharges were halted by the Army following public backlash, but as many as 10,000 enlistees are facing uncertain futures due to the program's backlog and subsequent suspension

last year.

However, all hope is not lost. I found that an underused rule may benefit MAVNI recruits by serving as a fast-track to permanent residency. A solution may be in a green card category called the National Interest Waiver.

NIW may be a green card option for those who can establish their work is in the "national interest." To be eligible, applicants must also satisfy other merit-based requirements, such as having an advanced degree and showing "exceptional ability."

Considering that MAVNI, by definition, was for immigrants who were "vital to the national interest," this means one might fulfill NIW requirements with proof of MAVNI acceptance, transcripts and support letters.

I made the connection between MAVNI and NIW through my work on dozens of NIW cases. The common thread is their substantial merit-based components. Individuals who qualify for NIW – or who qualified for MAVNI – are highly-skilled professionals who bring critical knowledge to the U.S. My NIW clients include a laser engineer from Korea who developed technology to cut smartphone glass, and a neuroscientist from India who discovered an area of the brain that can be manipulated to prevent epileptic seizures.

Perhaps the biggest perk of the NIW is that applicants can skip the process of sponsorship and labor certification, which can take years. By contrast,

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<< Immigration - from page 12

NIW applicants may be able to obtain a green card in a matter of months.

Despite the continued hurdles surrounding U.S. immigration, the NIW can provide a viable option to residency and ultimately citizenship for discharged MAVNI reservists or those in limbo. The NIW can keep the American Dream alive for immigrants who chose to wear the uniform of our nation to protect our freedom – the

same freedom they seek for themselves and families.”

Foreign-born individuals who have served in the United States Military and in possession of an Honorable Discharge and do not have a criminal record or who are currently serving in the United States Military and have not naturalized should be afforded the opportunity to become U.S. Citizens. Also, foreign born spouses of deceased active duty/veterans who are not Naturalized U. S. Citizens should be afforded the same opportunity for

citizenship. Post Commanders, you are the eyes and ears of the Department. I need your help to identify these veterans and spouses. Help protect them from the humiliation and embarrassment of deportation proceedings. If they put their life on the line for this Nation, they deserve the opportunity to enjoy the freedoms for which they raised their hand to uphold. Should you have questions or you know of someone that falls into the one of categories mentioned, E-mail me at Immigration@legionmail.org.

JROTC / Shooting Sports

Loretta Young, JROTC/Shooting Sports
jrotc@legionmail.org

The JROTC Programs are now underway and in full swing. I was fortunate to be able to attend one semester briefing in Broward County held at Boyd Anderson HS for the 29 Units and 1 Academy to launch the year's programs. All Program Instructors were present to get the schedule for events for the upcoming year and to have presenters from some of the community partners to give presentations on what is available to the students. There were speakers offering information on scholarship programs, County Representatives offering information on the "Get Out to Vote" initiative, a presentation on the First Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser to be held at the Jacaranda

Country Club in Plantation scheduled for September 14th to raise funds for the Cadet Year End Scholarships, and the First Annual Miguel A. Vera Rodriguez Medal of Honor 5K Run & Walk at Charnow Park, Hollywood Beach Boardwalk to be held on November 3rd. I'm sure there are many other programs

out there that would interest our communities, so please let me know by dropping me an email, text or phone call. I will try to include some pictures from some of these events when time and space

allows. I have included a picture of the Piper HS AJROTC Color Guard as they relaxed after their performance at the Sunrise Civic Center Theater for the "Get Out to Vote" event. Thanks to all the many Legionnaires that help to support our Youth Programs.



Message From Your SAL Advisor

Chuck Rousseau, S.A.L. Advisor
sal@legionmail.org

WOW WOW WOW ... What a great year our S.A.L. had in the 2017-2018 year. They went over 19,000 members and attained their 23rd consecutive ALL

TIME HIGH!

They were not only increasing their membership ... look at their donations of money and hours volunteered in each program listed on the Annual Accomplishments report shown with this

article.

If your Post does not have an S.A.L. Squadron, you are missing out on their energy and ways they can help your Post.

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<< S.A.L. Advisor - from page 13

Please consider organizing a Squadron at your Post. We would all win with the added man hours and personnel to help

us do all of our programs. You can see by the numbers that they not only do a super job with Children & Youth but they help with all of our programs! Look at the time and money donated by these great

Sons of the American Legion, and you will also agree with me ... WOW WOW WOW.

October

Jim Wineland, Legion Riders

legionriders@legionmail.org



Boy, these months just fly by. October is our “Merry-Go-Round” event so keep those wheels turning for the kids. I know some of you may still have questions about the change. During

our last Convention they introduced a new Veteran Suicide Prevention initiative under Project VetRelief. As Riders, we have always stepped up to the challenge and helped get things off to a good start. So, to keep things balanced we decided to have two Children and Youth events in 2018 and two months dedicated to Veteran Suicide Prevention in 2019.

