



THE LEGION LINK

COMMUNICATION ★ DEDICATION ★ EDUCATION



JANUARY 2019

COMMANDER DIANNE BOLAND

VOL. 27 ISSUE 5

From Your Department Commander Dianne Boland

commander@floridalegion.org



Greetings, I hope everyone enjoyed their Holidays. Now is the time to roll up sleeves and get back to work. We have two big items for the beginning

of the year: Membership and our 100 Years Celebration. As I am writing, we just passed National's 75% goal date. Congratulations go out to District 4 (Cherie Korn), District 6 (Timothy Tierney), and District 12 (Chris Hamrick) for reaching this goal. We also had 113 Posts reach the goal. Great job to all of you!!! As a Department, we are at 72.3%. This tells me the rest of you are not far behind and our 100% goal is reachable. Let's all put forth a little more effort and "Just Do It."

Our 100 Years Celebration's official date is March 15, 2019, but who cares! We are asking all the Posts to put on your own celebration whenever the time is right for you. Let your local community know we have been around for 100 years and will be around for 100 more. Now is the time to start planning unless you have already had yours like Post 194, St.

Augustine. I recently visited the Post to see their Kids Safe Zone, an after-school program. The Post put out a printed program, endorsed by local officials, containing old and new pictures of the Post and their members as well as a brief history of the Post. One page was dedicated to their oldest member, Comrade George Rackard, soon to be 100 years young. Remember the Department is celebrating with Vets Invade the Canyon at Crystal River with all proceeds going to support Project VetRelief (PVR).

Last month I mentioned spouses of female Legionnaires. Well, National gave us the go ahead to plan a program that would allow the spouse of a female Legionnaire to join. We have a committee put together who are in the process of writing a resolution that will hopefully pass at our Convention, by-laws, applications, dues amount, logos, membership cards, etc. There are a lot of factors to discuss and plan. More info will follow.

During my travels in the last month I attended the 9th District Ball, went to Post 252 on Thanksgiving and helped

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CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

www.floridalegion.org
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with meals to feed those from Bay Pines, did visitations to Posts within the 5th and 16th Districts, attended the District 13 meeting, took part in a Luminary Service put on by Unit 79, and helped with a dinner at Post 323 for WW II and Korean War Veterans. I met a gentleman there, a 74-year member of the American Legion and quite proud of it.

I want to thank everyone for their hospitality, their donations to my charities, and their overall kindness and enthusiasm. I enjoyed myself immensely. Good food, good fun, and good people. Thank you to

all the Legionnaires, the Auxiliary and the Sons, and the Riders as well. While traveling, we found that the Northeast Florida Women Veterans Center had a problem and right away, District 5 solved it. Now a bunch of kids will get breakfast with Santa along with presents. This is just one example of the kindness and dedication of our Legion Family. Another shining example is a baby shower I attended put on by the 5th District for female veterans who are a part of Final Salute. I am so proud to be called your Department Commander.

Communication, Dedication, Education

a great event around the state and very well attended. A lot of young kids were involved which is always nice to see as they must carry the legacy forward and the time to teach them is now.

This month we have Vets Invade the Canyon, our 100th birthday celebration and I look forward to seeing a lot of you out there. Hopefully with the new year, you will get some more renewals within your Post from those who wait until Dec. 31st comes and goes. We need to get more mailers out from the Post to the members to let them know you care

have a lot to look forward to. Our 100 Year Celebration is around the corner. Boys State funds should have been sent in by now, the Oratorical contest should be planned, and everyone should be keyed up for the Vets Invade the Canyon Celebration. A lot of changes are coming with the two resolutions on the wartime era and the Spouses of Veterans program. Please spread the word.

As of December 6th, Zone II is hovering

JANUARY 2019	
1	New Year's Day
1	Headquarters Closed
1	Baseball Team Registration Opens
2	Membership Goal 85%
8	Boys State Delegate Fee
9-12	District 11-Commander's Visit ☆
12	District 3 Meeting
12	District 17 Meeting
15	Legion Link Articles Due
15	Order Shooting Sports Targets ★
15	Boys State Packets Mailed Out
18-19	Vets Invade the Canyon ☆
20	Post Level Oratorical Contest End
21	Marting Luther King Jr Day
21	Headquarters Closed
23-26	District 17-Commander's Visit ☆
27	4 Chaplains Ceremony
27	District 15 Oratorical Contest

☆ - 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.

about them. Let's start the new year off in a positive trend and get those members back.

Have a great year and we'll see you out there soon. Thanks for all you do and let's move forward.

around the 70% mark in membership. We need to keep the pressure on to continue increasing those numbers. Please keep up the good work, not only in membership, but with our programs as well. For instance, American Legion Baseball; Regional Championships will be held in Tampa, Florida. This is Florida's opportunity to shine in the Southeast U.S., so let's play ball.

