



THE LEGION LINK

COMMUNICATION ★ DEDICATION ★ EDUCATION



JUNE 2019

COMMANDER DIANNE BOLAND

VOL. 27 ISSUE 11

From Your Department Commander Dianne Boland

commander@floridalegion.org



Greetings.

It's June already. That means my year is ending, however, our work is not finished yet. Membership

is a continuing process, so we still have time to contact members who have not renewed and find out why. By doing Buddy Check, we can find out if they have an issue and where we can help. Our 105% membership goal is June 5th. Congratulations to all who reached it. Our National Commander, Brett Reistad, is awarding a Team 100 Legion Family Ribbon to all Post families that achieve 100% membership by May 30, 2019. That means all members of the Legion Family, at your Post, must to be at 100% to qualify. Did you apply?

June also means you should be finished with your paperwork for the Post. Did you fill out your Consolidated Post Report (CPR)? Your Addendum? Did you turn anyone in for an award? Were your History Books turned in for an award (deadline is June 4)? Our work is very important. I know you are doing all you can in support of our four pillars. I want to thank you for your support, but

our problem is lack of communication; not letting our Post, our community, our National office know what we do. You've done it, now report it.

Last month I was honored to speak at a couple Memorial Day services. One thing that stuck with me as I was doing research was a very simple explanation for the differences of our many veteran's celebrations. Why doesn't everyone know this?

- Armed Forces Day – Honors those serving.
- Memorial Day – Remembers those who died while serving.
- Veterans Day – Honors all who have served.

Last month I also attended the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, then I started attending the various District Constitutional Conferences. I will attend as many as possible but unfortunately, some will be missed due to time and travel restraints. I wanted to personally thank everyone for all the hospitality, support, donations and work you have done with me or for me this year. I can not say "Thank You" enough.

During the year, I have been speaking *continued on page 2 >>*

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on the free training module called “Basic Training” found at www.legion.org/alei. ALEI stands for American Legion Education Institute. The expanded ALEI will soon offer online training, YouTube videos, LEAD training videos, lesson plans for Department instructors, and assistance for Department Legion Colleges.

National is now developing “District Training In A Box.” Phase One has a projected completion date of 2019 Fall NEC Meetings. This will cover

Membership Development, Retention, Post Adjutant, MyLegion.org, Membership Recruitment, Post Finance Officer, Leader Development, Post Commander and Post Service Officer. There is a Phase Two and a Phase Three planned for the future with projected completion dates of 2020 Spring NEC Meetings and 2020 Fall NEC Meetings. It is important that everyone receives the best training available. For more information, be sure and sign up for the American Legion Training Newsletter found at www.legion.org.

Start Planning for a Successful Year

Jerry Brandt, 2nd Vice Commander
2ndvice@legionmail.org



Comrades, The end of the Legion Year is here. We will have our annual Convention at the end of June and a new staff will take over in our Posts, Districts, Areas and Department. I would like to thank everyone involved with this successful year.

Zone 2, which consist of the following:

- District 7, District Commander David Tucker
- District 15, District Commander Bruce Carl
- District 16, District Commander Raymond Perez
- Area Commander Jay Allen
- District 8, District Commander Jerry Faught
- District 13, District Commander Brian “Taz” Gehling
- Area Commander Michael Raymond

Zone 2 needs only 1,264 members to complete our goal of 36,315 members, as of the May 9th membership report. All I can say is, thank you.

However, many of you will still be in

authority next year - NOW is time to start putting your plan of action into action for the next year. What can we do to improve your Post, District, and Area for the incoming year? This is what you need to think about. Is it by training or mentoring someone new? Is it more involvement with the local community? Is it a fund raiser needed to improve the Post? Those are the questions each and every Post needs to answer.

Speaking of mentoring, if you are stepping down, please, please help the one who is taking your place. They may be coming in with new ideals and new goals, but you have been there before. You have already experienced the headaches. You can assist them. Please stand up and be a great Legionnaire and help.

Also, remember the Department Convention comes up at the end of this month. A lot of great training is available, especially Thursday and Friday afternoon. Please take advantage of this training; the better you are informed, the more effective you will be as a Legionnaire.

I will see you at the Convention. Again thank you for what you do for the community, veterans and The American Legion. Please keep up the good work.

JUNE 2019	
1	Baseball Team Rosters Due
1	Youth Law Cadet Acad. Fee Due
1	District 14 DCC
4	History Books Due
5	Membership Goal - 105%
6	D-Day
8	District 4 DCC
8	District 16 DCC
8	District 3 DCC
8	District 12 DCC
9	District 11 DCC
14	Army Birthday
14	Flag Day
15	District 9 DCC
15	District 1 DCC
16-22	Florida Boys State 76th Session
16	Father's Day
20	American Eagle Day
21	First Day of Summer
21-30	Warrior Games
23	Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
25	Beginning of Korean War 1950
27	PTSD Awareness Day
27-30	2019 Department Convention

★ - 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.

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Never Give Up, Keep Pressing On
Eunice Butts, 3rd Vice Commander
 3rdvice@legionmail.org



Thanks to Zone 3 for a very educational and rewarding year. We learned from each other. Remember, "Never give up, keep pressing on" for the betterment of your Post and service

to the veterans, the military and your community.

This is the last article of the year. You have been and continue to be an AWESOME zone. I hope to see you at some of the DCCs and Convention. Hopefully, I will be elected 2nd Vice Commander for 2019-2020.

I will always cherish the love and support that you have shown toward me. My prayers are for your continued success in membership, the programs and the goals for The American Legion.