As I mentioned in last month’s article, we are going to dedicate two months to the program and tie it into our April Round Robin and In-State Unity Ride. Just a quick overview: March will be the month that any District, Chapter can do anything to raise donations and all of it will count toward the Round Robin in April. We’ll have an

additional kicker in there by counting all the points from the Unity Ride under the guidelines of the Round Robin. It should be an interesting event and hopefully raise a record amount to help the Veteran Suicide Prevention program get off the ground.

I don’t know if you’ve had an opportunity yet to review the updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). There have been a few things that we need to focus on.

Some of the feedback I’ve been getting all boils down to communications issues. What we can’t forget is that we are family members first and Riders second. We are a Post program and we have the responsibility of keeping them informed monthly.

The monthly information should include membership totals, bank balances, activities that are being scheduled, and charity donations. One of the easy ways to achieve this is to make sure you invite or have as member the Post Treasurer. That individual could also be the second signature on ALR Post account.

A couple other things we must focus on is the waiver and insurance to cover a major

ride. I’ve been on a few charity events and I’ve notice that we sign a sheet acknowledging that we’ve reviewed the waiver. We must sign the waiver. We can’t short cut this step. I know that adds a bunch of paperwork to the process, but this is one of the liability issues that we must make every effort to protect our Posts and The American Legion.

As mentioned above, the second item of concern is event insurance. Once again, this is important process to reduce liability. Anytime you are planning a major event, please ensure that you add insurance to your things to do list. All it takes is a call to Department and forward a flier to make sure you are covered.

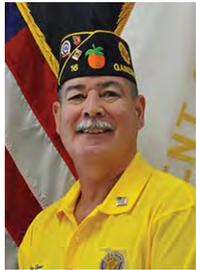
I hate this topic, but it seems like motorcycle deaths are increasing. I know we’ve lost two Riders last month. Road Captains, Safety Officers, please make every effort to cover all the incidents in your monthly meetings to keep everyone informed. Safety is “Number 1” in everyone’s mind.

Have a safe October and let’s make this a record month for Children and Youth.

Access Granted Program

Jim Ramos, Military Liaison

militaryliaison@legionmail.org



What can The American Legion Posts, the Military Base Commander, designated Base Liaisons and others do to help grow membership in the

Department of Florida Legion? The Military Liaison Chairman provides enhanced quality of life services for those serving in the United States Armed Forces Active, Guard, and Reserve.

The program is designed to work with the Military Liaison as a representative between the Base Liaison and a Post that is willing to work with military bases, also Department and military installations to help them know **who we are** and **what we do** for our veterans. Military Liaison also provides a list of programs that will assist

our military service men and women and their families.

Some Suggestions:

1. We are in our 100th year of Service to our Community, State and National; let's tell everybody the American Legion story (history) and about your Post.
2. What does your Post do for our veterans and their families?
3. What programs your Post do for the children and youth?
4. How can I help you and your Post succeed?

How does it work?

Just check it out for yourself.

The booklet, "Access Granted: Assisting Troops with Transition Benefits," provides ways Legion members can gain access to military installations and connect with servicemembers. While DoD does not allow membership recruiting on its installations, the easier access policy

allows the Legion to display its programs and demonstrate its advocacy for veterans to prospective members.

Download "Access Granted: Assisting Troops with Transition Benefits" online and for online resources, visit www.legion.org/security/resources

With Access Granted: We need to get a request to access to work or do anything on base.

We have a check list to obtaining access and sample of letter to get access.

Please contact me at MilitaryLiaison@legionmail.org or jramos149@bellsouth.net.

Please let the Zone Leadership, Area and District Commanders know what your Post wants to do first, so they know first-hand.

Thank you and let make this year a great one.

Post Development

Bob Brewster, Post Development

postdevelopment@legionmail.org



I have already received several calls and e-mails from Post officers and District officers concerning membership at various Posts. First off, these Posts are

still zero in membership and are not helping themselves. Post officers are supposed to be paid-up members for the new year before being sworn in. So any Post with their officers sworn

in should not be at zero in membership. Every Post in our Department should be reading the Legion Links and be utilizing "MyLegion.org." Every Post should have a membership team with a Membership Chairman. They should be contacting their members who have not renewed for the new year. This can be done through your Post newsletter, renewal post cards, telephone calls, and personal visitation, or, in other words, do the jobs that you asked for.

