

# THE LEGION LINK

- ★ SERVICE
- ★ HONOR
- ★ SACRIFICE



SEPTEMBER 2019

COMMANDER WILLIAM "RICK" JOHNSON

VOLUME 28 ISSUE II

### IN THIS EDITION

#### Officers

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Commander          | 3 NEC            |
| 2 2nd Vice Commander | 3 Chaplain       |
| 3 3rd Vice Commander | 4 Judge Advocate |

#### Area Commanders

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 5 Central Area  | 6 Western Area |
| 5 Northern Area |                |

#### Membership

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 9 Team Brewster      | 17 OBJECTIVE: Orlando |
| 9 Team Slachta       | 17 Legion Act         |
| 14 DMS Information   | 18 11 Things to Know  |
| 16 Membership Report |                       |

#### Chairs

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 6 Americanism            | 10 Public Relations    |
| 6 Children & Youth       | 11 PROJECT: VetRelief  |
| 7 Constitution & By-laws | 12 ROTC/JROTC/Shooting |
| 7 Finance Committee      | 12 Scouting            |
| 7 SAL Advisory           | 13 Special Olympics    |
| 8 Immigration            | 13 VA&R                |
| 8 Law & Order            | 14 Women Veterans      |
| 9 Oratorical             | 14 Youth Law Cadet     |
| 10 Post Development      |                        |

#### OTHER

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 14 Post 91 | 15 Post 382 |
|------------|-------------|

### From your Department Commander Rick Johnson

**Rick Johnson, Commander**

[commander@floridalegion.org](mailto:commander@floridalegion.org)



#### Membership, Legacy Run, & Curls for COTA

Hello family members and Happy Labor Day. This has been a very busy August with a lot happening. I went to Indianapolis for the National Membership

Training and to talk with our incoming National Commander regarding his plans for the year 2019-2020. We got a very big increase for our goal. Our traditional goal was 102,600 and they added 70% of the DMS that's available in Florida which increased our Department goal to 113,500 for the 2019-2020 year.

I have the Department of Florida doing the DMS program with help from the posts. A letter was sent to every post regarding the DMS and we need the answer ASAP from the post to get this plan working. I did not put the extra numbers on the post but kept the DMS at Department level. So the goal numbers that you see now will remain in place for the Department. There was no way I was going to put the burden on you the members who are working hard to get these new members in.

We had the Legion Act passed and signed by the President as everyone knows. Now is the time to start working all these avenues to increase awareness and getting your family teams working together. Any questions regarding this, please contact the membership team in your area.

I just got through participating the National Legacy Run. I will tell you; these riders are so dedicated to do this five day run. I had the opportunity to be on the advance team to assist, fuel and stage every ride and fuel stop. What a well-organized system that was put in place. So many volunteers were needed to accomplish this. The ride was very beautiful through the mountains and we were very well received in every state and city and raised a lot of money for the Legacy Scholarship program.

I had our Historian Ed Lewis with me for the ride and he documented the whole event. Team Florida did a great job and was well represented throughout the whole event. Thank you Post 347 for hosting the beginning of the run and the dinners and hospitality. Thank you Post 57 for the breakfast on the first stop and the fueling process was a first to have the trucks there behind the post. A great idea.

*Continued on Page 2*



Commander - Continued from page 1

September will be a very busy month also as the Legion Family Cruise will be sailing on the 16th of September for five days. There are numerous District meetings going on and numerous events. I hope everyone saw the flyer for Curls for COTA. I'm sure myself and the 3rd Vice will be

shaven on November 2nd at the fall conference on stage. I know you all are looking forward to that.

This has been such a great first two months and 10 more to go with a lot to do and very little time. Please have FUN out there and let me know if you have any special events

going on as I would love to attend them.

Keep up the great work out there and will see you out there very soon. This was brought to you by the way of the National Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

**Tank Out**

*Training is a vital part of what we do*

**Jerry Brandt, 1st Vice Commander**

[1stvice@legionmail.org](mailto:1stvice@legionmail.org)



Comrades, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Department Convention, however now, we need to start preparing and work towards a great year.

As you may know, as 1st Vice Commander, I will be providing assistance and oversight to the Eastern and Southern Area, which includes the 6th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 14th Districts. As always, your First point of contact will be your local Posts Commander, then District. Please allow them to help

you resolve them. We have a chain of command and open communication within this command chain, let us use it to assist you.

As you know training/education is a vital part of what we do. Training is given at Fall and Summer Conventions, so that we have the best educated leaders in the Nation. If you feel that your Post needs additional training, please inform your District Commander. They will receive all the assistance they need to complete any training necessary.

Commanders, now is the time for your Posts to also look forward for the Legion College, this will be after the 1st of the year, but now is the time to start looking at the possible candidates for this school. Florida

needs good leadership and leadership starts at the Posts level and moves up.

Zone 1 will have a Traveling Trophy this year for the leading District in Membership percentage. So whoever is ahead in Membership percentage at the end of the first quarter, will receive the Traveling Trophy at Fall Conference. After the 1st of the year, this will be passed to the winner of the 2nd quarter, same with the April 1st cut off. At the Summer Convention, the winner, and the keeper of the Traveling Trophy will be announce.

I will be seeing everyone at the various District Meetings. And Thank You for Your Continuous Service to our Country, and to the American Legion

*Membership Drive*

**Eunice Butts, 2nd Vice Commander**

[2ndvice@legionmail.org](mailto:2ndvice@legionmail.org)



Greetings, I hope all are geared up for Retaining and Recruiting Membership. I attended the National Workshop in August 2019. I encourage you to please publicize your activities and

accomplishments in the newspaper, TV, radio, etc. Give presentations to the schools, policemen, firemen, Teacher of the Year etc. Do the "Buddy Check" twice a year and just check on your members and let them know you are thinking about them. These are a few ideas and suggestions. There are many of you with ideas and suggestions, just think

outside of the box. What works for one Post may not work for another Post. The Commander should set the pace and enthusiasm to get membership. Everyone can recruit membership, if you don't ask you will not get a member. "You have to ask." "No Veteran Left Behind." If you get the community involved, you will be successful. I was honored to be asked to "The Sportsman Creed" at the opening of the Southeast Regional Tournament at stating teams. I've attended several installations. By the time you read this article I will have attended The American Legion National Convention. Our membership goal for September is 50%. Let's have fun and work hard toward our goal.

With heartfelt and humble gratitude, I thank you for your vote of confidence by electing me the 2nd Vice Commander

for the Department of Florida 2019-20. My zone consists of the Central and Southwestern Areas which are the 7th, 15th, 8th, 13th, and 16th Districts. As you know my goal is always "TEAMS WORKING TOGETHER" in advancing our organization. My task is to ensure that the Area Commanders, District Commanders, and Past Commanders are achieving the goals of The Department Commander. When necessary I will assist the area, district, and post of Zone 2 in membership, programs, etc. Remember "The American Legion Needs the Community; The Community Needs The American Legion."

I am looking forward for a very successful year for Zone 2 and for the state of Florida. "Just Ask."



*Let's get it out there!*

**Michael Raymond, 3rd Vice Commander**

[3rdvice@legionmail.org](mailto:3rdvice@legionmail.org)



Just got back from the Legion Membership Workshop and there are so many new and exciting things happening, only statewide, but Nationwide that will definitely give us the kickstart we need to

get us back on track this year and achieve the goals that are set for us. There are some great ideas out there but if we don't get the word out, then we will accomplish nothing. There are many ways to spread

the word these days which include but are not limited to social media, newspaper, radio and TV.