National and Regional Law Enforcement and Firefighters of the Year
Dennis Boland, NEC
 nec@legionmail.org



Prior to the Washington Conference, the Chairman of the Law and Order and Homeland Security Committee appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations received from the Departments during 2018 for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year award programs.

The Subcommittee met Monday, February 25, in the International Ballroom East in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., to select the 5 regional Firefighters of the Year Winners and the 5 regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Winners. There were 13 law enforcement officer nominees and 15 firefighter nominees submitted.

The Selection for the Regional Firefighters of Year Award winning Departments are:

New England
 Jason D. Trumbauer
 Department of Pennsylvania

Central
 Jan Radar
 Department of West Virginia

Southern
 Jeffery Cash
 Department of North Carolina

Midwestern
 Matthew D. Gibbons
 Department of Nebraska

Western
 Andrew Lowe
 Department of Colorado

The selection for the Regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award winning Departments are:

New England
 Matthew R. Neidinger
 Department of Pennsylvania

Central
 Christopher Chiaravalloti
 Department of Maryland

Southern
 Stephen G. Lanier
 Department of North Carolina

Midwestern
 Bradley D. Wangler
 Department of Nebraska

Western
 Jane Anderson
 Department of Colorado

The subcommittee then reviewed the regional winners to select one National Firefighter of the Year and one National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
 Jan Radar
 Department of West Virginia

NATIONAL LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR
 Officer Jane Anderson
 Department of Colorado

The National winners will receive their awards on stage from the National Commander during National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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A Year Well Spent

Jim Burk, Eastern Area
easternarea@legionmail.org



Who knew a year could go by so fast? Comrades passing away, hurricanes, membership drives, ruck marches, and so many good deeds done both statewide and locally. Race to the Top won nationally by District 12 with over 100% membership, 6th District right on their heels. Area membership over 100%.

I am proud of all the hard work our Posts did to achieve this. I was fortunate enough to report directly to Rick Johnson who is going to be a great State Commander next year. I ask you to support the incoming Area Commander Tim Tierney like you did me.

Just the Beginning

Michael Raymond, Southwestern Area
swarea@legionmail.org



I cannot believe how fast this year has gone. I've lost some old friends and gained quite a few new ones.

Elections are coming up in a matter of weeks and with any luck It will be a good outcome for me. We've accomplished many of the goals we set this year but have also come up short on some. All that means is we will have to work just a little harder next year. Membership goals, as we all know, have been harder to reach for some of us this year. That doesn't mean we're not trying. It means we must try new things. And we also must try to have some fun

doing it!

Our new leadership next year will have some new and exciting ideas to try out. It's very important that we try to put a lot of effort into the local Posts. Training is very important when it comes to the proper order of meetings and ceremonies, and starting at Post level can surely make a difference. Mentoring your new officers into their duties will make a big difference in how professional a Post looks to your new members. Look to your past officers to help with the training.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you for allowing me to be your Southwestern Area Commander this year. I sincerely hope I exceeded your expectations and I plan on using this valuable experience in the coming years.

Thank You for Your Support

Mike Hutto, Northern Area
northernarea@legionmail.org



Thank you to all of you for the tremendous support I have received over the past year. I have met some of the finest people and visited the FINEST American

Legion Posts in the entire world!

Congratulations to all of the new officers. Thank you for what you do. I hope to meet you all at the Convention in Orlando.

If you have not submitted your CPR and Addendum, please do so. Also, please submit your officer change report (if required). This must be done prior to Convention.

Again, THANK YOU.

Passing the Torch

James Brennan, 2nd District Commander
2nddistrict@legionmail.org



It is with a heavy heart that I report we lost another Brother, Legionnaire Wes Johnson of Post 272. He was laid to rest in April with Military Honors provided by Post 272

and Post 172. He was our District 2 Finance Officer for many years. Please keep his family in your prayers. God Bless America.

Our DCC was held May 18, 2019, at 9 am CST at Post 100 in Marianna, Fl. All Department candidates were given three minutes to speak and may be excused prior to our District Elections.

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A Fabulous End to the Year

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



Where has the year gone? I want to thank Commander Dianne Boland for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Children and Youth Chairman.

This year has truly been a Legion Family program. I could not have had the success we experienced without our SAL and Auxiliary Children and Youth Chairmen, Tom Soeder and Jane Hardacre. Thank you for your support!

Our annual C&Y golf tournament was a huge success! We had over 100 golfers and numerous sponsors this year and cleared over \$9K for our C&Y programs. Thank you Post 347 for hosting the tournament and providing a delicious Italian dinner afterwards. What a fabulously successful Children and Youth Month!

We still have Children and Youth

pins and patches left for sale. They will be available for purchase in the Department Emblem Sales during our upcoming Department Convention.

I look forward to presenting the "Teacher of the Year Award" at the convention in June. I also want to highlight any Children and Youth activities you have conducted this year. Send any pictures to me at Vickie.Vanburen@yahoo.com.

Again, thank you for this great opportunity to serve the American Legion. I wish for a successful year to the next Children and Youth Chairman. Continue to "Help Us Give Smiles."



Online Outreach Keeps Our Legacy Alive

Deb Wheeler, Social Media
socialmedia@legionmail.org



I have reviewed a lot of District and Post Facebook pages and am pleased with the progress this year. The great ones are still doing awesome and the others are

improving!

We all have to improve on creating a positive outlook in our communities in order to increase awareness in our

areas, promote our programs, and encourage our younger veterans to become members to keep our legacy alive! Without a strong vision of how to recruit, retain, and revitalize, our future is not certain! Instill through social media that we are not a lounge for the old guys but an establishment that functions on our Four Pillars. We have to help ourselves because if we don't, we fail.