Starting in October, we can work together on ways to improve your Post and make your members want to renew. We will do this through your newsletter or other communications and highlight

the good things that your Post is doing throughout your community. Have you thought about coloring books in your schools? Halloween is right around the corner. Visit your local police departments and fire departments, and if you have military recruiting stations in your area, visit them also. Take some coffee and donuts with you to show them just how much you appreciate the job that they are doing. These places are good potentials to find new members for your Post. Get into your local schools. Talk about the Oratorical Contests, School Medals, Boys State & Girls State

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<< *Post Development- from page 15*

Programs, and our Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program.

We can do a phone recruiting event at your Post, but only if you and your members will be involved. I have done each and everything stated above for the last 14 years. We have been very successful in doing these things. We can't

spend the majority of our time at the bar trying to recruit members. They are already your members. We must get out and be seen. I wear a Legion shirt 7 days a week.

We Believe

Tom Gora, Public Relations

publicrelations@legionmail.org



"We Believe" is a new Public Service Announcement from The American Legion. The PSA shines a light on the values of the organization —

patriotism, a strong national security, support for all veterans, and a strong desire to turn today's youth into tomorrow's leaders. Through historic and current imagery, We Believe highlights Legionnaires in action and shows the impact of hundreds of American Legion programs and activities that strengthen the nation. This new PSA, along with many others, can be used by any Post in your local media. Find and download it at www.legion.org/webelieve.

Use the Centennial Media Toolkit for PR. The 100th Anniversary Media Toolkit has two main functions: to assist in the planning, execution and after-actions of centennial events, and to walk Posts through taking stock of where they have been and where they are going, to set themselves up for the next 100 years of service. One special feature is a set of customizable PDFs on the last few pages of the toolkit, which allow Posts to fill in their own information on pre-written media advisories, press releases, proclamations, and radio spots. More features will be added to the publication as the Centennial kickoff in Minneapolis in August draws closer. The 100th Anniversary Media Toolkit is available to download free at www.legion.org/centennial/mediakits. Mass quantities are also available for mailing; contact ledwards@legion.org with requests. And when putting on these events, be sure to promote and cover them on social media

using the hashtag #Team100. During the Centennial Celebration, searching media platforms for this hashtag can result in the array of things the Legion Family has come up with.

There is now a PR page on the Department web site; you will find it under both the programs and resources tabs. I have written the first lesson plan for Public Relations which is an introduction to public relations, and with additional lessons to follow through the year. I will mass e-mail them and hope to have them posted on the Department website.

Use this link to find access to Florida city/community newspapers.... www.usnpl.com/flnews.php

"Nobody counts the number of ads you run; they just remember the impression you make."

(Bill Bernbach, advertising pioneer and founder of DD)

Resolution

Clarence Hill, Resolutions

resolutions@legionmail.org



While the Preamble section (the WHEREAS clause(s) that describe the problem) precedes the Resolving section

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

last as changes in the Resolving section may require changes in the Preamble section.

The Resolving section begins with the word "RESOLVED," usually printed in capital letters and followed by a comma. Between the opening word and the statement of

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<< Resolutions - from page 16

the intent of the resolution, there should be the following information: the identification of the resolving authority, the circumstance and place of the action, and the date of the action.

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

The word “That” (with a capital “T”) is the first word that immediately follows the resolving clause and introduces the clause, which is the object of the verb “RESOLVED.” It aids the reader to find the point at which the meat of the

resolution begins and it aids the drafter of the resolution to launch a strong and unmistakable statement of intent. Some examples:

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

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

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

Examples:

“RESOLVED, ... That ...; and, be it further

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

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

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

Chartering vs. Supporting

Chuck Weber, Scouting

scouting@legionmail.org



So, you’re a new Post Commander and somewhere along the way you learned that one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion is Children and Youth. You’ve always

known the Boy Scouts exist and now you learn that Scouting is the premier youth program of the Legion. As a Legion program, it stands on equal footing with the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders. You check your roster records and find that your Post has never had a Scouting Chair, at least not one that has been active. You’re interested in getting involved, but you

don’t know what to do.

There are two ways your Post can involve itself in Scouting. Which way you go will depend on the resources that your Post has to offer. You may decide to charter a Scout unit and that is a formal arrangement. You may decide to support a Scout unit, local Scout Council or just local Scouts and that is an informal arrangement.

When a Post charters a Scout Unit (i.e. – a Cub Scout Pack, Scouting Troop, Venture Crew or Sea Scout Ship) it engages with the local Scout Council in a formal, written agreement to provide and do certain things for the unit. The Post agrees to further its aims and values for youth through the Scouting program. It agrees to follow the Rules, Regulations and Policies of the National BSA Council.