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Message from the 1st Vice Commander

Rick Johnson, 1st Vice Commander

1stvice@legionmail.org



Happy New Year family. I hope Santa was good to you and you got the things you needed. I see a lot of Posts out there very involved within their communities, including the kids and the needy families with events that made their day and year. Giving and caring is what we are about. Wreaths Across America was

Message from the 2nd Vice Commander

Jerry Brandt, 2nd Vice Commander

2ndvice@legionmail.org



I hope everyone had a safe and happy New Year celebration and now we start the downward slide to the Convention. We, as American Legion Members and Family,

<< 2nd Vice Commander- from page 2

During the first half of the year, the Department Commander visited four of the five Zone II Districts, with the last visit planned for March. These have been great, interesting visits, where we see and hear what our members do. With our programs, members are putting effort into American Legion

Baseball, youth sports, and one Post adopted a basketball team. There's also the Posts' work on the Honor Guards, Wreaths Across America, repairing veterans' homes, and work with schools. One Post teamed up with the City Hall located across the street from them to wrap a police car, complete with the American Legion logo on it.

As stated previously, we are now taking applications for Legion College. This class is open to all members of the Family. Find the application at www.floridalegion.org/news-events/florida-legion-college/. Deadline for applications is January 8th, 2019.

As always, thank you for your service.

Message from the 3rd Vice Commander

Eunice Butts, 3rd Vice Commander

3rdvice@legionmail.org



I started December 2018 by attending the 4th District Meeting. It was a very constructive meeting attended by the Commander and fellow comrades. Thanks to everyone in the 5th District for

the hospitality, kindness, and generosity shown to our Department Commander on

her visitation. Commander Horsley, thank you for a well put together agenda and for being a professional timekeeper. Special thanks to Post 197 who had TV interviews done on Department Commander Boland and Third Vice Commander Butts. The gifts were well received.

Thank you to Posts 54, 401, 9, 137, 316, 194, 37, 129, 88, 250. I attended a Final Salute baby shower, toured a Northeast Florida veterans' center to see the organization's purpose, and participated in Fleet Reserve Association 290's Pearl Harbor Ceremony. On Sunday, I attended

the 5th District meeting. Thank you to the 1st District for showing Commander Boland around. I only wish I could have been there. Special thanks to 1st District Commander John Eden and the Riders.

As the new year starts, let us work hard on our membership and programs.

To each of you and your Post, I wish you a very successful year in membership and programs.

To each of you and your families, I wish you a very blessed and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Sons of The American Legion Saluting the Flag Guidelines

Dennis Boland, NEC

nec@legionmail.org



While traveling with our Department Commander, Dianne, a question arose about the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) saluting the American flag. So,

I wrote our National Judge Advocate, Kevin Bartlett, for a ruling. The following is his answer:

You requested a legal opinion of whether or not members of The Sons

of The American Legion (SAL) may, or should, salute the American Flag while wearing their SAL cover.

In the Squadron Handbook of the SAL on page 13 it is written: "A member of the Sons of The American Legion wearing the cap should present himself the same as he would if he were wearing a military uniform. If he is not wearing the SAL cap, the ordinary rules of etiquette for civilian dress should be observed. (The proper salute to the flag while wearing civilian clothes without an official cap is to place the right hand over the heart.)"

My opinion on the matter is that although the Squadron Handbook does not specifically state anything about

saluting the flag when wearing the SAL cover, it is clear when one reads that entire section of the Handbook that when a SAL member does wear their cap/cover as part of their SAL uniform it will be expected of the member to render a proper salute as requires by flag etiquette.

Additionally, in the Sons of The American Legion Youth Handbook on page 8 it is written: "A member of the Sons of The American Legion wearing a cap should render and respond to salutes and conduct himself in the same manner as he would if he were wearing a military uniform."

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

RallyWise App for Veterans Legislative Issues

Art Schwabe, NECA
neca@legionmail.org



Happy New Year!!! As we start the new year, an app called "RallyWise" has become operational. This app informs you of veterans' State Legislative issues being

discussed in Tallahassee. There is a special code to get into the site. Go to the App Store, find RallyWise, open the app and enter the code "fllegion_pF4bc" before filling out the settings information. Once done, you can see the House and Senate Representatives in your zip code who you can contact regarding issues listed on the app.

We will be updating information once

bills start being discussed. This will be a great tool to get to your representatives for action on bills either for or against.

If you have any issues that you feel should be brought up, please email me at NECA@legionmail.org



Mark Your Calendars

Mike Hutto, Northern Area
northernarea@legionmail.org



I hope that everyone had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We are on the downhill slide to Summer Convention. It is time now to double down

on Membership efforts. Our goal this month is 80%.