It has been a great pleasure to serve in the role.

Keep the Effort Going

Nancy Thomas, Blood Donor
blooddonor@legionmail.org



Thank you, Commander Boland, for appointing me as your Blood Donor Chair for this year. It has been an honor to serve in this position. It was a learning experience that I won't soon forget.

For those who have strongly supported the Blood Donor Program, thank you for what you have done through this past year - let's keep that effort going. All we can ask for 2019-2020 is for members to get behind this program and hold drives to help support the need for blood.

See you at our Department Convention!

Continue Backing the Security Commission

Nancy Thomas, Security
security@legionmail.org

Thank you, Commander Boland, for appointing me as your Security Commission Chair for this year. It has been a learning experience and I have been honored to be in this position.

As the year ends and another begins, please back the Security Commission and all the programs it supports. At Department level we support the Blood Donor Program, JROTC/Shooting Sports, and Law and Order. Let's continue our support for those programs.

At National level those individuals support so much more and are our representatives and voices at Washington DC. Let's support those who are on the Security Commission and all that they do for the security of our Nation.

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Benefits of Online Transmittal

Bruce Thurber, Membership
membership@legionmail.org



It has been an honor serving the Department of Florida as Membership Chairman. This year we implemented the new processing system with 140 of our Posts

now using it. A few key benefits to using the online transmittal processing feature include:

- Membership counts are added to the National Target Date membership report.
- Membership counts are immediately added to the MyLegion Post/District Membership reports and available for Departments to add to their membership reports.
- Members are immediately suppressed from any renewal notices, such as direct mail and email.
- Once Post officers submit payment

it prevents members from renewing online or duplicating payments.

- Posts save money by not having to pay shipping costs for a paper transmittal to department.

The Department was also honored in having a Race to The Top Winner in Category V: 12th District Commander Chris Hamrick.

With the help and guidance of 1st Vice Commander Rick Johnson at the Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park (the Traveling Wall), the American Legion Department of Florida brand was put out to 87,000 people. This event may bring many folks by your Post for more information. I hope it helps in your upcoming recruiting year.

Lastly, as I worked this year, I needed help and I would like to especially thank Irene, JoAnn, Rachel, Elizabeth, both Jennifers, Carrie, Bekki and Bobbi. Mike and Bruce also helped occasionally. Without their help I would not have been able to do the job.

guidance, and a very special “THANK YOU” to Ms. Elizabeth Douglas for all she has done over the past year to help ensure that we had a successful program. It wouldn’t have happened without all her hard work.

We did manage to accomplish adding a new award, EMT/Paramedic of the Year, to this program. At the end of the month we will be recognizing the three (3) winners at convention for the first time.

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

Inaugural Award to be Presented at Convention

Brian Taz Gehling, Law & Order
laworder@legionmail.org



As this is my last article for the 2018-2019 year, I want to say that I have enjoyed serving as your Law & Order Chairman. Commander Boland, thank you for allowing

me to serve as the Department Chair. I have enjoyed it. I hope I can do it again in the future.

Thank you all for your support and

The Necessity of Training

Bob Brewster, Post Development
mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com



There are many Posts throughout Florida who need help with their membership. The biggest problem at these Posts is that leadership doesn’t really care.

A lot of the leadership is definitely not trained to do the jobs that they have taken on. Sad to say, some of them really do not care.

I have worked with several Posts where the leadership hasn’t got a clue where to get help. Sad to say, most of these Posts have members who care only about the bar. If Florida is going to start growing membership, we must first train the Area Commanders, District Commanders, and District Vice Commanders how to recruit members for these Posts.

It is amazing how some of the middle size and small Posts are begging their leaders for help. I personally believe that if we don’t really train the leaders in the Area and District and get them to train the Post leaders we will continue to lose membership overall.

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Meets & Awards to Cap the Year
Loretta Young,
ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports

jrotc@legionmail.org

The school semester is now at the end and Award Ceremonies, Military Balls and all County and State Competitions are completed. I attended the final event in Broward County at the Pass and Review and Cadet of the Year Awards held at Pompano Beach H.S. All 29 Units and the Entrepreneur Leadership Academy were in attendance. The cadets practiced during the afternoon and had lunch served by the 9th District Chairman and his team prior to the evening program. It was very well attended by parents, educators, veterans and the community. The cadets also received scholarship awards and plaques for their outstanding performance before the review boards held earlier in the month.

We will have the announcement for our Department Cadet of the Year at



First and Second Place Trophy for the Army State Marksmanship Meet at Island Coast HS



Post 3 donation of trailer to Summerlin Academy (Instructors and Team Members)

the Convention and the presentation of the Scholarship Award. We have some outstanding youth and it has been a pleasure being able to read all the applications with their accomplishments and know some of their future plans and endeavors.

The 13th District held the Lee County and the Army State Marksmanship Meet at Island Coast H.S. in Cape Coral. The event is sponsored by the American Legion and coordinated by the District Chairman, Don Teasley. Post 90 was well represented by Legionnaires who volunteered to man the Membership Table with Legion Program material and brochures. They were able to promote the programs and get membership from the visitors who stopped by to visit.

This was a great tool and the Legion Banner along with all the trophies that carried the Legion Emblem was great advertisement. The school also had lunch available for the participants and

guests for the day long events. I had the pleasure of assisting in the presentation of the winning trophies and ribbons at the end of the State event along with the 6th Brigade command represented by Randy Smith. The dominate participants were the girls who captured most of the trophies.