In my 6 years as Post Commander I met a lot of people which included a radio DJ, newspaper photographer and writer. In fact, there is a Post Officer in the 8th District that has his own radio show! These are people you need to seek out and utilize to "get the word out". Another great way is the Commanders' "Adopt A Highway program". Imagine a couple hundred of these signs dotting the highways around our great State. Very little effort but a lot of visibility. I also reached out to our County Commissioners and now am a personal friend of one of them. A Coast Guard Vet! Any time I need a proclamation or letter, I just make a call. He's always present at our

functions and events and is a member of our Veterans council.

"The Legion Act" is one huge story that needs to be out there. Make up flyers and post them in your Post for all to see. These are just a few things that anyone can do to get the word out. I'll be getting the word out over the next couple weeks by riding in the "National Legacy Run". This will be my 5th consecutive ride. Upon arrival in Indianapolis we will then be attending the 101st National Convention. Remember now, let's get the word out about all the great things we do and everything will definitely fall into place. I guarantee it! If anyone needs any "COTA" cans for the Dept. Commanders charity, please let me know and I will get them to you.

*VAVS Volunteer of the Year / Legion Volunteering*

**Dennis Boland, NEC**

[nec@legionmail.org](mailto:nec@legionmail.org)



National Commander Brett Reistad presented Mr. Roscoe Eagle, the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Worker of the Year award during the 2019 Washington Conference.

Legionnaire Eagle, a 33 year Paid-Up for Life member of the General Billy

Mitchell Post 85 in Arlington, Virginia, was accompanied to the ceremony by the Chief of Voluntary Services of the Washington DC VA Medical Center where he volunteers. Mr. Eagle has been a constant presence at the Washington DC VAMC for many years and he has accumulated more than 5,000 voluntary hours at the facility.

The American Legion's Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program continues to support VA initiatives that support the care and treatment of veteran patients in VA medical facilities. During fiscal year 2018, Legionnaires volunteered at over 200

VA facilities, which included VA medical centers, community clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses, state Veterans homes and national cemeteries.

An impressive total of 4,462 regularly scheduled volunteers contributed 706,996 hours and 13,932 occasional visits contributed an additional 59,568.75 hours for a grand total of 766,564.75 hours volunteered by American Legion members. With more than three quarters of a million hours volunteered, The American Legion saved the Department of Veterans Affairs more than \$18,926 million dollars in 2018.

*The History of Labor Day*

**Barry Roberts, Chaplain**

[chaplain@legionmail.org](mailto:chaplain@legionmail.org)

September has some very historical days and moments we can thank God for! V-J Day - September 2, 1945 is 'Victory over Japan' Day, was first celebrated on August 14, 1945. The Commemoration of VJ Day is designated September 2 which is Labor Day. As we celebrate Labor Day, we must look at the history of the celebration of Labor Day, it is much like God delivering the Israelites from the bondage of slavery from Egypt. After

America had proclaimed Independence and the workforce started there were a few select people that had much control over that and were billionaires back in the day. Americans were working 10 to 12-hour days 6 days a week and started to proclaim independence from those long hours and days of work. Workers started to demand better treatment, better pay and shorter hours. Many died in various revolts and demonstrations against the long hours and treatment and low pay. In 1914 Henry Ford more than doubled wages to \$5 and in 1926 he cut workers from 9 hours to eight - new legislation was formed for a 40-

hour work week and by the 1940s that had become the norm. There is much to read on this subject and we are very thankful for being delivered from that bondage.

September also has Citizenship Day, Patriot Day and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. We are working diligently to create a coalition of support for our veterans at risk. God is opening doors of support and there will be more to come soon! We are free and blessed and continue to support those that are hurt or in need!



*Parliamentary Authority and Robert's Rules*

**Dick Mondro, Judge Advocate**

[judgeadvocate@legionmail.org](mailto:judgeadvocate@legionmail.org)

Roberts Rules are an essential tool for American Legion Post's or any nonprofit organization.



**Roberts Rules are a Road Map**

Roberts Rules will help give your meetings structure by giving you a proven process to follow during your meetings. There are procedures within Roberts Rules that will help you run meetings in an efficient and professional manner. Just follow the process and your meetings will go faster and more efficiently.

**Meeting Minutes Made Easy**

It can be difficult to track what is being said at a meeting when the conversation strays from topic. By using motions, in accordance with Roberts Rules, the tracking of meetings becomes easier to document. And straying off topic, a common problem for many meetings, becomes easier to recognize and correct.

**Everyone Has a Voice**

The process of Roberts Rules ensures that everyone has an opportunity to speak on a topic. A good meeting facilitator will use Roberts Rules to check in with every person at the table and give them the chance to speak.

It can also limit the amount of opportunities someone can speak on a topic. The idea of limiting the number of times members can speak on a topic has advantages:

Members will learn to be more on point and thorough when it is their turn to speak;

- It can quicken the decision making process without sacrificing the opportunity to share information;
- It can help prevent members, who are determined to have the last word, from repeating the same points over and over.

**Roberts Rules Means Freedom**

I know it sounds funny to think that a

more formal process will result in more freedom, but it is true. Anyone who has run a meeting, at some point, has found themselves more caught up in the "running the meeting" that actually paying attention to what is being discussed. But with a firm grasp of Roberts Rules, the meeting facilitator can relax and let Robert Rules run the meeting for them. This will allow them to play a more active role in the meeting itself.

**Better Use of Parliamentary Procedure**

Running a meeting by proper parliamentary procedure is smart for two reasons. First, it helps to avoid legal challenges to your actions; second, it produces better, more productive meetings.

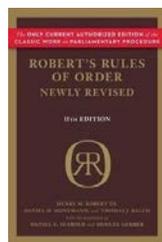
A presiding officer who properly applies parliamentary procedure can turn long, confrontational meetings into shorter, painless ones.

While a lengthy and badly run meeting can cast a pall on all other accomplishments during the year, a successful and well-run meeting will please and invigorate members.

**WHICH RULE BOOK?**

Parliamentary procedure is the means by which organizations make decisions not addressed by laws or their governing documents. Stated another way, parliamentary procedure is all of the laws and rules of organizations that govern the transaction of business. Contrary to common perception, parliamentary procedure is not synonymous with the book *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th Edition)*.

There are several major parliamentary books, with *Robert's* being the most popular. It is used by approximately 85 percent of U.S. organizations as well as The Congress of The United States. *Robert's* is the most widely used book as well as the easiest to use as a parliamentary authority. *Robert's* is an excellent resource for leaders.



The book includes sections on presiding, running elections, writing and amending bylaws, counting votes, and holding board and committee meetings. *Robert's* is fairly easy to find—just be sure to buy the right one. There are numerous *Robert's* "clones" and earlier editions that are easy to pick up by mistake. *Identify Robert's Rules of Order* by its publisher, Da Capo Press, and by the number of pages (716). It's available in both hardback and softcover.

**ADOPT WRITTEN RULES**

Most groups formally adopt written rules of procedure such as bylaws. The group normally approves a bylaws provision that a particular book shall be the parliamentary authority. The procedural rules in that book then govern the association in all cases in which the rules are not inconsistent with higher authority, such as state or federal law or the governing documents such as your Constitution and Bylaws. This parliamentary authority can also be supplemented with specific rules, such as standing rules, to cover specific situations.

**CONCLUSION**

In summary, take time to familiarize yourself with proper parliamentary procedure. Such knowledge can enhance leadership credibility, produce better meetings, and make the difference between official actions that stand up in court—and illegal ones that don't. Lastly, ALWAYS use you Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies first to use proper procedures.