The Post agrees to appoint one of its members as the Charter Organization Representative (COR), which is usually the Post Scouting Chair. Typically, a Post will also commit to a meeting place, storage facilities for the unit’s equipment, and other needed support identified by the unit’s committee. The Post screens, selects and approves all of the adult leaders for the unit. The Post does not commit to any monetary contributions to the unit, as one of Scouting’s objectives is to teach the youth how to raise their own funds through work and other activities. On the other side of the agreement, the Scout Council agrees to provide leader training and admin support for units, criminal background checks for leaders, camping opportunities, professional and volunteer support for the leaders

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<< Scouting - from page 17

of the unit. The Council provides primary general liability insurance during Scouting activities for adults and youth in the unit and for all Post officers, Board, etc. as well as providing the Post an indemnification from liability. As you can see, this removes many of the responsibility concerns the Post might have. This agreement is renewed annually through the issuance of a charter. Through this process, the Post “wholly owns” the unit and all of its resources. This concept will be addressed in detail in a later article.

Posts that are unable to make the commitments required for chartering may still be involved by supporting Scouting. This is an informal arrangement and may be accomplished many ways, but always case by case for each involvement. There is no long-term commitment necessary. A Post may arrange for a Scout unit to use its facilities for meetings, activities or other purposes as needed. The Post may adopt a Scout unit and march with it in a Veterans Day parade or involve the unit in a Flag Retirement ceremony. The Post may contribute to the local Scout Council’s annual fund drive, Friends of Scouting (FOS), with a monetary donation.

The Post may issue a Certificate of Accomplishment to all youth in the area attaining Eagle rank. And there are many, many other ways.

Whichever direction the Post wishes to pursue, a simple telephone call to your local Scout Council will get you the information needed, your questions answered and on your way to your Scouting adventure.

This topic and several other important ones will be addressed at a Scouting Workshop at the upcoming Fall Conference. Please be sure to attend.

Event Ideas

Nancy Thomas, Security
security@legionmail.org



It has come to my attention that some of the Posts in the Department of Florida are starting to recognize our wonderful Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Emergency Management Personnel. Please give thought to asking your Department Chair, Taz Gehling, and the Security Chair to attend these functions.

Please start thinking about holding a Blood Donation drive, but check with the donation team to see if there is still a restriction on anyone who may have served in the European Area in the early 1980's. There are some organizations where there is no restriction, however, there are ones who will not draw the blood from those individuals. Also, check with

Donna Wallace, Department Blood Donor Chair, to see if she might have information to aide and assist you in having a successful drive.

Let's work with the local schools to have a program for our JROTC and Shooting Sports, and if you have an event please invite Loretta Young, Department JROTC/Shooting Sports Chair.

Due to illness, the job description was placed on hold, however, is under the elbow as a reminder that it needs to be completed.

Please take into consideration that Donna, Loretta, Taz, and I might be tied up with other functions and may not be able to attend, however, we want to know about it.

Let's work together as a team this year to make the Department of Florida the best there is, more so than it is already!



floridalegionstore.org

Effectively Using Social Media

Deb Wheeler, Social Media

socialmedia@legionmail.org



Still looking at Facebook pages from all Districts and Posts! We all could do so much better. A lot of Districts have not shared their District Meetings with the Department. It makes it very difficult

to help you if we are unaware of your District's meetings. I am here to help you and your Posts with communication to your members, the public, and potential new membership for the entire Legion Family. To make your information count, choose an administrator that will update your social media account at least every other day. Pictures say a thousand words as well as graphics and color. The administrator could be any member of your entire Legion family - use your resources and you can prosper.



Special Olympics

Jamie Grinis, Special Olympics

specialolympics@legionmail.org



Now that our Post Installations are over and each Post is adjusting to new officers, it is time to begin planning your fundraising for your programs. As we help veterans within

our local communities please keep in mind that Special Olympics also needs your help. This is the time to plan to attend events in your area and

volunteer. Find an event in your area by contacting your County Special Olympic representative and ask for a schedule of events. Should you attend an event be sure to wear your Post shirts and covers to show a visible presence at the games. With you being there, people may ask you about your Legion Post and who knows you may even find a new member or two for your Post. If you are not able to attend events keep in mind the Special Olympics is always in need of financial support, It cost about \$200 to support an athlete each year. Having your support makes all the difference in the world to these Olympians. When you make a

donation make sure you send me a short message and the amount of your contribution. Send your donations and messages directly to my office at Jamie Grinis 1248 SW 1 Ave, Pompano Beach, FL 33060-8708. I will forward your donations so we have accurate reporting this year. You can also contact me by e-mail: jamiegrinis@gmail.com This year we are tracking your activities ever so closely so that your Post receives its proper recognition as we celebrate 100 years of service to our veterans and programs.