I would like to point out also the efforts of Post 3 Bartow, who donated a trailer for the Summerlin Academy Team to travel the state with their equipment. Sara Maggard from Summerlin Academy will compete in the Sporter Category and Trinity Gomez from Sarasota Military Academy will compete in the Precision Category. They are both finalist and will travel to the JSSP National Competition in Colorado Springs on July 22-27 at the USA Olympic Training Center. I was invited to volunteer as staff at the JSSP at the National Competition and look forward to seeing our competitors at their best. Many thanks to all who help support our Youth Programs.

Changes Bring Suspension of Program for the Year

Bob Brewster, FHP Yourth Law Cadet
youthlawcadet@legionmail.org



Since last month's article in the Legion Link, there has been a big change in the program. A few weeks ago, I visited the Florida Highway Patrol in Tallahassee.

They informed me that everything was okay and very much that they wanted to continue the program as is. About three hours later, as I was parking my car in my driveway at home, my cell phone rang, and it was the Florida Highway Patrol calling. They informed me that they were making many changes to the program. The biggest change was our

cost per cadet going up approximately 30%. I contacted Tom Gora and we set up a meeting to go over this change. We crunched the numbers every way possible and found no way to absorb this additional cost at this time. We also looked at how many cadets' paperwork we had received by this time, and we are at least 4 to 6 cadets below minimum. Tom and I have worked on this for at least a full week and concluded that it is best that we suspend the program for this year. This will give us time to go back to the Florida Highway Patrol and renegotiate the entire program. Tom, Kathie, and I will work together to make some changes to this program. We will then take it to Department for their approval, and then take it to the Florida Highway Patrol for their approval. We firmly believe, with a little more time, we can work this program out for the benefit of all.

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Voting on Resolutions at Dept Convention

Clarence Hill, Resolutions
resolutions@legionmail.org



The Internal Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, June 27, at 2:15 PM in Crystal G2. The meeting will receive reports from Constitution and By-Laws, Credentials, Disaster Preparedness, POW-MIA, Resolutions, Time & Place, and Special Rules.

When it comes to the Resolutions portion, only the RESOLVED clauses will be read, so it is important that the entire resolution be reviewed prior to the meeting. Each Post can have one delegate at this meeting to vote on all matters to be decided. All voting members must have the appropriate ribbon received by the delegation chairman with the registration package. Attendees without the ribbon cannot vote. The results of the vote taken at this meeting become a recommendation to the General Assembly when the Internal Affairs Committee report is presented. Every delegate to the Convention has a vote on the final disposition of these resolutions.

Any resolution submitted too late to be considered at Convention will be considered at the Fall Conference.

Improving Access to Medical Care

Alan Cohen, VA&R
var@legionmail.org



Greetings, fellow Legionnaires. It seems as if the months pass quickly and bring new opportunities as well as giving us reminders of our missions. Suddenly it's almost time for our

Dept Convention and I'd like to take a moment to remind everyone that there are still seats available in the VA&R Post Service Officer class. Registration forms are easily found on the Department website and I encourage to all to join us. Post Service Officers continue to perform a variety of vital functions that go beyond helping veterans file Disability and/or Compensation claims.

As a matter of information, as of this writing, the VA's MISSION Act has received partial funding. The Act is due to take effect June 6, 2019, and so far it's main thrust is to improve access to medical care both in and outside of the VA since this will replace the Choice Act. I've learned that it won't be until June 6 that all the criteria will be made available, so for those of you who have been "choiced out" at one time or another, contact your VA representatives once you've had a chance to see if or how

you'll be affected.

Just a couple of weeks ago I had the honor of being afforded time to speak and represent the American Legion at a Women Veteran's event sponsored by the VA hospital in Lake Nona. The event was held off-campus and despite bad weather was attended by almost 100 of our sister veterans. Since we have much to be proud of, I did some bragging and appealed to the group in regard to joining our ranks. So far the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Our Benefits Chairman continues his efforts with Challenge 22 walks to raise awareness of issues surrounding veteran suicide as well as conducting mini seminars to groups in which he speaks about the process of filing claims with the VA. These are very informative discussions and always well-received.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Post 242's S.A.L. for their help with getting us another hospital volunteer at the Lake Nona VA hospital. Again and still, we need volunteers in Miami as well as Lake Nona. All we ask is that if you have as few as 4-8 hrs a week to help fellow veterans don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Legion Rider Unity Ride and Rally

Jim Wineland, Legion Riders
legionriders@legionmail.org

I've been appointed your ALR Chairman for 2019/2020 by the incoming Commander Rick Johnson. I'm honored to have another year as your ALR Chairman. Beverly Wooten will continue as your Adjutant/Finance Officer and Tim Morris will be our Sergeant at Arms. Wayne Wooten

will continue as our New Chapter Development Officer and we've added Sonny Decker to the team to help were needed and get him involved in the ALR Department operations. During this last year we also added our Department Safety Officer Brad Roberson and Grace Lord as our Public Relations Safety Coordinator. We are still looking for a Chaplain for next year - Bill are you interested?

Beverly and I are putting together the agendas for both the Chairman's meeting Thursday at 3:30 and the General Session Friday afternoon at 4:00 PM at Convention. If you have anything you would like to add please let us know ASAP.



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If a District is planning a big event for 2019/2020, please bring it up at Convention or sooner, so we can get it on the Department Calendar.

We are reviewing all procedures and will be making some changes based on your feedback.