**Reference:**

The following publication is available, in PDF Format at: <https://www.legion.org/publications>  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**The American Legion Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies**  
56th. Edition, Revised March 2019  
Page 114, Second Paragraph.  
"PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY - It is important for every organization to adopt some authority on parliamentary law, and for the members to be familiar with both the specific and the general rules of the organization. A copy of the by-laws should always be on the commander's desk. Excellent books and small leaflets on parliamentary procedure have been written in simplified form and are available, but "*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*" is the accepted authority for The American Legion."



*We are on our way*

**Jay Allen, Central Area Commander**  
centralarea@legionmail.org



First, I would like to thank our U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress for passing the L.E.G.I.O.N. Act Bill and President Trump for signing the bill into law. I would like now to wish welcome aboard to all the newly qualified veterans to The American Legion.

I would also like to give a sincere THANK YOU to all the Central Area Districts and Posts for doing a great job that they did in our quest to climb to the top in membership last year. And this year I am confident that we can make it to the top position. Keep up the excellent work.

We are getting a slow start this year, but we will be climbing that ladder very quick to become the top Area in the State of Florida. Our District Commanders are really working hard with the Post's that need assistance in claiming their 100% banner

this year. As a family, we can achieve anything.

It has been a very busy and hectic time as I have been trying to attend as many of the installation of Officers in the Area as possible. It has been a great privilege to be able to meet all the new and returning officers. I wish you all the very best in the upcoming year.

Thanks to everyone for all that you have done and continue to do for our Organization and all it represents.

*Northern News*

**Marie Conti**  
northernarea@legionmail.org



I would like to express my gratitude for your confidence in electing me as your Northern Area Commander. I would also like to thank everyone for their patience over the past 2 months, as I have been moving into a new home.

I would like to extend Hearty Congratulations and a Job Well Done to Post 166!!! As of 09 Aug, they are at 119% of their quota!! They are the First in the Northern Area over 100% of quota!! As a Past Commander of this Post, I am Very Proud of this accomplishment!!

I would also like to Congratulate the following Posts for exceeding their 50% goal: From District 4 -Post 354, 65%; Post 284, 57%; Post 77, 51%; From District 5 - Post 372, 60%; Post 129, 51%; From District 17 - Post 187, 76%; Post 259, 58%;

Post 115, 55%; Post 267, 54%. (Note: These numbers are as of 09 Aug 2019, and do not include PUFL's. My Goal, for every Post and District in the Northern Area, is 100% before St. Patrick's Day, 17 March 2020.

In an effort to reach 100%, I will be conducting an Area Meeting / Membership Rally on 19 Oct 2019 at Post 57, Lake City. This will start at 1000. My Plan for this is: 1) Discussion - What Works? Recruiting & Retention; 2) Using MyLegion to process memberships; 3) how to make & process Phone Renewals. This meeting is for all members of your Membership team. This includes but is not limited to, Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, and any other members that want to learn. SAL Squadron 57 will be having an Octoberfest the same day, and will have lunch available for purchase.

As we are still in Hurricane Season, I wanted to let everyone know that there is an American Legion Amateur Radio Club located in the 5th District. One of its main purposes is emergency communications

during a Disaster. Please go to [http://www.al5thdistrictfl.org/index.htm\\_files/W8TAL-5thDist.pdf](http://www.al5thdistrictfl.org/index.htm_files/W8TAL-5thDist.pdf) for more information. The hope of this American Legion Amateur Radio Club is to expand into other locations throughout Florida, and the Nation.

Does anyone know what time it is? It's Back to School time!! As the students go back to school to learn, it's time for us to go back into the schools to talk to the Counselors about our Programs - namely Oratorical and Boys State.

During the month of August, I had the pleasure of attending the American Legion Baseball SE Regional Championships in Tampa. I also visited Post 57, Lake City, during the National Legacy Run, and I attended the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

A few reminders ... Post Commanders, please send your Program Chairman Lists to Department. Also Anyone going to the Fall Conference, please remember to make your Reservations soon.

Want to get notified of changes and news while attending Fall Conference?

Sign up for  
TEXT ALERTS.



TEXT **FLCONF**  
to **662-200-4303**



*Western Area News*

**John Edens, Western Area Commander**  
westernarea@legionmail.org



Western Area has done a great job of getting 33 of 34 Posts installed (except one, which is scheduled soon) in the first six weeks of this fiscal year. The Western Area staff has attended 4 of these installations in 2nd District and 12 of them in the 1st District. I was personally impressed with

each Post's hospitality for the District and Area staff, and their enthusiasm for accomplishing the Legion Goals for this year.

Our 98+ percent membership last year was outstanding, considering the Hurricane Michael chaos in the middle of last year. This year we are determined to get to 101 % to make up for last year, plus a few new ones. This can and, if I have anything to do with it, will happen. I personally have joined up 17 new members (all middle age active duty) already in the first month.

Special praise for our Western Area ALR Chairman (**Jimmy Bowers**) for his dedication and assistance on a recent visit to 2 Posts in 2nd District (with approx. 30 Legion Family members from 1st District), and then 2 more stops in 1st District on the way home. **A job well done by all**, showing our **Legion Family Unity** for all Posts.

Please keep our 2018-2019 Western Area Commander, Raymond Olsen, in your prayers as he goes through some serious medical operations this month.

*Americanism Commission*

**Kurt Gies, Americanism**  
americanism@legionmail.org



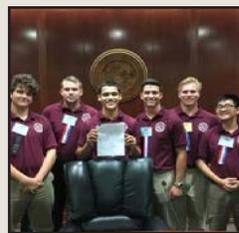
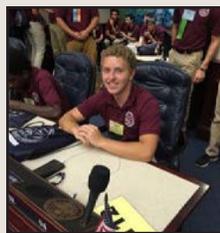
We recently returned from the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, IN where William "Bill" Oxford from the Department of North Carolina was elected as the next National Commander. It was amazing to see "Americanism" being displayed

everywhere you turned. We heard from the Boys Nation President, the Eagle Scout of the Year, the JROTC Cadet of the Year, the Law Enforcement, Firefighter and EMT of the Year, the Boys Baseball National Champion team, The National Oratorical Champion, Junior Shooting Sports Champions and so many more.

My first thought was "How impressive these Americans are!" My second thought was "Is there someone like this in my community that deserves to be standing on that stage next year, but was never given the chance because my Post didn't

find them?" What a shame if there is. They deserve the chance to shine and be recognized and it our job as Legionnaires to make sure that happens.

Imagine if your Post or District is able to reach out to your community to shine the light on these amazing Americans and then have them represent your hometown on the National stage next year. How cool would that be for everyone involved. So please step up and get involved in today. There is a young boy or girl who has amazing capabilities ready for you to call their name.



*Upcoming Events*

**Les Martin, Children & Youth**  
cy@legionmail.org



School is back in session and Halloween is fast approaching. It's time for each Post to think about having a Halloween Safety Program at your Post for the local kids and their parents. Make it fun,

let them know that the American Legion Children & Youth Commission wants the children to have fun and at the same time to be safe during their Halloween Trick or Treating. **Order your Halloween coloring books from the Department of Florida Emblem Sales at [floridalegionstore.org](http://floridalegionstore.org).**

The American Legion 2020 Children and Youth Picnic will be held on April 4th, 2020 at Post 1 in Titusville. The Sons of the American Legion Children and Youth Chairman, Tom Soeder, will be assisting

with the picnic and other members of his committee from the Sons. I am looking forward to working with Tom and the Sons along with Dee Bell, the Florida American Legion Auxiliary Chairwoman for Children and Youth. I am hopeful that by next month's Legion Link I will have the location and date of the annual Golf Tournament finalized. Tentatively it is scheduled for April 25th.