Military Gold Sportsman's Licenses

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements

veteransbenefits@legionmail.org



With hunting season coming up some veterans may be entitled to the following benefit.

The Military Gold Sportsman's License is available for the reduced fee of \$20 to

any resident who is an active or retired

member of the U.S. Armed Forces, U.S. Armed Forces Reserve or National Guard upon submission of current military ID card. For more information, visit myfec.com/license/recreational/military-gold. The license is only available at tax collector's office.

State hunting and fishing licenses and permits shall be issued without fees for five years to any veteran who is a Florida resident, certified or determined to be 100% totally and permanently disabled

by the VA or the U.S. Armed Forces, or who has been issued a valid disabled veteran ID card by FDVA. For more information, visit myfwc.com. (FS 379.353). Information from Florida Veterans Benefits Guide 2018



VA&R

Alan Cohen, VA&R

var@legionmail.org



After once again being honored to attend the National Convention as a member of the National VA&R Commission as well as representing the Department of Florida to vote on

Resolutions submitted by the Veterans Benefits committee, I'm reenergized and looking forward to the coming months. With September being National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, I was especially happy to see that the American Legion has become even more pro-active in this area, having published a white

paper calling on Congress to increase the number of mental health care providers to address veteran suicide. Please do avail yourself of this white paper at: www.legion.org/publications and find it under VA&R. This dovetails with efforts already underway in Florida to raise suicide prevention awareness with one of many examples being the Challenge 22 community- walks conducted by our Benefits Chairman.

Another area in which we're being more aggressive is that of women veterans. Cherie Korn from District 4 is the Women Veteran's Chairperson and is already busy organizing the first of what will be several events to reach out to this segment of Florida's veteran population. Her theme is "Get the Word Out." Look for her article here and let's help by

letting out sister veterans know that we're here for them.

In the spirit of "how quickly time passes..."; please be aware that the Fall Conference will be here soon and registration forms for the Service Officer School are now available on the Department website.

In closing, I continue to reach out to those of you who, motivated by the spirit of volunteerism, are interested and available to lend a hand at either the Orlando or Miami VA hospitals. The contributions made by our VAVS volunteers are beyond measure. For further information, don't hesitate to contact me through Department or directly.

Cadet Program

Bob Brewster, Youth Law Cadet

youthlawcadet@legionmail.org



Due to scheduling conflicts, Tom Gora, Kathie Thomson, and I will get together in about 2 weeks from now. We will put our heads together and make some changes in this program. We

also will also finalize these changes in the Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program brochure. We have done this every year for the last 3 years, and each year we think we have it perfected, but during the year something will come up and we find a way to make this program better for all.

One thing that we will do different this year is that we will send all

correspondence directly to the parents instead of the cadets. We found out last year that the kids read the mail but did not share the information with their parents. This caused a few problems.

This year will be our 4th year of working this program. I want to say here and now that without the Highway Patrol staff, our American Legion Department staff, Tom Gora, and now Kathie Thomson, we would not have been as successful as we have been. Also, we owe a big shout out to Post 84 and their members for providing a fabulous cookout in starting the program off.

We will have all necessary paperwork and brochures available at the Fall Conference. I want to thank each and every one of you and all of the above in making this program a success.

Arts and Crafts for Disabled Vets

Jesse Figueroa

Post 163 & NALPA Member



I am not alone as a disabled veteran. Many of our brothers and sisters in arms returned home with health issues. I was watching a commercial

called Help Hospitalized Veterans, a nonprofit organization that supplies arts and crafts kits to disabled veterans as a therapeutic tool. These kits are free to be mailed to your home and also available at community centers. The kits can help with rehabilitating veterans with disabilities, for example, PTSD and depression. The toll-free number is 888-567-VETS (8387) or <https://www.healvets.org/for-veterans>.



2018 FALL CONFERENCE: *Come visit us!*

The American Legion, Department of Florida Fall Conference is just around the corner. The event will be held next month from November 2-4, 2018 at the Renaissance at Sea World in Orlando, FL.

There will only be one training opportunity this year. Be sure to visit the link below to reserve your seat today!

VETRELIEF ADVOCATE TRAINING:

Saturday, November 3rd

Time: 2:15 – 4:00 PM

Room: Palini

Registration link:

<https://www.projectvetrelief.org/classregistration/>

The PROJECT: VetRelief Team will also have a table in the vendor area. Please stop by to see our case workers, Michael Beaven and Jeremy Gottschalk. You can collect any materials to take back with you to your Post, or ask any questions you might have.

Calling all trained Advocates - We will be holding a special event for all trained VetRelief Advocates. If you are interested in learning more information on this event, and have already taken our Training course, please contact Jennifer Cooper, jcooper@floridalegion.org, for the details.