A lot of things are going on this month and in the beginning of February. Remember Vets Invade the Canyon in mid-January. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, time is running out. In February, the National Commander will visit the Northern Area. If you want to meet him, ask your Post Commander when he will be at your Post. For the

Riders, the Summit will be in Cocoa Beach in early February. If you haven't registered and made your motel reservations, please do it today. March 23rd is the Northern Area Ball. Tickets have been given to your District Commander.

I look forward to an exciting new year with my fellow Legionnaires helping veterans.

Happy Holidays

Michael Raymond, Southwestern Area
southwesternarea@legionmail.org



I'd like to start this month by wishing our entire Legion family a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. As you know, many local American Legion Posts will open their doors on Christmas Day. One reason for this is

that there are so many veterans out there who call the Legion home their home. If not for the Legion they probably wouldn't have anywhere else to go. If you are able, make it a point to find out who these people are and show them the love that our great organization stands for.

I just left the 8th District meeting and I have to say they had a great showing. Just about every Post showed up and even a couple of Past Dept Commanders. When I returned to Port Charlotte, I was pleasantly surprised by a gift of

12 children's bicycles donated to our Post by the local Salvation Army. They will be distributed by our Riders to the not-so-fortunate kids in our Area. On the membership front, the Southwestern Area seems to be picking up momentum. Looks like with a little extra effort and luck we could be a serious contender this year. Please be patient with the new automated system. We are all new to it and it will take some time to work out the bugs. Again, have a wonderful and safe Holiday season.

Sign up for TEXT ALERTS.  TEXT **FAL** TO **74121**

New Goals for the New Year

Bruce Thurber, Membership
membership@legionmail.org



Happy New Year! I want to wish you and yours a healthy and happy 2019. Now that the holidays are over, we have two major events coming up, Florida American Legion College and the Riders Summit. We also entered the 100th year and need to beTeam 100. National Commander Reistad said "Branding and awareness are important, and they are a part of our strategic membership plan." So, in the coming days I know I will see plenty of Team 100 challenges all over social media. I ask that all Florida Legion

Family members take on the challenge of an all time high at your Post. Our next goal is 80% by January 17th and 85 % by February 13th.

American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad calls on your help for a week of national engagement with veterans in your community, March 10th thru 16th, 2019. His announcement can be seen at <https://www.legion.org/commander/videos/PL048E5F43D9D11C0E/yciFHWtP2PQ> . It is also time to put together your Post Excellence Award information for your District Commander. The American Legion's Post Excellence Award has added new criteria. To qualify now, a Post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the

Consolidated Post Report (CPR), sharing of Post history, and community activity. Remember you can start your CPR on mylegion.org.

Over 110 Posts are now on the new system, processing their membership online. The program is working great, updating your records on the eighth day after you transmit vs four weeks or more by snail mail. When a Post transmits, it automatically stops renewal notices if it is prior to the cutoff date, prevents double payments immediately, and updates the members' records. If you have not signed up yet and need assistance, please call me or your District Commander for assistance.



Legion Rider Summit and Events

Jim Wineland, Legion Riders
legionriders@legionmail.org



I hope everyone had a great holiday season with their families. I know some are still struggling through hurricane issues in the Panhandle and our prayers go out to all.

Wow, it's here; 2019, our 100th year as a veteran's organization. Happy Birthday! If you ever get a chance to go to Legion College, please don't pass it up. The section on our history is a great class just by itself.

Before you know it, we will all be going to the Summit in Cocoa Beach. One of the classes covers our history and is well worth your time. As I'm sure you've seen, we scheduled all the classes

and our instructors are putting together their lesson plans. Once we get the lesson plans, we will put them on the website, so you can print the ones you are interested in going to before you arrive. Be sure to get your reservations in and ready to visit the local attractions after class.

One of the things we have tried to focus on is training for our future leaders. We have all the basic classes on our schedule to give each of you the opportunity to learn the ABCs of Post operation. We have Director's, Adjutant, Treasure's, Chaplain, and Sergeant at Arms classes which can crossover to positions in the Post leadership. Summit is open to all, not just the ALR.

I want to share an experience I had a few weekends ago. I met with Rich Anderson and his team from District 14, Post 154 in the Keys. We met in Tampa as they were meeting with the management of

Pinellas Park. That's right, they were invited from the Keys to Pinellas Park to put on one of their charity concerts that benefit several charities along with Project Vet Relief, Suicide Prevention. If you heard of the Coral Head Music Fest, that's their effort at work. They put on a two-day concert usually with ten or more bands.

Their next concert in Marathon is February 16-17, 2019, at the City Park Amphitheater. Their fall concert will be at England Bros Park, Pinellas Park, November 2-3, 2019. Make sure you put them both on your calendar and make your reservations. If you have some extra time and you're interested, give Rich a call at 305-942-9862. Also, if you would like to help them out with a donation, they have a very interesting way which everyone wins. Give him a call.