*Continued on page 7*



*Children & Youth - Continued from page 6*

Each Post should be thinking about the Department's Best Posts Children & Youth Program Award. To be eligible, you must have your Post's Consolidated Post Report and Addendum on file with the Department Headquarters. This is a typed narrative report on special events, unusual activities or Areas of Concern (Missing Children, Teenage Suicide and other safety and prevention programs) the awards will be:

**Department Awards**

- Best Overall Post – 1st Place
- Best Overall Post – Runner up
- Best Children & Youth Chairman – 1st Place
- Best Children & Youth Chairman – Runner up
- Don Halliday Memorial Plaque – from the S.A.L. for Most Contributions to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

**National Awards**

- Annual Children & Youth Citations
- Special citations for Most Outstanding Children & Youth work
- Certificates of Meritorious Service

I will be starting my visits to the District Meetings throughout Florida this month. I am looking forward to meeting all the District Commanders and Post Commanders. We will be giving each District 30 canisters to divide up amongst their Posts to place in area businesses to collect donations (this should be 1 or 2 canisters per Post). For the Posts that don't do much for Children & Youth (I hope none), this will give you credit on your CPR's for Children & Youth.



*Constitution & By-Laws Committee News*

**John Dollinger, Constitution & By-Laws**

[cbl@legionmail.org](mailto:cbl@legionmail.org)



Yes, we have a backlog of Constitution and By-Laws to review and we are working through the backlog as quickly as possible.

There are several changes to be made,

one concerns Roberts Rules of Order. Departments Constitution Article X Section 18 refers you to the Officers Guide to run a meeting. Your 2019 Officers Guide on page 115 second paragraph states "Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised" is the accepted authority for the American Legion. Roberts Rules of Order will be used for conducting meetings within the Department of Florida.

The second change concerns the role of the Executive Committee. It must be very

clear that the Executive Committee has control of the day to day operations of the Post BUT the Post Membership has complete control of the Post. Executive Committee Meeting minutes should be "accepted" never approved and any spending above the Post Commander or Executive Board permissions in your Constitution and By-Laws must be individually "approved" at a Post Membership Meeting.

*Finance Committee Bulletin*

**John Dollinger, Finance**

[finance@legionmail.org](mailto:finance@legionmail.org)

I would first like to remind every that that expense reports are due at Department by the 10th of the month after the expense is incurred. For those who may not have turned in your expense reports for 2 or 3 months, you may have a problem getting paid for those expenses.

As approved at our last DEC meeting, those who are required to attend a meeting, provide a report during General Session and/or teach a class, will only be reimbursed for 1/2 of the room expense for Fall Conferences and Annual Conventions for a maximum of three (3) days. Please keep this in mind when making room reservations for the Fall Convention.

Each Post should have received a copy

of the section of The Department Constitution & By-Laws concerning the purchase and sale of any property of your Post. The document requires the Post Commander and Post Adjutants signature. When complete, please return to Department. The District Commanders will be following up top make sure each Post returns the documents.

*New year's officers*

**Richard Smith, SAL Advisory**

[sal@legionmail.org](mailto:sal@legionmail.org)

The new year is in full bloom. Officer installations are all about done. Time to get to work. The Sons should be starting their monthly meetings and the districts should be planning theirs, if they have

not already. One of the most important things to remember is to get your banking information changed to your new staff. Banking regulations are forever changing so check with your bank as to what is needed to change the signature cards. Remember that the SAL is a program of the Post and as such will use the EIN of

the post for the bank. I was pleased to speak with Gary Owens, Adjutant for Post/Squadron 115, this past few days about banking and some other subjects. It is always great to share information and meet new people. I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter. Have fun, raise money, spend money.



*Assisting Foreign-Born US Military Veterans*

**Gene Smith, Immigration**  
[immigration@legionmail.org](mailto:immigration@legionmail.org)



My fellow Legionnaires, perhaps the Committee title creates concern with many of you. Why do we have immigration in the first place? Some experts suggest a “push pull” theory creates

migration of people from one geographic location to another. Many countries experience high poverty amongst its citizenry or disaster strikes or civil/government unrest and other economic or life-threatening incidents that invokes an emigration by many of their native country. Thus, you have the “PUSH” effect. The United States and other developed countries offer more stable governments, abundance of food, medicine and the dream of a better economic lifestyle. Thus, you have the “PULL” effect. Some believe immigration is a modern-day creation. According to documented anthropological fines, humans have migrated from land mass to land mass since man first appeared on earth.

Wikipedia states, “The term immigration was coined in the 17th century, referring to the non-warlike population movements between the emerging nation states. When people cross national borders during their migration, they are migrants

or immigrants from the perspective of the country which they enter.”

Wikipedia further states, “Illegal immigration refers to the migration of people into a country in violation of the immigration laws of that country, or the continued residence of people without legal right to live in that country.”

The Department’s Immigration Committee is here to provide resolution and hope for any foreign-born United States Military Service Member who for whatever reason is not a Naturalized U.S. Citizen. Many joined the U.S. military as enlisted with the promise of an accelerated path to citizenship. Many were later prematurely discharged from the service before the naturalization process took place. Consequently, some that had legal residency status prior to their enlistment now find themselves in limbo without the status and subject to deportation. Others who enlisted to fast track citizenship and experienced an early discharge are back to square one and classified illegal immigration status.

According to an “Opinion Memo from the National Judge Advocate Kevin J. Bartlett dated May 16, 2018, Subject: American Legion Membership and Citizenship. The National Judge Advocate’s opinion reads in part, “Under the American Legion’s (TAL) Charter [36 USC Section 21703] and Article IV of TAL Constitution there are two different types of individuals eligible for

membership in TAL. The first membership type requires that this individual has served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Congressional prescribed dates of service and was honorable discharged from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that time period...” “The first membership type of individual, the one with US Armed Forces service, does not have this citizenship requirement for membership. Therefore, non-citizens of the United States, who have honorable service, or continue to serve honorably, during the prescribed time frames are eligible for membership in The American Legion regardless of their citizenship status during or after their time of Armed Forces service.”

With that, I ask each of you to assist me in identifying and providing legal services to these individuals who have served their adopted country and for whatever reason have not naturalized as U. S. Citizens. You may contact me or have them contact me through the Department and I will get them immediate legal service to assist with their status and possible pathway to citizenship. While you are speaking with them, sign them up as Legionnaires. They raised their right hand and took the same oath as you and I did so many years ago—to protect and serve this Nation in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is the right thing to do to help them achieve the promise made and not fulfilled by our military services. You may contact me by E-mail at [Immigration@legionmail.org](mailto:Immigration@legionmail.org).