We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you there!

**Times and room locations are subject to change.*

THE RESULTS ARE IN... *Golf Tournament*

The **5th Annual PROJECT: VetRelief Golf Tournament** was held on Monday, September 24th at Bella Collina Golf Course in Monteverde, FL. At approximately 8:30AM, after attendees stood at attention for the National Anthem, the shotgun went off sending over 115 golfers on their way.

PVR Board Vice-President, Bob James, hosted corporate partners, vendors and friends to a fun filled day of golf. He set a lofty goal to work towards for this year's event. He was able to meet his goal, and provide a donation of a **record setting \$50,000** to PROJECT: VetRelief!



The following Legionnaires came to show their support by either playing golf or volunteering: Commander, Dianne Boland; 1st Vice Commander, Rick Johnson; NEC, Dennis Boland; Adjutant, Michael McDaniel; Asst. Adjutant, Bruce Comer; VA Entitlement Chairman, Larry Roberts; PVR Board President, John Dollinger; Legionnaires, PDC Omer Gene Smith, Kurt Gies, Michael Beaven, and Jeremy Gottschalk.

Our appreciation goes out to all of the sponsors, players, and volunteers for their **continued** support of Florida's veterans!



MISSION MOMENT: *Community Impact*

"My experience was very positive. It makes me proud to have served my country!"

- Army Veteran

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: *Upcoming Events*

OCT 13: Coral Country Road Concert (*Marathon, FL*)

JAN 18-19: Vets Invade Canyon (*Crystal River, FL*)

FEB 16-17: Coral Head Music Fest (*Marathon, FL*)



SUPPORT CASES
JULY - AUG 2018 STATS

**Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY*

families helped

18

amount distributed

\$21,342.00

Social Media and Mobile Campaign Moving Forward

Jennifer Cooper, Dept Fundraising
jcooper@floridalegion.org



Last month, we talked about our new mobile fundraising initiative that will officially launch at the beginning of November. We're so excited to already have participation among

several post leaders who have signed on as Team Captains, and have begun the fun.

You can be part of this, too. As a reminder, there are two parts to this campaign, including:

- A word-of-mouth campaign that uses online social channels such as Facebook to build fundraising teams
- A more passive component that gives anyone the opportunity to text donations from their cellphones, and gives local posts an opportunity to raise their own funds

Our goal for this campaign is threefold and includes:

- Broadening public awareness of American Legion Department of Florida and the work we do
- Building our membership base by reaching out to our community and meeting younger Veterans and their families

- Increasing financial contributions that support our programs, today and for the future

Our Victory-360 Fundraising team will be onsite at our November leadership conference to explain the campaign in detail, and you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and to pick up materials that can help you get started. Even if you will not be at the conference, please be on the lookout for more information to help you get started and coach you along the way.



There is a lot of potential with this mobile-based fundraising campaign. We hope you'll take the time to participate and continue to support the programs that help Veterans, their families and our communities.

If you have any immediate questions, or want to get started right away, please reach out to jcooper@floridalegion.org. You can also check out our campaign landing page at floridalegion.org/flveterans.



Your 2018 Salute to Service Raffle is bigger and better than ever!

- » Now **20 OPPORTUNITIES** to have your ticket(s) drawn
- » **GRAND PRIZE** is **\$10,000**
- » Eligible to win **MULTIPLE PRIZES** (the more tickets you turn in the greater your chance to win)
- » Total prize payout **INCREASED to over \$21,000**
- » **BETTER** your chances with **LIMITED raffle packages** distributed

If you'd like to purchase tickets, contact Jennifer Cooper by calling **407-295-2631**.

Tickets must be purchased by **October 29, 2018**. Winners will be drawn on Saturday, November 3, 2018 during our Department Fall Conference at the Renaissance Sea World in Orlando, Florida. Good luck to all!



Join Our Mailing List

If you would like to join the our mailing list to receive our fundraising packages, please send an email to Jennifer Cooper at jcooper@floridalegion.org with your name, and address.

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

SAVE March 2, 2019

The American Legion Family

District 17 Parade

(Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties)



Celebrating 100 years of service to our veterans, their families, communities and children.

Community invited to participate

Floats, bands, cars, The American Legion Riders, Dignitaries and the entire community.

“Veterans and their families helping veterans and their families”

Place: City of Edgewater on India River Blvd. From Air Park Rd heading east to Railroad Tracks.

Time: TBD

Picnic to follow at Post 285 4497 US 1, Edgewater

For more information: Eleanor Amato 427-1168 or email: amatoellie@aol.com

11th DISTRICT ANNUAL ROAST

PDC JAY CONTI SR.