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<< *Legion Riders - from page 5*

Now, after the Summit we change focus and move on to the In-State Unity Ride. It will begin in Tampa on Sunday, April 7th, with a meet & greet. The ride will start Monday morning and end on Saturday, April 13th, around noon, with the Rally starting later in the day. We have all the Posts selected but wanted to include them in the final planning process. We have the route completed and started our check rides. We also picked locations for lunch & dinner that we will ask can be secured for a donation.

Our Tampa team is busy putting

together the Rally for when we return on Saturday. Lots of different approaches to the location are being entertained, no boundaries here.

Remember, starting February 15th all dollars collected for donation to the Round Robin event will count toward the trophy dash in April. How you collect donations is entirely up to your Post or District. As always, money collected will go to Project Vet Relief. It's for the "cause not the applause."

We will be consulting the Automobile Clubs of America (AAA) on the route and the hotels. They will also be able to

quote all the hotels at AAA rates, much lower than we could get! This is all at no cost and a benefit of being a member! One of the advantages of doing both Department activities in the same month is that it frees up the Riders to support the local events at their Posts and Districts which is a big part of our mission statement. This was also brought up in the survey to try to minimize Department activities because of the out of pocket costs and time involved.

Once again, thank you for what you do, and I am proud to be the Chairman of such a great group!

No Excuses for Not Donating Blood

Nancy Thomas, Blood Donor

blooddonor@legionmail.org



It was my honor to attend the Veterans Day Service and Blood Donor drive held at Post 72, Mulberry, on November 10th. Once the Veterans Day Service was completed,

there was a line going into the Big Red Bus to give blood. Great job Commander Rick O. (District 7's Blood Donor Chair) and your Post.

There are ten common excuses for not giving blood: I'm afraid of needles; my blood isn't the right type; you wouldn't want my blood; I don't have any blood

to spare; I am too old to donate; I don't donate unless it's an emergency; I can pay for any blood needed; and I don't have time to donate; other people must be giving enough blood; they throw away a lot of blood.

Most people are afraid of needles; however, you will have good people to draw your blood and there is really nothing to be afraid of. Your blood type is always needed no matter what it is. Your heart pumps four pints of blood and will pump more when you donate. A lot of older individuals still donate blood, so you can too! How do you know when there will be an emergency? If you and others don't donate there might not be enough blood for you to pay for when you need it yourself. It only takes a few

minutes to donate blood.

Those taking diabetic medicines and heart medications need to be aware that you might still be able to give blood. Ask your doctor if you can and if he/she says yes, have them write a note to take to the blood mobile.

Let's not hear the excuses. If you have a question whether you can give blood, talk to a Phlebotomy Technician and they will provide an answer.

Do not forget to have your Year End Narrative in to Department on time. The reporting period is from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019, along with your CPR and Addendum.



Quick Request of Support

Nancy Thomas, National Security

security@legionmail.org

It is my hope that you all had a fantastic

Christmas and New Year's.

All I ask of you is that you read the Blood Donor Chair, the JROTC/Shooting Chair, and the Law and Order Chair's Link

articles and discover what we are all up to so that you will continue supporting these American Legion programs.

Florida Legion College
January 31 - February 2, 2019

Tom Gora, Legion College
deptlegioncollege@legionmail.org



Department Commander Dianne Boland is a firm believer in training and The American Legion now has a strong initiative for Post level training. Training in this Department

is made available at the Post, District, and Department level. Training comes in many ways, whether that is reading a manual, watching a video, doing Internet searches, or going to a class or meeting. The opportunity to learn doesn't go away

when we graduate from high school or college or retire from active duty; learning is a lifelong experience. Our learning glass should always be half-full, we should always thirst for more knowledge, and in the Department of Florida we do offer "refills" of that learning glass all the time! Seek and you shall receive!

The Florida American Legion College will be in session January 31-February 2, 2019. Writing this article in mid-December 2018 before applications close out, I don't know how many participants will attend or what unique American Legion and life experiences they bring to class. However, before we even go to class, I can promise you won't be the same person when you leave. What, with the valuable information you receive, the opportunity to meet and

share experiences, and work as a team with comrades from around the state, the ideas generated during discussions, "picking" the minds of a Past National Commander, our National Executive Committeeman, our current Department Commander, and other experienced presenters, how can you not learn something?

Don't despair thinking you may have missed this opportunity to attend FALC for another year. Call Jennifer Scowden, Events Coordinator, at Department HQ; we may still have space available for you to attend if you apply in early January 2019! Remember, if you attend FALC, you won't be the same member when you leave, you will leave with a credential nobody can take from you because you earned it. Become a Florida American Legion College Graduate!