Some dates to save for 2020: Department Convention. As it stands now, we will have the Chairman's meeting on Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 and the ALR General Session Friday afternoon from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We will have more info to follow. After Convention we have the National Legacy Ride to the National Convention starting from Post 347 in Lady Lakes in August, more information to come. We should fill this up with the riders from Florida, even if you can only ride a couple of days. Summit will be at the same location from February 6th through the 8th. We are trying something new with the Unity Ride next year. We will have two rides

scheduled at the same time, one coming out of the Panhandle and the other starting at Post 154 in Marathon. The meet and greet will be on April 26th at Post 154 in Marathon and the Panhandle meet and greet is yet to be determined.

The actual Unity Ride will start on Monday, April 27th and end on May 1st, followed by our Rally on Saturday in the Kissimmee area. Net proceeds will go to Project: VetRelief (PVR) as always and the Round Robin will be extended to include May 2nd.

As you know, we support the PVR/SPI. Here are some stats that I wanted to share with you. I don't believe there is anyone out there that doesn't know someone or someone in your family has been affected by PTSD or maybe it's you.

- Combat fatigue leads to shell shock leads to war neurosis leads to Post-Traumatic Stress Disease (PTSD)
- War veterans from Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and Iraq/Afghanistan

- Vietnam: 15% men and 9% female with PTSD; increase over lifetime after war, 30% men and 27% women (Source: National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (NVVRS))
- Persian Gulf: (1991-2019) Increase over time of 9% - 24%
- Iraq/Afghanistan: attacked or ambushed (92%), seeing dead bodies (94.5%), being shot at (95%), and/or knowing someone who was seriously injured or killed (86.5%). After deployment 12.5% had PTSD. In 3 mos. 9% to 12 mos. at 31% and increasing over time.

If you missed the Coral-Head Music-Festival and don't miss out on their new concert this year in England Bros, Pinellas Park, November 2-3. The events support Project: VetRelief. Make sure you get it on your calendar. If you want to volunteer, call Rich at 305-942-9862. Once again, thank you for what you do, and I am proud to be the Chairman of such a great group!



Post 273 invited more than 400 students from Madeira Beach Fundamental School to participate in our Annual "Moving Up" Breakfast and "Flag History Presentation". We thank Principal Chris Ateek, the teachers, and these wonderful children for their enthusiastic participation. Post 273 volunteers from The American Legion, Auxiliary, and Honor Guard were proud to help educate these young citizens about the importance to respect the flag of our country.



Department Convention
 Marriott Orlando World Center
 Orlando, FL
June 27-30, 2019

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2019 CONVENTION - Sign up now!

LAST CHANCE - Reserve your seat during our next training at the Department Convention on June 26th - 29th in Orlando! *Space is limited* and will be based off a first come first serve basis.

VETRELIEF ADVOCATE TRAINING:

Friday, June 28th

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Room: Canary 3-4

Registration Link:

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

The Team will also be at the vendor booth on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Be sure to stop by to grab any materials or just to say hi!

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Class day, time and location are subject to change.*

STILL SERVING - 5th Year Almost Over!

Now in our 5th year of serving veterans and their families, look at how much PVR has grown:

Year 1	38 cases	\$16,520.94
Year 2	57 cases	\$37,812.34
Year 3	102 cases	\$86,882.43
Year 4	140 cases	\$135,648.29
Year 5	131 cases	\$123,595.03

Until 4/30/19

We want to keep providing our services to veterans, active duty military and their families for years to come. In order to do that, we need everyone's continued support. Please remember we are veterans serving veterans, every day.

MISSION MOMENT: *Community Impact*

"If you have a problem, they're the ones to call. They make you feel good that you called them."

- 91 Year Old Veteran

PVR IN ACTION: *Your Help is Needed!*

An 82-year-old DeLand, FL veteran has been scammed of over \$50,000; *his entire life savings*. Once the news broke national headlines, The American Legion, Department of Florida and Project VetRelief knew we had to take action!

Since the veteran chose to remain anonymous, the team reached out to the DeLand Police Department to see how we could get in touch to assist with his monthly rent. Chris Graham with the DeLand Police Department expressed that they had a lot of people within the community, near and far, who wanted to donate to help rebuild this veteran's life savings, but did not have the means to do so.

Project VetRelief stepped forward and set up a restricted account. As the news continued to spread around our country, people started sending in money to Project VetRelief for this Coast Guard veteran.

As of May 28th, \$6,150 has been collected through our efforts. Other organizations have made pledges to pitch in, but so far, we have not received anything.

We are asking the Florida Legion Family to join in to help get his money back. **100% of the funds raised will go directly to this veteran.**

You can donate now by using link below:

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

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.

- **ALR 372 Ride for the 22** - June 9, 2019
Jacksonville, FL
- **6th Annual Golf Tournament** - Sept 23, 2019
Bella Collina, FL
- **Coral Head Blues Fest** - Oct 19, 2019
Marathon, FL
- **Coral Head Music Fest** - Nov 2-3, 2019
Pinellas Park, FL
- **Post 35 Golf Tournament** - Nov 16, 2019
Mt. Dora, FL



SUPPORT CASES
JULY 2018 - APR 2019 STATS

**Numbers reflect PROJECT: VetRelief Cases ONLY*

families helped

131

amount distributed

\$123,595.03

May 23, 2019
110% Target Report (Currently 96.71%)