*Shots Fired!*

**Daryl Bass, Law & Order**  
[laworder@legionmail.org](mailto:laworder@legionmail.org)

Here’s what happens to a Law Enforcement Officer on Routine Patrol in every City in our United States several times a year. Dispatch gives out the all recognized, “Emergency Tone Alert! 10-33 Traffic! (which mean stop all radio transmissions) All Units be advised to proceed Code Three (lights and siren) to Shots Fired! The Officer immediately

heads toward the call. His heart rate and blood pressure rises to dangerous levels (this is called the 0 to 60 syndrome). Tunnel Vision occurs because of these heightened physiological changes and can cause the Officer to quicken his response (Go Faster). The need to get there is more of a priority than the Officers safety. (this response is heightened if the Radio transmission is, “Officer Down!”). When the Officer arrives on the scene he must immediately

assess the situation, locate any offenders, locate the firearm (if any), and render the scene safe, locate any victims and witnesses. Determine if there a need for Fire Rescue, additional Units, Crime Scene Units, Detectives or K-9, and after all that he must begin writing a report while his body attempts to calm down. I’ve been there, done that, bought the T-shirt. Ha!

*Continued on page 9*



*Law & Order - Continued from page 8*

Considering the many recent tragedies that our Nation has had to contend with, I felt that it was imperative to remind our Legion Family that no matter what tragedies we face in the future our Police Officers, Deputy Sheriff's, Fire Fighters,

Paramedics, will always be the first to run toward the unknown knowing that every bad call they go on takes a toll physically ,emotionally, and mentally which appear later in life. (Emergency Responder PTSD) Still they are willing to give all they have for us.

There is no greater gift than one who will lay down their life for their brother or sister.

Just like when you meet a Military Veteran tell our First Responders you appreciate their Service too.

*Growing Membership*

**Bob Brewster, Team Brewster (North Membership)**  
teambrewster@legionmail.org



Well, as most Post team membership know, the early birds are flying in. It all looks good. We also know that the first 35%-50% membership goal is the easy part. I hope you all are contacting your

members either by writing them or calling them checking to make sure they are okay and thanking them for their continued support. Now the work begins. Each Post should have a 3 to 6 person membership team. Their job is to contact all the

members who paid their dues to your Post for the last 2 to 3 years. Some leaders call this the "Buddy Check." You ask why should you be calling them now. The answer is that you are contacting them to check to see if everything in their life is okay. Most of your members never come to your Post, or if they do, it is only once or twice a year. Remember, these members are just as important as those who frequently visit your social quarters. We must treat all members as we treat our best friends, and maybe a little better.

Soon, all Area Commanders, District Commanders, Vice-Commanders, and anyone involved in membership will be receiving a letter from Steve Slachta and myself. We are going to be very active.

We are going to grow membership in the state of Florida this year. During my career in The American Legion at Post level in the last 17 years, we have had only one year that we did not grow in membership. I have also worked membership at Department level, Area level, and District level. The last time I worked at Department level statewide, our membership grew over 3,000 members. This year with two of us, we want to top this figure. I will be working with all who want to grow membership in the northern part of this state. I am very sure that Steve will be doing the same thing in the southern half. Let's all work together to make this one fantastic year.

*Membership Movement*

**Steve Slachta, Team Slachta (South Membership)**  
teamslachta@legionmail.org

Hello, I am Steven Slachta representing the south region for membership.

I am sure most of you know that our membership in the state of Florida has diminished to a very concerning point which could yield terrible consequences. This is not anything we want to subscribe to but to reverse the course of action

which would accomplish a positive trend upward. Please contact me if you need assistance regarding my legion .org so that we are all proficient in the highly user friendly mechanism provided to us.

*Oratorical Scholarship Program*

**Cherie' Korn, Oratorical**  
oratorical@legionmail.org



It is my honor to be the Department of Florida Oratorical Chair for 2020. It is that time of year again and the Oratorical Scholarship Program is getting ready to be in full swing for the new school year.

The dates are as follows: Post Contests must be completed by January 19, 2020; District Contests must be completed by February 9, 2020; Area Contests must be completed by February 23, 2020; and the State Contest will be on March 13, 2020.

The Department of Florida has issued me a zip drive with all the information your post may need to be successful in recruiting and conducting your contests. Send me your email information and so I can share all this information.

at your Post so I can get all the information to them to prepare for a great year. I would like to attend one of your district meetings and let you know what the program has to offer and how the Department of Florida Oratorical Scholarship Program can help you to reach out to your local high schools.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (941)468-2168 or [cheriekorn@gmail.com](mailto:cheriekorn@gmail.com).

Thank you for your service.

The topics are Amendment 8, Amendment 20, Amendment 24, and Amendment 27.

Please let me know who your Chairman is



*A Foundation for the Future*

**Jim Ramos, Post Development**  
[postdevelopment@legionmail.org](mailto:postdevelopment@legionmail.org)



Hello Florida Legionnaires, I'm Jim Ramos your Post Development Chair: What is Development? Development is Training for you, your Post and your Post Officers. For Post

Officers.

- On how to do their job/duties to their office so they understand what they have to do to make it work for the betterment of the Legion Family.
- To work as a team to make things better for the Post Family and Community.
- To plan for the year to help our Veterans, Families and the Community.

How to have fun and work together and still get the job done.

I'm here to assist you and make this year a special year for All Legion Family.

Please let your District, Area, and Zone Commander's know you want Training.

Call me at+13522264370 or email me at [PostDevelopment@legionmail.org](mailto:PostDevelopment@legionmail.org)

*Role of a Post Public Relations Officer/Person*

**Tom Gora, Public Relations**  
[publicrelations@legionmail.org](mailto:publicrelations@legionmail.org)

Public affairs, communications, publicity, marketing, media relations, new media and several other like titles may be used for those involved in public relations. All these roles are combined into your job description as public relations officer or chairperson for your post. In many ways, the public relations function is the most important function at any level of The American Legion. It is our job to inform, enlighten, persuade, and convince the public of our beliefs, events and goals. **The first responsibility should be to determine your image in your community, if you don't already know.** And you should constantly review your organization's standing on the image meter. Ask media representatives how they perceive your organization when you talk to them. Talk to your community leaders and to your post's neighbors. Talk to your members – not just those who are always there to help, but the members who seldom show up for meetings or events. Find out why they don't show up so you can begin to change their perceptions about the post and get them involved. **Your primary responsibility now will be to alter or maintain the image of your post and/or The American Legion and to communicate your various messages to each of your many publics.** Based on your knowledge

of what your image is, you can better focus your message(s) to achieve your goals, whether it is to garner support for a veteran's issue or convince members to support a post function. Good public relations begin with the post commander establishing policies and practices that are ethical, honest and in keeping with the public interest. Then the PR officer can take those policies and practices to the public for acclaim, understanding and, if need be, for clarifying any misconceptions. The post PR officer is expected to provide four basic services:

**Advice and Counsel:** The PR officer should advise post officers of the PR impact policy decisions will have on the media, on the community and on members.

**Communications Service:** The process of letting the members and the public know about events and policies via newsletters, booklets, speeches, news media, good citizenship, examples and other means.

**Public Relations Research:** Identifying, evaluating and communicating information of community or world events to the post leaders and members who would help the post manage its affairs better.

**Public Relations Promotion:** Development and execution of a variety of programs and activities designed to gain acceptance for the post among members and within the

community.

A couple of Public Relations Promotion Suggestions for September 2019:

1. The third Friday of the September is typically proclaimed "POW/ MIA Remembrance Day by the President. Most posts celebrate with a ceremony and you should invite the media and public. Many of our friends in the community have forgotten what the POW/MIA flag is all about, what an opportunity to improve their knowledge and our public relations!
2. There is no better time **THAN RIGHT NOW** to promote Americanism in this country and The American Legion provides us with so many tools to use! In today's world we see protests and demonstrations all the time! Why not demonstrate and teach Americanism at your post by conducting community events by just utilizing Americanism education materials, and videos? Kids no longer learn these things in school, but they can learn them on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon event at an American Legion Post! I think you will be shocked how many parents are looking for something like this for their kids!