Volunteering at National and Local Cemeteries

Jack Stanley, FL National Cemetery
floridanationalcemetery@legionmail.org



As I travel around the state visiting our National Cemeteries, I'm in awe of the wonderful job the staff does in keeping these national treasures so beautiful. I am also

aware that they could not do what they do without the support of the many volunteers that give their time every day. I know that members of Legion Posts in the areas near these cemeteries are among

the volunteers, working at the Welcome Center, as Docents, Honor Guard, and as members of the support committees. I would like to compile a list of all the volunteer hours each Post puts in, so we can show the public another area where the Legion stands tall. I would appreciate it if you could send me your support hours whether by email c/o Department, by mail, or by phone if you choose. I believe the members and the Legion deserve credit for these volunteer hours.

Flags for Fallen Vets will be placing flags for Memorial Day at Florida National, Bushnell, Cape Canaveral National,

South Florida National, and Sarasota National Cemeteries. Placing these flags is a great experience as you who have done so already know. The Legion has been a big supporter of this event.

Another project that can be undertaken by our Posts is the upkeep of veterans' graves in local cemeteries that have been neglected when these cemeteries shun their responsibilities. I see so many in this condition and get phone calls letting me know.

I wish all of you good health, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF SERVICE

Post Development More Than Just Membership

Bob Brewster, Post Development

postdevelopment@legionmail.org



It is past time to get our Posts up to speed. We should all be working our programs very hard. I have already contacted a few District Commanders and Vice Commanders and we will set up some Post/District work days.

There are Posts that truly need help, but I have not heard from their Districts. We must get serious about our programs. It means getting our Posts to do all that they can do to be successful. We must also get serious about running our Posts like real American Legion Posts should be run. Too many Posts are being run for the convenience of their officers. By that, I mean people holding a title but not doing any of the required work. I feel Post Redevelopment means more than just membership; it means aiming our Posts in the right direction. I am in this

position to help you, not to just tell you how to do it. If you have any kind of problem at your Post, do not hesitate to call me. We are in this as a team. I have a personal character flaw – I don't believe in failure. Failure is caused by not trying.

So again, repeated for emphasis, if you want my help contact me. My contact information is: 904-272-1619 and mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com.

Last, I want to wish you all a very Happy and Successful New Year!

Start Work on Law & Order Award Applications

Taz Gehling, Law & Order

laworder@legionmail.org



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and this article finds you well. As we move forward it is time to work on those applications for the three (3) awards for Law & Order.

You should be contacting your agencies and private companies now so that the completed packets can be turned in to Department before April.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 239-785-8282 or LawOrder@legionmail.org.

Preamble

Clarence Hill, Resolutions

resolutions@legionmail.org



This month's topic concerns legal issues. As a resolution is a device by which a corporation formally grants authority to act in its name or to function, it needs to be absolutely clear and precise in the authority that is granted.

A resolution should not use the words "partner" or "partnership." All those in a "partnership," whether individuals or entities, are liable for each other. The American Legion has no desire to become liable with anyone or any

organization which might be associated in a common interest or program. Use the word "relationship" instead.

The facts upon which a resolution is based should be very thoroughly researched and verified.

A resolution should **NOT** defame or cast aspersions. This can lead to significant liability for defamation of character or libel and slander. It is always appropriate to add documentation. This is especially true if the facts or the issue might be unfamiliar to commission members, a resolution subcommittee of the NEC or the members of the NEC. This becomes even more appropriate at a National Convention.

Help Veterans Get Their Fair Share of Benefits

We are a lifeline for thousands of Veterans who aren't getting benefits.

Join us to fight for them! www.floridalegion.org/flveterans

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YEARS OF SERVICE



EVENT SPOTLIGHT: *Vets Invade the Canyon*

Come and celebrate the American Legion's 100th Birthday at the Vets Invade the Canyon Concert on Friday and Saturday, January 18th-19th at the Rock Crusher Canyon. This two-day birthday celebration is being hosted by American Legion Post 155 in Crystal River and have designated event proceeds to benefit PROJECT: VetRelief.



FRIDAY NIGHT (1/18/19) CONCERT features **Sister Hazel**, Scooter Brown Band and Letters from Home

SATURDAY NIGHT (1/19/19) CONCERT features **Aaron Tippin**, Buddy Brown and Letters From Home

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS:

Visit www.vetsinvadethecanyon.com or contact Jennifer Cooper at the Department Headquarters Office before January 15th.