12	Stephen Hamrick	104.65%
15	Bruce Carl	99.72%
6	Timothy Tierney	99.47%
16	Raymond Perez	99.16%
4	Cherie Korn	99.02%
11	Paul Bosco	98.02%
13	Brian Taz Gehling	97.24%
17	Willie Branch	96.85%
1	John Edens	96.58%
8	Jerry Faught	96.47%
2	James Brennan	94.82%
5	Troy Horsley	94.21%
9	Teddy Pomerantz	94.21%
3	Stuart Scott	93.19%
7	David Tucker	92.75%
14	Gary Decker	92.19%
Eastern	James Burk	101.69%
Central	Jay Allen	98.17%
Southwestern	Michael Raymond	96.89%
Western	Raymond Olsen	96.27%
Northern	Frederick Hutto	95.69%
Southern	James Tewes	95.03%
Post 400		89.91%
Post 208		89.62%



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

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 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
105% 6/5/2019

www.thelit.com

2019 District Constitutional Conferences

Date	District	Location	Time
1-June-19	14	Post 31 South Miami	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
8-June-19	4	Post 284 Bellevue	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
8-June-19	3	Post 57 Lake City	Registration: 10AM Start: 11AM
8-June-19	12	Post 117 Palm Bay	Registration: 1PM Start: 2PM
8-June-19	16	Post 273 Madeira Beach	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
9-June-19	11	Post 64 Okeechobee	Registration: 9AM Start: 10AM
15-June-19	9	Post 222 Ft. Lauderdale	Registration: 12PM Start: 1PM
15-June-19	1	Post 235 Ft. Walton Beach	Registration: 12PM CST Start: 1PM CST

Current Department of Florida Endorsements *as of May 22, 2019

Department Officers	
COMMANDER	Rick Johnson
1 ST VICE COMMANDER	Jerry Brandt
2 ND VICE COMMANDER	Eunice Butts
3 RD VICE COMMANDER	Gerald Kaufman Fred Matthews Ray Perez Michael Raymond
SGT-AT-ARMS	Jeff Durden
HISTORIAN	Edward Lewis
CHAPLAIN	Steven Newman Barry Roberts

Area Commanders	
CENTRAL AREA	Mike Addis Jay Allen
EASTERN AREA	Timothy Tierney
NORTHERN AREA	Marie Kraemer Victoria Van Buren
SOUTHERN AREA	Paul Bosco
SOUTHWESTERN AREA	Jerry Fought
WESTERN AREA	John M. Edens

District Commanders	
1 ST DISTRICT	Lamar Carroll
2 ND DISTRICT	Roger Hewitt
3 RD DISTRICT	Stuart Scott
4 TH DISTRICT	Cherie A. Korn
5 TH DISTRICT	Ernie Florig Troy Horsley
6 TH DISTRICT	Robert Suelter
7 TH DISTRICT	Ira Anderson Rick Orzechowski
8 TH DISTRICT	Angelo "Skip" Felicita
9 TH DISTRICT	Arthur Barber
12 TH DISTRICT	Stephen Hamrick
13 TH DISTRICT	Brian "Taz" Gehling Randy "Lee" Morrison
15 TH DISTRICT	Bruce Carl
16 TH DISTRICT	Randall McNabb
17 TH DISTRICT	James Bowers Henry Mangels

2019 Convention Voting Guide

During the 2017 Department Convention, the membership voted to adopt a new method for voting for Department Officers. All voting for Department Officers will now take place via ballots and scanned with electronic tabulation machines. This will provide a private setting in which to cast secret ballots and expedite the voting process. This guide will provide some pertinent information for the voting process at your 2019 Department Convention.

The annual election of Department Officers shall be by special order of business, the results of which should be announced at 1:00 P.M., or as soon as practical thereafter, on the day set for adjournment of the Convention or at the call of the Chair.

Voting for all elected Department Officers shall be by official ballot provided upon registration to any Posts so registered based on paid delegate strength. All official ballots are the responsibility of the acting chairman of each delegation and shall not be replaced for any reason under any circumstances.

How does Department come up with delegate strength? Each Post shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates and to one (1) additional delegate and alternate for each additional one hundred (100) members provided that the per capita tax is paid fifteen (15) days prior to the Department Convention.

Additionally, according to Section 6, Article 5 of the Department Constitution, a member of the Department Executive Committee shall be a delegate. Therefore, the Post that they are a member of will receive one additional vote.

Each Post will receive one (1) official ballot for every paid delegate at the time of registration with the exception of the Past Department Commander's ballot, which will be provided on the floor at the time of voting as detailed in Section 6, Article 5 of the Department Constitution. Ballots may either be voted collectively by the acting chairman of each delegation or individually by Post delegates to the Convention. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from the Post.

Those candidates having an endorsement on file at Department by May 30, 2019, will be pre-printed on the ballot. The ballots shall provide for a write-in candidate for each office, should one be nominated off the Convention floor without prior endorsement by their respective Post.

Nominations for Department Officers shall be from the floor of the Convention. Nominating speeches shall be limited to five (5) minutes each. No more than two (2) seconding speeches shall be made for each candidate, each of which shall not exceed two (2) minutes.

Immediately following nominations, ballot voting shall begin on electronic scanning equipment provided by the Orange County Supervisor of Elections. All ballot voting shall be completed by 1:00 P.M. except Posts still in line to vote at that time. Once all the votes have been scanned the election is closed and tally begins.

A team of election officials will oversee the election process. These officials shall consist of an employee of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, the Assistant Department Adjutant, and the Department Assistant Judge Advocate or a representative appointed by the Department Commander in his/her absence. The election officials will examine any ballot rejections to determine the intent of the ballot. If a ballot reflects votes for two (2) candidates for the same office that ballot will have that one (1) office's vote cancelled and the balance of the ballot cast as presented. Should duplicate ballots be presented, the scanners will reject the votes from both ballots.