# PROJECT: VETRELIEF

## UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

All of our 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. Please contact 407-295-2631 or [jcooper@floridalegion.org](mailto:jcooper@floridalegion.org) for more information.

**SEPT 23 (FEATURED)**  
6th Annual Golf Tournament  
Bella Collina, FL

**OCT 19**  
Coral Head Blues Fest  
Marathon, FL

**NOV 2**  
PVR Advocate Training  
Orlando, FL

**NOV 2**  
Coral Head Music Fest  
Pinellas Park, FL

**NOV 16**  
Post 35 Golf Tournament  
Mount Dora, FL

**NOV 16**  
Post 63's 3rd Annual  
Challenge 22 Ruck Walk  
Winter Garden, FL



## UPCOMING PVR GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Monday, September 23rd at approximately 8:30AM, the shotgun for the 6th Annual Golf Tournament hosted by RL James, Inc. will take place. The tournament is PROJECT: VetRelief's largest fundraising event and has brought in nearly \$200,000 in just 5 years!

The anticipated 120 golfers will enjoy a premier experience at the Bella Collina Golf Course, located in Monteverde, FL. Golfers should expect a day filled with fun, and many chances to win some cool prizes.

During the awards banquet and luncheon, there will be a silent auction featuring an impressive list of more than 50 items. Not to mention the tasty buffet equipped with a beef carving station.

**We only have a few opportunities left** to join in on this exciting event. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Cooper at 407-295-2631 to reserve your spot or foursome today! There are also a few volunteer positions available, if you'd like to come and help out. *Hope to see you there!*



## WELCOME ABOARD • CRISTINA

Cristina joined the PVR Team in August as a part-time Case Worker. She has worked within the Orange County community for over 11 years by assisting those who needed additional resources, and is currently enrolled in grad school at Southeastern University studying Human Services. Although she did not serve in the armed forces, she has a passion for helping veterans and their families through their hard times.

When she is not busy with her schoolwork or large family, she enjoys motorcycles, volleyball and volunteering through organizations to raise awareness for homelessness and providing sustainability to families.

We feel lucky to have Cristina as a part of our team as she brings a lot of passion and experience. She will be in the office Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays. **Please help us welcome her to the team!**

## SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide among our veteran community has exceeded 22 a day. Think about it, that's over 8,000 veterans we lose every year. We no longer can sit back and say, "that's someone else's problem"!

Over the past year, we have seen a great deal of interest from the Legion Family in supporting a new Suicide Prevention Initiative. In fact, we created a committee last November to address this tragic statistic on veteran suicide here in Florida. The Committee includes: John Dollinger, Bob James, Jim Wineland, Barry Roberts, Larry Roberts and Kurt Gies.

The committee's plan of raising awareness, educating our communities and identifying Florida's community partners was approved by the Board in June. They have already identified over 20 organizations that assist veterans with mental health needs. The committee is going through each organization using a vetting process to identify those who have a proven track record and are validated within their communities.

It will take the entire Florida Legion Family working together to even make a dent in this devastating epidemic our veteran community faces. **But, we must start somewhere!**



**SUPPORT CASES JULY 2019**

**9 families helped**

**\$8,508.81 amount distributed**

\*Numbers reflect PVR Cases ONLY

*ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports*

**Loretta Young, ROTC/JROTC/Shooting Sports**  
[jrotc@legionmail.org](mailto:jrotc@legionmail.org)



The short summer is coming to an end and some of the schools have already returned or will be back in session in the next few weeks. This is the time for all District Chairmen to reach out

to the posts in your area and all posts to reach out to the schools that you support. Making time to pay a personal visit is the best avenue of approach. The instructors get a chance to meet you in person and you get a chance to see the Cadets at work. Most programs have one day during the week that is for uniforms, however, the Military Academies are in uniforms most of the week. Share with the Units that you are there to support them with the JSSP Program which will be online 01 November, Cadet of the Year which is due 01 March 2020 and Year End Award Military Excellence and Scholastic Excellence Medals and Certificate. With posts that have a "Post Home" invite them to your meeting, dinners and other functions of the post that they can be of assistance. This year for the JSSP Marksmanship Program, we need to have our team rosters updated. The current listed team will be sent to each District Chairman to follow up with the Posts to make any new additions

or deletions and post that sponsors the team. National is considering an increase in the Postal Target Orders from \$12.50 per target to \$15.00 per target. These changes will be noted on the legion.org website when it is ready to be posted for orders starting 01 November. Postal targets can be ordered on line by the Team Leader and the post can reimburse the cost. Targets are ordered single and an order of four (4) will make up a team. There is no limit to the number of Targets ordered.

I had the privilege of being on National Staff as a Deputy Line Officer for the National JSSP Three Position Air Rifle Competition in Colorado Springs at the USA Olympic Training Center 23-27 July, 2019. The competition consisted of the top 15 finalists in each Category, Sporter and Precision, across the Nation. The Department of Florida was fortunate to have two competitors reach the Finals. Congratulations to Trinity Gomez from Sarasota Academy in the Precision Category who placed 7th in the Final Round on Saturday and Sara Maggard from Summerlin Academy in the Sporter Category who was sponsored by Post 3 in Bartow. The final Precision Winner was Makenzie Sheffield from Granbury HS in Texas and final Sporter Winner was Jaden Ann Fraser from Volunteer HS in Tennessee, each presented a \$5,000 Scholarship Award. Second Place Winners in each category were presented a \$1,000 sponsored by the

Auxiliary. The Competitors, Chaperones, Coaches and Staff had a full week of events organized by the Legion National Tournament Director, Bill Megnin and his Administrative Assistant, Kim Shriver. We were invited to Colorado Springs Post 209 for an outstanding dinner provided by the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Family. There was a Pizza Party for the youth and a Reception for the Chaperones and Coaches at the Hotel Elegante Friday evening and a Banquet for the presentation of the Awards on Saturday evening for the Grand Finale.

I want to thank all that have stepped up to take a position this year for our youth programs and wish you all success. If I can be of help, please reach out to me.



Trinity Gomez, Sarasota Academy



Sara Maggard, Summerlin Academy

*Changes*

**Chuck Weber, Scouting**  
[scouting@legionmail.org](mailto:scouting@legionmail.org)

Doesn't it always seem that just as you learn something it changes? President John F. Kennedy reflected - "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

In the past year Scouting has unrolled yet more changes to its program for our youth. Just as the American Legion has focused its

recruiting efforts on the "Legion Family" the Scouts have expanded to "Family Scouting". For years, as parents brought their sons to Cub Scout meetings, little sisters came along too. And they often participated in and enjoyed the many great activities that their brothers did. But they couldn't wear the uniform or earn the badges as the boys could. Family Scouting has opened the doors to now allow young girls from kindergarten through fifth grade (ages 5 through 10) to join the Cub Scout program. Older girls in sixth through twelfth grades (ages 11 to 18) are now enrolling in the

Scouts BSA program, formerly called the Boy Scouts BSA program. With these changes the BSA is now aligned with the World Scouting movement.

If your Post charters a Cub Scout Pack (or if you wish to start one) you will have choices and options to introduce girls to this wonderful program for young Scouts. This will require changes in organizational structure of the Pack, requirements for adult leaders to follow and more. Similarly, if you have a Scout Troop you will have

*Continued on page 13*



Scouting - Continued from page 12

different options for the introduction of girls. There are too many changes to list here. But, if you read last month's Scouting Link, you know that your assigned Scout Council's District Executive can provide you the details you need. If you are fortunate enough to have a Commissioner assigned to your Pack and Troop, they will also know about the Family Scouting details.