DID YOU KNOW? *Program Facts*

- ▶ **97% of every dollar** donated to the program goes directly to our veterans and their families. The additional 3% is used for organizational compliance and accounting/banking fees.
- ▶ The PVR **office was closed** from December 22nd and reopened on January 2nd. Be patient as we work through calls received during that time.
- ▶ Legion Riders have already raised over \$10,000 for our NEW Suicide Prevention Initiative and have future events planned to raise even more.
- ▶ We are collecting resources and contact names of Veteran Service Organizations our VetRelief Advocates work with to create a **state-wide resource tool**. If you have any contact you'd like to share, please visit to enter the information: <https://www.projectvetrelief.org/vso-resource-entries/>
- ▶ The Legion's 5th District is encouraging Post 400 members to transfers into a local post. As an incentive, the 5th District will donate \$5 of their dues to PVR.
- ▶ Jim Wineland, Florida Legion Riders current Department Chairman, joined the Board of Directors in November during the Fall Conference meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: *Upcoming Events*

All of PROJECT: VetRelief's financial support comes from the generosity of individuals and corporations who believe in what we do. Join us at one of our next events, or hold your own fundraiser.

If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Cooper at 407-295-2631 or jcooper@floridalegion.org.

- **Vets Invade Canyon** - Jan 18-19, 2019
Crystal River, FL
- **Coral Head Music Fest** - Feb 16-17, 2019
Marathon, FL
- **Legion Riders In-State Unity Ride / Concert** - Apr 2019
Tampa or Daytona, FL
- **6th Annual Golf Tournament** - Sept 2019
Bella Collina, FL
- **Coral Head Music Fest** - Nov 2019
Pinellas Park, FL

MISSION MOMENT: *Community Impact*

"[After receiving my upper plate] I really enjoyed my Thanksgiving dinner for the first time in over four years! It took courage on my part to ask for help, I'm used to helping veterans at the Post to my best ability."

- 85 yr old Army Veteran



SUPPORT CASES
JULY - NOV 2018 STATS

families helped

48

amount distributed

\$55,791.02

*Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY

Training for Scouting Adult Volunteers

Chuck Weber, Scouting

scouting@legionmail.org



This is the time of year when all Scout units are preparing to recharter for another year. With that comes the likely addition of new adult leaders. BSA requires that all new adults

must complete the new Youth Protection Training Course before their registration applications will be accepted. Some BSA councils also require that position-specific leader training be completed beforehand. Even if not Council required, it is a good idea for Posts to require that all of its leaders are fully trained before their approval to register. This helps ensure that the individuals involved are fully committed to, and

prepared for, the position they are about to enter.

NOTE – The Post’s Charter Organization Representative is also required to complete these training courses.

This past year has seen many changes in leader training which correspond to changes in the BSA’s various programs. Position-specific training courses for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (Scouts BSA) are being updated and will be available January 2, 2019. **Any progress on current training materials will not carry over to the new learning plan, so work to complete any in-progress training before December 31, 2018.** Otherwise, new training under the new plans must be undertaken on January 2nd.

All adult leader training can be found at <https://my.scouting.org>. New adult

leaders will need to establish an account before logging in. YPT training certificates will be emailed to the address provided at account registration. Leaders should remember to print out their completion certificates for position-specific courses as soon as they are completed.

Remember – every Scout deserves a well-trained leader.

On another note, there have been many questions about several BSA policies as they relate to American Legion Scouters and Units. Please go to our Scouting page at <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/scouting/resources/> for a lot of new BSA policy information, including uniform issues, bylaws, merit badges, and issues dealing with the Girl Scouts and our new Scouting BSA program.

Shooting Sports Meet Results

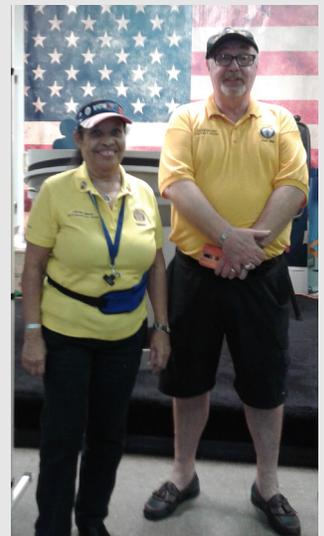
Loretta Young, ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports

jrotc@legionmail.org

The first Post Air Rifle Turkey Shoot held at Old Glory Post 183, Fern Park was a great success. It was held inside the Main Hall and we had eight matches with eight marksmen shooting three shots per target. The closest shot to the bullseye on each round won a turkey prize donated to the Post. The prize for the final round was cash with the winner taking the money. There were Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Riders, and youth taking part in the Meet. Everyone had a great time and there were some very good shooters. The Department Shooting Sports supported the event and I attended with our NECA, Art Schwabe. I want to thank

Post 183 Cmdr. Dennis Larson who did an outstanding job of organizing, along with his members and helpers. Everyone pitching in brought the event together. The idea was launched at the Department Conference and interest from several Legionnaires to have this event in the various areas of our state in order to increase awareness of our Shooting Sports Program and bring more focus on gun safety and education. We used the Department’s 177 Air Rifle and portable backdrops along with targets and plenty of pellets. The Department Jr. Shooting Sports Program generously donated the money raised from the event to further support our youth. I hope this will be the first of many Turkey Shoots in the Department of Florida. Anyone interested, please get in touch with me with your questions.