WHEN: October 20th, 2018

WHERE: American Legion Post 64

501 SE 2nd Street Okeechobee

5pm Social Hour: 6pm Dinner: 7pm Roast

\$15.00 Per person Chicken dinner and all the fixins

Hampton Inn---1200 State Rd 70 East Okeechobee

863-824-0003 ----- \$89. Per night

11th District Information Sheet PDC Jay Conti Roast

Oct 20, 2018

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5pm Social Hour: 6pm Dinner: 7pm Roast

\$15.00 Per person Chicken dinner and all the fixins

Hampton Inn---1200 State Rd 70 East Okeechobee

863-824-0003 ----- \$89. Per night

Let them know you are with the American Legion



Return this stub with your check payable to 11th District

Mail to: Donna Wallace: 6154 Seven Springs Blvd: Greenacres FL 33463

_____ tickets at \$15 each total ticket amount \$_____

Cannot attend would like to make a donation in the amount of \$_____

Name _____

September 20, 2018 60% Target Report (Currently 51.23%)		
4	Cherie Korn	57.79%
11	Donna Wallace	55.50%
15	Bruce Carl	55.00%
6	Timothy Tierney	54.96%
12	Stephen Hamrick	53.04%
17	Willie Branch	51.72%
2	James Brennan	51.30%
16	Raymond Perez	51.22%
14	Gary Decker	50.89%
7	David Tucker	48.56%
8	Jerry Faught	48.54%
1	John Edens	48.41%
13	Peter Rabczewski	48.13%
5	Troy Horsley	45.72%
9	Teddy Pomerantz	45.10%
3	Stuart Scott	44.38%
Eastern	James Burk	54.13%
Central	Jay Allen	51.67%
Southern	James Tewes	50.56%
Northern	Frederick Hutto	49.43%
Western	Raymond Olsen	48.92%
Southwestern	Michael Raymond	48.31%
Post 400		52.13%
Post 208		54.19%



Call Now: 1-800-235-6943
Monday - Friday 8AM - 7PM (EST)

**DEPARTMENT TRUSTED.
LEGIONNAIRE APPROVED.**

We provide a wide range of benefits designed to protect you, your family and your health.



From Your American Legion Department

We are committed to serving the unique insurance needs of LIT members and their families.



Emergency and Accident

A crisis can strike at any moment. Learn how we can help you prepare for the unexpected and get assistance when you need it most.



Insurance Coverage

From health to auto, we offer valuable insurance products designed to fit the specific needs of Legionnaires.



No Cost Protection

Your valued status as a Legionnaire makes you eligible for LegionCare, up to \$5,000.00 in NO COST to you benefits.

Cancer Care Insurance Plan

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust products and services are there when you need them most. Listen to how others have benefited from services like our Cancer Care Insurance Plan.

- Cash benefits sent to Legionnaire members diagnosed with cancer
- We send you money – even if you don't have cancer

MEMBERSHIP GOAL
60% 10/3/2018

www.thelit.com

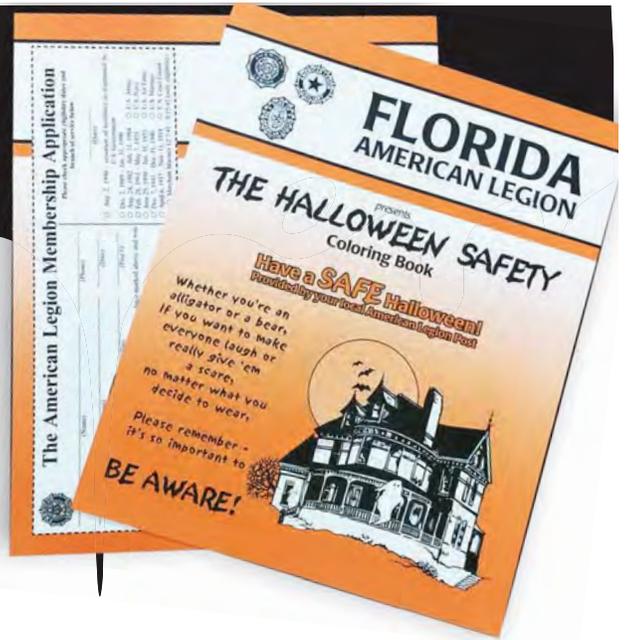
HALLOWEEN COLORING BOOKS

Once again we are offering the hugely successful Halloween Coloring Books to our posts.

The coloring book's new look has proven popular with kids and this year we are offering it again!