While the addition of girls to your Scouting units is an option, and not a requirement, remember that the mission of Scouting is

to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime and to develop good citizenship and leadership in them. All of this is enveloped in the legendary principles of the Scout Oath and Law and is delivered within a program of good, clean fun. These are ideals that should be instilled in all of our youth of both genders.

The executive officer/institution head listed on your Pack's charter (and not the COR) has the authority to decide if and when you are able to make this transition into Family Scouting. There will be considerations of time, space, adult volunteers and other

resources that will impact the decision. It may need to be delayed or implemented incrementally. The choice is yours, just be sure to plan the transition thoroughly. Hopefully, you will be able to embrace it soon.

As a tool to help you in your job as Post Scouting Chair a condensed manual and other info is available on the State website at <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/scouting/resources/>. As always, thank you and all of your Scout leaders for all that you do for our youth. If you have any questions, please feel free to write me at [scouting@legionmail.org](mailto:scouting@legionmail.org).

*Special Olympics*

**Diane Schmidt, Special Olympics**  
[specialolympics@legionmail.org](mailto:specialolympics@legionmail.org)

*Each one of us can make a difference in the life of an athlete. In the words of Eunice Kennedy Shriver who started this program in the early 1960's "Special Olympics is a global organization that changes lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion among people with and without intellectual disabilities. We unleash the power of the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world."*

**Here is how you and your Post and Rider Chapter can make a real difference. Impress your friends and family with your**

**strength** and make a difference in the life of an athlete. Support a state fundraising event by putting together a team of 15 "tough as nails" Veterans for the **Plane Pull** on October 12 in Pensacola, October 19th in Ft Lauderdale and November 2 in Orlando. The **Plane Pull** is a giant tug-of-war; it pits teams of up to 15 members against a plane to see which team can pull the 50-ton aircraft the needed 15 feet the fastest. Proceeds go to Special Olympics and you can impress your friends and family with your brawn. For more information, go to <http://specialolympicsflorida.org/get-involved/fundraiser>.

If you are *interested in volunteering* for a

special event, there is NO off-season here in Florida, so get involved today. To sign up, go to <http://specialolympicsflorida.org/getinvolved/become a volunteer>.

**For those of us who have more money** that time, then this is the perfect Legion program. When you donate direct, all the money goes to Special Olympics and all donations count towards the Recognition Levels used to determine an award at the end of the year at Department Convention (deadline is May 1). For more information on the breakdown of awards, how to report, and making a donation, contact Department Chair Diane Schmidt at [SpecialOlympics@legionmail.org](mailto:SpecialOlympics@legionmail.org) or text at 321-217 6699.

*VA&R Bulletin*

**Alan Cohen, VA&R**  
[var@legionmail.org](mailto:var@legionmail.org)

Greetings once again, fellow Legionnaires. With the summer flying by I find myself once again preparing to attend the National Convention where it's my privilege to sit on the VA&R Commission. As always, I look forward to coming away from the experience better equipped to

help our fellow veterans.

Don't forget that we have open registration now for the Post Service Officer Training Class at the Fall Conference. Registration forms are easily accessible from the Legion website and your fellow veterans will appreciate your invaluable contribution. In line with that, one of our newest VAVS reps, Richard Love Jr, at the Miami VA hospital has reminded me that he's been

busy with, among other things, helping veterans at the Spinal Cord unit there. Thank you, Richard.

I'm reaching out to ALL Legion family members in the vicinity of the Lake Nona VA hospital for those who have the spirit of volunteerism. If you have as little as one day per week to volunteer, don't hesitate. You can contact me directly at [var@legionmail.org](mailto:var@legionmail.org).



*Blood Donation*

**Ray Perez, Blood Donor**

[blooddonor@legionmail.org](mailto:blooddonor@legionmail.org)



I want to start my first Legion Link Article by acknowledging last year's Blood Donor Program award winners announced at our Department Convention. The Margaret Skaggs Award winner was Fernandina Beach, Post 54 and the Runner-up was Arlington, Post 283. Congratulations to both of them.

I have started the new year by contacting State One Blood Leadership

Representatives in the North and South Regions which I believe will change the way we do business. Many of our new Commanders and sometimes the old ones that have been doing the job, have a tough time filling the chairmen positions a Post requires. I am coordinating with One Blood to see how they can reach out to our post with resources, marketing and assistance to our Post Commanders without programs. Using the chain of command, I hope to find out what are the more successful programs to see what we can learn from them.

I have also reached out to Department of Florida's Auxiliary National Security Chairman, Rhonda Brailey-Maurer so that we can make the Blood Donor Program

a joint effort. I want to thank her for her cooperation. I will be in contact with the Post, District and Area Commanders, to assist them in any way possible and will be updating everyone on the progress with One Blood State Representative.

If you have any questions or need any assistance please call me at (727) 412-5356 or email me at [blooddonor@legionmail.org](mailto:blooddonor@legionmail.org). I am also available to attend any of your Posts Blood Drives.



*American Legion Riders News*

**Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders**

[legionriders@legionmail.org](mailto:legionriders@legionmail.org)



We started the month by being invited to Tampa for the Division 6 baseball playoffs. What a great experience we rode down to Tampa and was asked to throw out the first pitch for one of the playoff

games. When I was asked to throw out that first pitch, I hadn't handled a baseball for 40 years. When one of the neighbors found out, he felt my pain, and we played catch for a couple of days. Matter a fact, one of the Legion Riders from my post home came down for the sole purpose of videoing the throw as many bet I couldn't make it over home plate. Well as things worked out, the starting time for the game was moved up to avoid the rain, and I missed that first pitch. Now, we will never know if I could do it. So much for the video!

I want to thank Andy Burkett, our Baseball Chair, and his team for the great opportunity he gave American Legion Riders. He allowed about 40 bikes out

on the field to acknowledge our support of Legion Ball. I believe just about all the Chapters in Southwest Florida were represented on the field. It was an excellent day for Legion Baseball and the American Legion, thanks, Andy!

It's confirmed, I think I mentioned the possibility of an event with the Jacksonville Iceman, an NHL minor league hockey team owned by a team in Canada. We had our first meeting last Friday. What they offered is almost unbelievable. They play at the Jacksonville Veterans Arena and offered to donate the net proceeds for their final season game to the ALR and more. In our Chairman's meeting at our last Convention, we vote on any donation from this event would be donated to our Department Commanders charity Project Vet Relief. Well, it's also grown from what we thought it would be. They are offering one of the parking lots for an end of the season tailgate party where anything goes. We are thinking live bands, vendors and maybe a big sponsor to help with the expenses. We will keep you posted on our progress. Oh, mark your calendars, it's Saturday, March 28th, 2020.

Some dates to save for 2020: Summit will be at the same location from February 6th through the 8th. Here is the link to book your room, **American Legion**

**Riders - Book Your Discounted Rate Here:** <https://bit.ly/2k40FEO>. We are reviewing the agenda now and modifying it to include your ideas, as noted in the Summit Survey.

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 M&G 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 PVR as always, and the "Round Robin" will be extended to include May 2.

Don't miss it, "Coral-Head Music-Festival and their new concert this year in England Bros, Pinellas Park, November 2-3. Their events support Project Vet Relief. 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!