The election officials will supervise the vote tally collected by the scanners. The candidate for each office that receives the most votes shall be declared the winner. The results will be placed in an envelope which will be presented to the Secretary of the Convention (Department Adjutant) on the Convention stage to be announced.

In cases of a tie vote, a roll call of Posts for the purpose of casting their votes for the tied candidates shall continue until one (1) candidate receives the majority of votes cast, the roll call is complete or until there shall be only one (1) candidate for a particular Department office.

All official ballots will be retained as permanent record of the Department for a period of two (2) years.

Rules of Procedure

One-Hundred and First Annual Convention

The American Legion, Department of Florida

Marriot's Orlando World Center, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando Florida 32821
June 27 - 30, 2019

The following Special Rules of Procedure were adopted as the Special Rules to govern the One-Hundred and First Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Florida, to be held at the Marriott's Orlando World Center, Orlando, Florida, June 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2019, by the Department Executive Committee at the Fall Conference November 2, 3, and 4, 2018 at the Renaissance SeaWorld Orlando, Florida.

General Rules:

1. Matters of procedure not provided for in the Constitution or Department By-Laws or in these Special Rules shall be covered by Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.
2. The decision of the chair on rules and procedures shall be final, unless overturned by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting upon an appeal from that decision.
3. The order of business shall be published in the printed program of the Convention, except as modified by the Department Commander, or as altered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present.
4. Voting for elections shall be by ballot. All other voting shall be by acclamation, unless a roll call vote shall be demanded by a least five (5) Posts with one (1) or more accredited delegates present on the floor of the Convention.
5. When a roll call of any one Post is demanded by a delegate of such Post, the Secretary of the Convention (the Department Adjutant) shall poll the vote of this Post by delegates without discussion of the question then being considered.
6. On roll calls, the acting chairman of each delegation shall poll his delegation on the floor and shall announce the vote of the delegation. Unit rule of voting shall not be permitted.
7. A person who is not a duly accredited delegate shall not participate directly or indirectly in a voice vote on any subject.
8. When a delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention he/she shall rise, address the chair as "Mr. Commander," and upon receiving recognition shall state his/her name and the name and number of his/her Post before proceeding.

Resolutions:

9. A resolution shall not be considered by the Convention unless presented to the Department Adjutant at least forty (40) days prior to the Department Convention. This time limit may be waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present at the Department Convention.
10. Any resolution originating on the floor of the Convention, if permitted by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present, must be in writing, and will automatically, and without reading or discussion, be referred to the Resolution Committee for consideration and recommendation. Any resolution providing for the expenditure of Department funds, raising or lowering Department Dues, raising funds in the name of the Department, shall be referred to the Department Finance Committee for study and recommendations, and, by that body, transmitted to the Resolution Committee. The report from both of these committees shall be presented to the Convention for action.

CELEBRATING



11. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the delegates shall be required for the consideration by the Convention of any resolution which has received an unfavorable report from a committee of the Convention.

Voting for Officers:

12. The annual election of officers of the Department shall be by special order of business, the results of which should be announced at 1:00 P.M., or as soon as practical thereafter, on the day set for adjournment of the Convention or at the call of the Chair.
13. Each officer to be elected at the Department Convention shall be voted on by ballot, except that the election of Department Area Commanders, District Commanders, District Vice Commanders and delegates and alternate delegates to the National Convention may be elected and ratified collectively.
14. Voting for all elected Department Officers shall be by official ballot provided upon registration to any Posts so registered based on paid delegate strength. All official ballots are the responsibility of the acting chairman of each delegation and shall not be replaced for any reason under any circumstances.
15. Each Post will receive one (1) official ballot for every paid delegate, except for Past Department Commanders. Ballots may either be voted collectively by the acting chairman of each delegation or individually by Post delegates to the Convention. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegation present from his Post.
16. Section 6, Article V of the Department Constitution provides that Past Department Commanders to be eligible to cast a vote, must be present on the floor on the Convention and be in good standing in their Post. On the final day of the Convention, prior to the election of Department Officers, the Secretary of the Convention (the Department Adjutant) shall provide all registered Past Department Commanders their official ballot.
17. The ballot shall provide for a write-in candidate for each office, should one be nominated off the Convention floor.
18. Nominations for Department Officers shall be from the floor of the Convention. Nominating speeches shall be limited to five (5) minutes each. No more than two (2) seconding speeches shall be made for each candidate, each of which shall not exceed two (2) minutes.
19. Immediately following all nominations, ballot voting shall begin on electronic scanning equipment provided by the Orange County Supervisor of Elections. All ballot voting shall be completed by 1:00 p.m. except Posts still in line to vote at that time. Once all the votes have been scanned the election is closed and tally begins.
20. A team of election officials will oversee the election process. These officials shall consist of an employee of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, the Assistant Department Adjutant, and the Department Assistant Judge Advocate or a representative appointed by the Department Commander in his/her absence.
21. The election officials will examine any ballot rejections to determine the intent of the ballot. If a ballot reflects votes for two (2) candidates for the same office that ballot will have that one (1) office's vote nullified and the balance of the ballot cast as presented. Should duplicate ballots be presented, the scanners will reject those votes and nullify both ballots presented.
22. The election officials will supervise the vote tally collected by the scanners. The candidate for each office that receives the most votes shall be declared the winner. The results will be placed in an envelope which will be presented to the Secretary of the Convention (Department Adjutant) on the Convention stage to be announced.
23. In cases of a tie vote, a roll call of Posts for the purpose of casting their votes for the tied candidates shall continue until one candidate receives the majority of votes cast, the roll call is complete or until there shall be only one candidate for a particular Department office.
24. All official ballots will be retained as permanent record of the Department for a period of two (2) years.
25. All elections by ratification of the Districts of delegates and alternate delegates to the National Convention, two (2) District Vice Commanders from each District, District Commander from each district, and a Department Area Commander from