The book contains Halloween Season safety tips for parents and children to consider. Also included is a message describing many facets of The American Legion, what we stand for and what we do. A membership application has been included on the back cover next to the space reserved for your individual post number and address. **BE SURE TO PUT YOUR POST INFORMATION IN THE SPACE PROVIDED SO THE PARENTS ARE AWARE OF WHICH POST HAS THEIR CHILDREN'S SAFETY IN MIND.**

We strongly urge your post to contact schools and daycare centers for their participation. We are asking that your order be received at Department Headquarters by October 15th. We will ship your coloring book orders as we receive them but payment must be included. We sincerely hope your Auxiliary will also participate in this program.



Order online www.floridalegionstore.org

\$20
100 PACK

** plus shipping*

Post # _____

Attention To _____

Shipping Address (NO P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

PAYMENT Cash Check # _____ Credit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card Holder Name _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration MM/YY _____

Security Code _____

Signature _____

Date _____

SHIPPING FEES

(Qty: 1) - \$5.95 (Qty: 2) - \$8.95 (Qty: 3-5) - \$9.95 (Qty: 6-10) - \$15.95 (Qty: 11-15) - \$21.95 (Qty: 16-20) - \$24.95 (Qty: 21-25) - \$33.95 (Qty: 25+) - \$39.95

If you are tax exempt, please ensure we have a tax exempt form on file.

How many packs would you like?	_____
Subtotal \$	_____
Sales Tax (6.5%) \$	_____
Shipping \$	_____
Total \$	_____

Mail to: The American Legion, Dept of Florida; Attn: Emblem Sales; P.O. Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854-7859

ROCK CRUSHER CANYON PAVILION 275 S ROCK CRUSHER RD CRYSTAL RIVER

Vets Invade The Canyon



JANUARY 18th 2019

AMERICAN LEGION PROUDLY PRESENTS



SISTER HAZEL

9:30pm



Scooter Brown Band

7:30pm



PROJECT: VETRELIEF

A PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

They Fought for Us. We Fight for Them.



Letters From Home

6:45pm

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PROJECT VET RELIEF

Celebrating 100 years of service to our Veterans

CALL 352-322-0459 FOR INFORMATION & TICKET LOCATIONS

TICKETS WWW.VETSINVADETHECANYON.COM

ADVANCE TICKETS \$25 * \$30 AT THE GATE (IF AVAILABLE)

GATES OPEN AT 5:00 LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

RAIN OR SHINE CONCERT HELD IN THE COVERED PAVILION



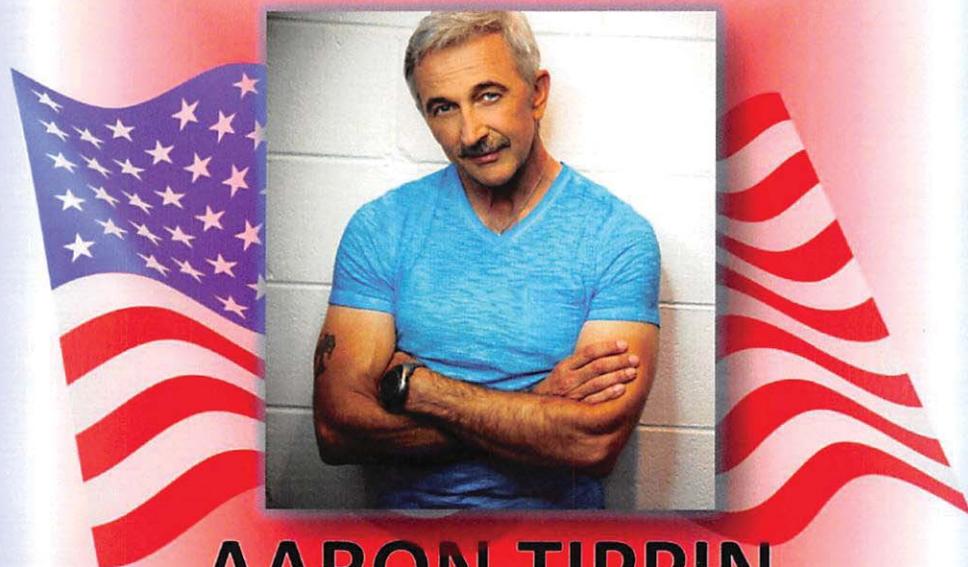
ROCK CRUSHER CANYON PAVILION 275 S ROCK CRUSHER RD CRYSTAL RIVER

Vets Invade The Canyon



JANUARY 19th 2019

AMERICAN LEGION PROUDLY PRESENTS



AARON TIPPIN

9:30pm



Buddy Brown
7:30pm



They Fought for Us. We Fight for Them.



Letters From Home
6:45pm

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PROJECT VET RELIEF

Celebrating 100 years of service to our Veterans

CALL 352-322-0459 FOR INFORMATION & TICKET LOCATIONS

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