The Florida State Raider Challenge Championship Meet was held in Lake Wales on Dec. 01 at Camp Flaming Arrow Boys Scout Camp and hosted by the JROTC Sixth Brigade. Over 70 teams from across the state competed in the weekend event. The team categories were all-male teams, male/female mixed teams and all-



continued on page 11>>

<< ROTC/JROTC Shooting Sports
- from page 10

female teams. Each team competed in a Team Run (3.1 miles), Tire Flip, Litter Carry (1 mile), Fitness Test, and Rope Bridge. West Broward AJROTC Male Raider Team took First Place. It

was the first time a Broward County school finished first in the state for this event. Another event held at state level as the Marksmanship Meet in Cape Coral during the spring, sponsored by the American Legion and hosted by the 13th District and the Drill Meet. These events

showcase our Cadets at their best. They are open to the public and I hope that the Legion Posts in the area attend and show their support. Please let me know in advance of any event in your area and thanks to all who support our youth programs.

Consistant Communication is Key

Deb Wheeler, Social Media

socialmedia@legionmail.org



Now is the time to make our New Year's Eve resolutions come to life!

1. Improve our District communication skills. If your District does not have a social media

presence it is time to get one. Update your page with current events, Post

happenings, plenty of pictures and plenty of content. Look to some of the Districts' existing Facebook pages like District 1, 2 and 16 as examples. Make sure District Meetings are on the Department website calendar.

2. Commander Boland's focus for 2018 and 2019 is communication. This 2019, we have the knowledge and resources to ensure improvement to our communications. Share events from the Posts to the District. The extra info will garner more attendance, membership, and visibility within the community.

3. Lastly, help each other. If you are aware of a Post within your District that needs help with Facebook, webpages do offer help. Again, if a Post has a great Facebook presence lend a helping hand to nearby Posts to offer any assistance possible. We are one, big Legion family, we can bring new life to Posts and put more butts in the seats. We can't grow if we don't try!

Email, text or call me I am here to help!

VA Welcome Kit

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements

veteransbenefits@legionmail.org



As a local Veteran Service Officer, I get asked all the time "what am I entitled to? How can I get what I'm entitled to?" I found this VA Welcome Kit that answers those questions. Whether you're just getting out of the service or you've been a

civilian for years now, this VA Welcome Kit can help guide you to the benefits and services that you've earned during your time in the military.

Based on where you are in life now, your VA benefits and services can vary. This Welcome Kit can support you in many ways and covers many areas where the VA can assist you. For example: health care, finances, housing, employment, education, and memorialization. It breaks down in details and graphs all the VA can do and the steps they take. Topics include: understanding your eligibility,

understanding your disability rating, finding out where VA fits into your life, getting out of the military, starting up in the civilian life, taking care of yourself, how to build your career, putting down roots, retiring, and aging.

I highly recommend using the VA Welcoming Kit; it is 22 pages long, but it will help you. Here is the link: www.va.gov/welcome-kit/. When you pull up the main page, you'll see two different links. The only difference on the two is one is the kit in black and white and the other is in color.



Youth Law Cadet Program Still in the Works

Bob Brewster, Youth Law Cadet
youthlawcadet@legionmail.org



Our Youth Law Cadet Program brochures are available at Department so contact them to have some sent out to your Post. There are no changes in our dates for 2019; July 7 - 12, 2019.

I was promised a firm commitment by the Academy in the very near future.

The hurricane didn't do much damage to the Academy's property. The problem is that the Academy's personnel are doing double duty in the storm area, and you may not know it, but there is a shortage of about 200 patrol officers throughout the state of Florida.

Beginning this year, one change in the program is that American Legion personnel will teach about The American Legion and their programs to fill in some of the dead time between classes.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 904-272-1619.



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



"If they are remembered, they are not gone truly, they simply change duty assignments and are amongst the best."

POST EVERLASTING



Raymond "Ray" M. Weaver
Past Department Commander

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past Department Commander, Raymond "Ray" M. Weaver, of Waynesville, NC on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at the age of 87. Ray is survived by his wife, Joyce, and by his son, Joel Weaver, and daughter, Nancy Del Rosal.

Ray is a U.S. Air Force Korean war veteran and a member of Post 8, with 38 years of membership. He served many roles during his impressive career in The American Legion. Ray was former Department Oratorical Chairman (1985-99); 15th District Commander (1992-93); Department Vice Commander Central Area (1994-95); and Department Commander (1996-97).

Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers in time of grief. If you would like to send condolences you may do so through his son, Joel Weaver, at 122 Margaret Lane, Waynesville, NC 28785

December 20, 2018
80% Target Report (Currently 74.77%)

6	Timothy Tierney	80.70%
4	Cherie Korn	78.22%
12	Stephen Hamrick	77.99%
15	Bruce Carl	76.74%
11	Paul Bosco	76.29%
16	Raymond Perez	76.14%
8	Jerry Faught	75.05%
13	Brian Taz Gehling	75.03%
17	Willie Branch	73.90%
2	James Brennan	72.65%
14	Gary Decker	72.69%
7	David Tucker	71.99%
5	Troy Horsley	69.79%
1	John Edens	69.71%
9	Teddy Pomerantz	68.65%
3	Stuart Scot	63.45%
Eastern	James Burk	79.54%
Central	Jay Allen	75.55%
Southwestern	Michael Raymond	75.04%
Southern	James Tewes	72.51%
Northern	Frederick Hutto	71.80%
Western	Rayomond Olsen	70.23%
Post 400		72.65%
Post 208		74.06%



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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 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
85% 1/2/2019

www.thelit.com

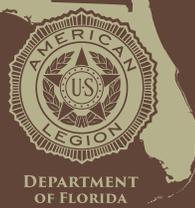
**DO YOU
HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES?**

**BECOME A
DEPARTMENT
CHAIRMAN!**

2019

**MAKE
AN
IMPACT**

2020



YEARS IN LEGION

DISTRICT

POST

AREA

NAME

POSITION INTERESTED IN

EXPLAIN YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

LEGION SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

ALEI

Florida Legion College

National Legion College

Sgt-at-Arms

Chaplain

National LEAD Classes

POSITIONS HELD	YEARS AT POST LEVEL	YEARS AT DISTRICT LEVEL	YEARS AT AREA LEVEL	YEARS AT DEPT LEVEL
Commander				
Vice Commander				
Adjutant				
Sgt-at-Arms				
Historian				
Chaplain				
Membership				
Americanism				
Baseball				
Blood Donor				
Boy Scouts				

POSITIONS HELD	YEARS AT POST LEVEL	YEARS AT DISTRICT LEVEL	YEARS AT AREA LEVEL	YEARS AT DEPT LEVEL
Boys State				
Children & Youth				
JROTC				
Shooting Sports				
Law & Order				
Oratorical				
POW/MIA				
School Medals				
Women Veterans Advocate				
Youth Law Cadet				
Other				

PLEASE RETURN TO: The American Legion, Dept of Florida, Attention: Rick Johnson, P.O. Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854

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



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



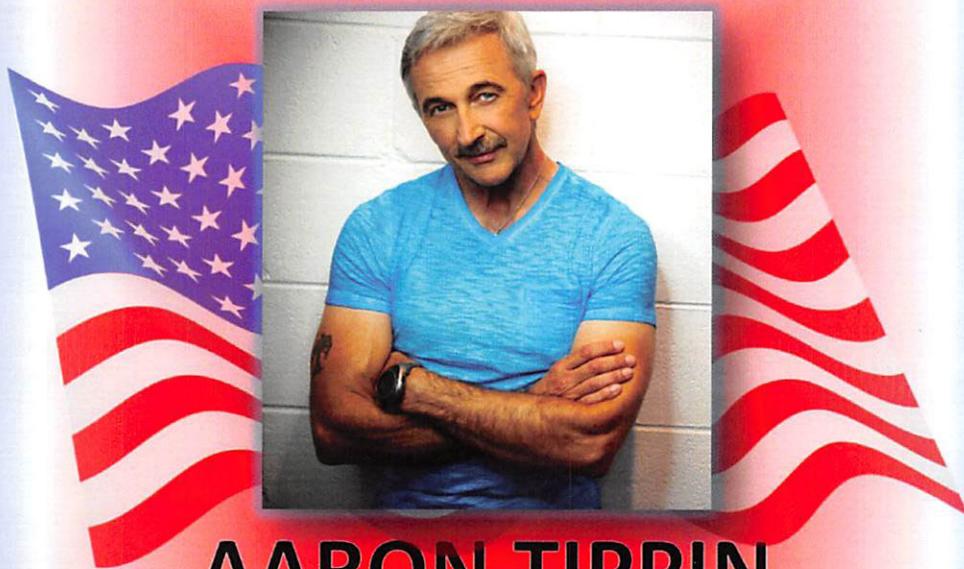
ROCK CRUSHER CANYON PAVILION 275 S ROCK CRUSHER RD CRYSTAL RIVER

Vets Invade The Canyon



JANUARY 19th 2019

AMERICAN LEGION PROUDLY PRESENTS



AARON TIPPIN

9:30pm



Buddy Brown
7:30pm



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

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