CELEBRATING



FLORIDA LEGION

PRESENTS

COMMANDER & PRESIDENT BANQUET

GERMAN DINNER BUFFET

ASSORTED ROLLS

LOCAL GREENS

Sweet Green Peas | Corn | Tomatoes | Shredded Carrots | Radish
Creme Fraiche Vinaigrette

Bratwurst & Caraway Cabbage, | Pork Schnitzel
Brussel Sprouts | Red Bliss Mashed Potatoes

Apple Strudel | Black Forest Glass | German Chocolate Cake

PURCHASE ONLINE
www.floridalegion.org

Join us, June 28, 2019, Department Convention at the World Marriott Center.

Yes, I would like to attend the Commander's & President's Banquet!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

of Tickets _____ X \$40 each = Total Due \$ _____

Payment Type: Check Money Order Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Yes, I authorize my card to be charged for the total amount above. *****Order now! Price goes up to \$50 each after June 1, 2019.**

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration: _____ CVV: _____ Signature: _____

**All tickets must be purchased in advance, quantities are limited. Tickets will be available for pickup during Convention located in the Headquarters Office.
Please mail to:** The American Legion, Department of Florida, Attention: Event Coordinator, P.O. Box 547859; Orlando, FL 32854

FLORIDA LEGION

PRESENTS



COMMANDER & PRESIDENT
BANQUET

ENTERTAINMENT BY BEATLES COVER BAND

NOT QUITE FAB

CANARY BALLROOM

FRI/JUN 28/7PM

COCKTAIL HOUR STARTS AT 6:00PM

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DEPARTMENT
OF FLORIDA



Centennial CELEBRATION ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ RAFFLE



The American Legion, Department of Florida is proud to announce its upcoming **Centennial Celebration Raffle** where you could win **OVER \$15,000** in awesome prizes; including the *BONUS RAFFLE* drawing for a chance to win an **American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Three-Coin Set**.

On **June 29, 2019**, ten (10) **CASH winners** and one (1) **BONUS winner** will be chosen for the following *Centennial Celebration Raffle* prizes:

★ ★ ★
GRAND PRIZE
\$10,000

SECOND PRIZE — \$2,500
THIRD PRIZE — \$1,000
4TH PRIZE — \$500

5TH PRIZE — \$500
6TH-10TH PRIZE — \$100

The American Legion, Department of Florida is proud to announce its upcoming **Centennial Celebration Raffle** where you could win **OVER \$15,000** in awesome prizes; including the *BONUS RAFFLE* drawing for a chance to win an **American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Three-Coin Set**.

On **June 29, 2019**, ten (10) **CASH winners** and one (1) **BONUS winner** will be chosen for the following *Centennial Celebration Raffle* prizes:



THE GOLDEN TICKET

Return your enclosed golden ticket with an additional suggested donation of \$5 for a chance to win the LIMITED EDITION Centennial American Legion Coin Set with US Mint certificate of authenticity: includes \$5 Gold Coin, Silver Dollar and Clad Half Dollar.

Golden tickets are independent from Centennial Celebration Raffle and will be kept separate. Winner will be drawn on Saturday, June 29, 2019 during the Annual Convention and streamed live on Facebook.

Didn't get a packet? No worries, just complete our online form at floridalegion.org/raffle before **May 31, 2019** and we will mail one to you. After **May 31st**, you will only be able to purchase tickets at our Department Convention, June 27-29, 2019.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
FAMILY



**2019
CRUISE**

**SEPTEMBER
16-21**

THE ELATION



Maureen Williams PVP
1-800-819-3902 EXT 85931

GROUP CODE
5DSL69

Elation - Exotic Eastern Caribbean

DATE	DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
09/16/19	MON	Port Canaveral (Orlando, FL)		4:00 PM
09/17/19	TUE	Fun Day at Sea		
09/18/19	WED	Amber Cove, Dominican Republic	10:30 AM	6:30 PM
09/19/19	THU	Grand Turk	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
09/20/19	FRI	Fun Day at Sea		
09/21/19	SAT	Port Canaveral (Orlando, FL)	8:00 AM	

**Please call for ticket costs. Earlier you book, the better the savings.*

Questions?

Maureen Williams, Vacation Planner
Carnival Cruise Line
800-819-3902 EXT 85931 OFFICE
305-406-6183 FAX
MON - THU 11:00 AM - 8:00PM EST
FRI 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
mwilliams2@carnival.com

Welcome from 1st Vice Commander

Last years cruise was a great success. We had 22 cabins booked and everyone had a great time.

This will be first come first serve, so make your reservations ASAP as cabin space might fill up quickly. Please call to reserve your room as prices change all the time.

It's time to do it again. This will be first come first serve, so make your reservations ASAP as cabin space might fill up quickly. My wife works for Carnival, so we will be taken care of.

At least put your deposit down quickly and she will try to have us as close together as possible. Remember, this will be a FUN cruise and time to enjoy each other's company and to recharge for the year. I will

have hotel information as we get closer for the night before the cruise.

Everyone have a great time and will see you aboard.



William R Johnson
1st Vice Commander
American Legion
Department Of Florida
954-242-4496
rickjtank@hotmail.com