*On the recruitment of women veterans*

**Deb Wheeler, Women Veterans**

[womenveterans@legionmail.org](mailto:womenveterans@legionmail.org)

Once again, I have the wonderful opportunity to shed some light on matters that affect our sisters in arms. Recently the title of Ms. Veteran of America announced that of the 24 candidates, two were American Legion members. What? Does that strike a chord with anyone else?

Shouldn't all 24 be members of our Great American Legion? Just venting! Once again, we are missing the mark of membership for our sister veterans. At our local VA hospitals and Clinics look for the name tags that say Veteran, they are all potential members!

It is the correct time to think outside the box, this is a virtually untouched market, but we must accept them, treat her with

respect, and engage them in the Four Pillars! Mentor and guide, most of us are not getting any younger. If you don't think that is true, just look at the convention floor and just look forward 10, 20 or 30 years from now who carries on our traditions, programs and the history of the last 101 years. This applies to all Legion members young and old, male and female.

*Youth Law Cadet Program*

**Bob Brewster, Youth Law Cadet**

[youthlawcadet@legionmail.org](mailto:youthlawcadet@legionmail.org)



Currently, this program is still in limbo. However, sometime after the National Convention and during the month of September, Tom Gora and I will be

visiting with the Major who oversees the academy. She seems very interested in reviving this program, and we feel the same way. I firmly believe that by the time you read the October Legion Link, we will be all set to continue this program.

Thank you all for asking about this program during our convention. I feel strongly that we will have this program back up and running in this year better than ever.

*Family Reunion*

**Jamerson-Sheffield Post 91**

[mckerchers@aol.com](mailto:mckerchers@aol.com)

We are brothers and sisters in arms. This year our Post is inviting our American Legion Family to enjoy a picnic Family Reunion style honoring all past and current members to welcome new and future members to play a little soft ball and possibly share in that camaraderie over a good old fashion hamburger or hot dog. Most have offered to bring a covered dish and our Post will provide the meat.

This is an opportunity for your Post to do the same in your local area. There will be two advantages to this action: 1) the reuniting with veterans in your area with invitation to join your Post membership and 2) a reminder that The American Legion exists in service to the Veteran and the community in which he/she lives.

If your membership would like to do something similar at your location, I would be happy to share advertisements and public service announcements with your Post. I am proposing a flyer.

We are sending out special invitations throughout Florida with details and your dates and addresses. The question to other Posts is "Do you want to participate in a past member recognition Banquet/ Dinner/luncheon at your Post?" If so, contact Post 91 with corrected address and dates for your event. We will include your date in our flyer distribution. Deadline is 4 October 2019. Stan McKercher, Post 91 Adjutant [mckerchers@aol.com](mailto:mckerchers@aol.com)

*NEW! DMS Membership Program*

**Department Membership**

[membership@floridalegion.org](mailto:membership@floridalegion.org)

At the 2019-2020 National Membership Meeting, National announced that beginning this year Departments would be responsible for renewing the new 2019 DMS (Direct Mail Solicitation) members. As a result, the overall increase to our National goal is approximately 11,500.

**This new goal does not affect the post's department goal.** However, the transfers into your post can count towards your current department goal.

It is a proven fact that there is a higher retention rate for members who are involved in a local post. Even though this is more work on the Department, we want to capitalize on this increase and have developed a program to help grow your post.

The department will be doing a mass

email and mailing campaign to ask these 2019 DMS members to join their local posts. They will receive a letter and form asking them to choose their post home location. A post selection page was created with those posts who submitted their information and how they'd like the DMS members to be transferred. **Posts who indicated that they did not want to be a part of the program were removed from the post listing page.** Examples of the mailing are in the back of the Legion Link article, found on pages 23-25.

Although posts are not required to participate in this incentive program, we are strongly encouraging posts to join us in getting as many DMS members into a local post as we can. As always, your Department Membership Chairmen and/or Department Membership staff are available to assist. **Together, we can make a difference!**



Donations

American Legion Post 382



\$5,000 donation from Post 382 to sponsor a room at the Santa Rosa Kid's House.



Florida American Legion, Children and Youth Fund Committee award/grant for \$4,442 to go towards robotics machine parts

**FLORIDA SAMPL**  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
FLORIDALEGION.ORG

— SHOW YOUR —  
**SUPPORT**

The American Legion  
official license plate.

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

Now available at your local tag office!

FLORIDA FLAG & EMBLEM  
**ONLINE STORE**  
floridalegionstore.org NOW OPEN

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT  
**CENTENNIAL COIN**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT  
**CENTENNIAL PIN**

AVAILABLE IN .999 SILVER

SEPTEMBER 2019	
1-30	National Disaster Prep Month
2	Labor Day
2	Headquarters Office Closed
2	V-J Day (Victory over Japan)
4	Early bird / NEF Kickoff 50%
5	District 15 Installation - Post 5
6	District 15 - Jack in the Park
7	District 8 Installation - Post 317
7	District 15 Installation - Post 111
7	District 2 - Meeting
7-8	Post 38 Celebrating 100 Years
8	Grandparent's Day
9	District 15 Installation - Post 278
11	Patriot Day
11	National Emergency Responders Day
11	National Membership Goal - 50% ★
14	District 15 Visitation - Post 138 ☆
14	District 14 Installation - Post 165
15	Legion Link Articles Due
15	National History Contest Entry Due ★
16	The American Legion Day
16-21	Legion Family Cruise ☆
17	Constitution/Citizenship Day
18	Air Force Birthday
18	Air National Guard Birthday
18	Secretary of Defense Office Birthday
20	POW/MIA Recognition Day
20-22	National C&Y Conference ★
20-22	Jr. Shooting Sports Dept Conference ★
21	Gathering in the Pines
23	First Day of Fall
23	PROJECT: VetRelief Golf Tournament ★
24	District 15 Visitation - Post 26 ☆
27	District 15 Installation - Post 246
27-29	National Americanism Conference ★
28	District 16 Family Meeting & Fundraiser
29	Gold Star Mother's Day
29	Post 117 Recruitment Dinner

☆ - Commander Rick Johnson's Attendance Tentative.

★ - National Event

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

**ATTENTION 2019-2020 LEADERSHIP**  
We will take portraits at Fall Conference. Don't forget your 2019-2020 commander's polo. In the meantime, you can send in an unofficial photo in your commander's polo, if you would like to.



August 23, 2019 50% Target Report (Currently 45.31%)		
6	Robert Suelter	51.13%
4	Cherie Korn	49.54%
11	Johnny Castro	46.14%
9	Arthur Barber	45.62%
8	Skip Felicita	45.43%
7	Rick Orzechewski	45.22%
16	Randall McNabb	45.21%
17	Hank Mangels	45.11%
12	Chris Hamrick	45.06%
15	Bruce Carl	44.99%
1	Lamar Carroll	44.61%
5	Troy Horsley	44.01%
2	Roger Hewitt	40.81%
3	Stuart Scott	40.62%
13	Brian Gehling	40.33%
14	Gary Decker	38.48%
Eastern	Timothy Tierney	48.48%
Central	Jay Allen	45.15%
Northern	Marie Conti	45.13%
Western	John Edens	43.93%
Southern	Paul Bosco	43.79%
Southwestern	Jerry Faught	42.65%
Post 400		45.85%
Post 208		45.01%



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.

**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**  
**50%** 9/4/2019

[www.thelit.com](http://www.thelit.com)



OBJECTIVE: ORLANDO

Department Commander, Rick Johnson

Department Commander Rick Johnson has implemented "OBJECTIVE: ORLANDO" for all Area and District Commanders.

Each Area/District Commander must first

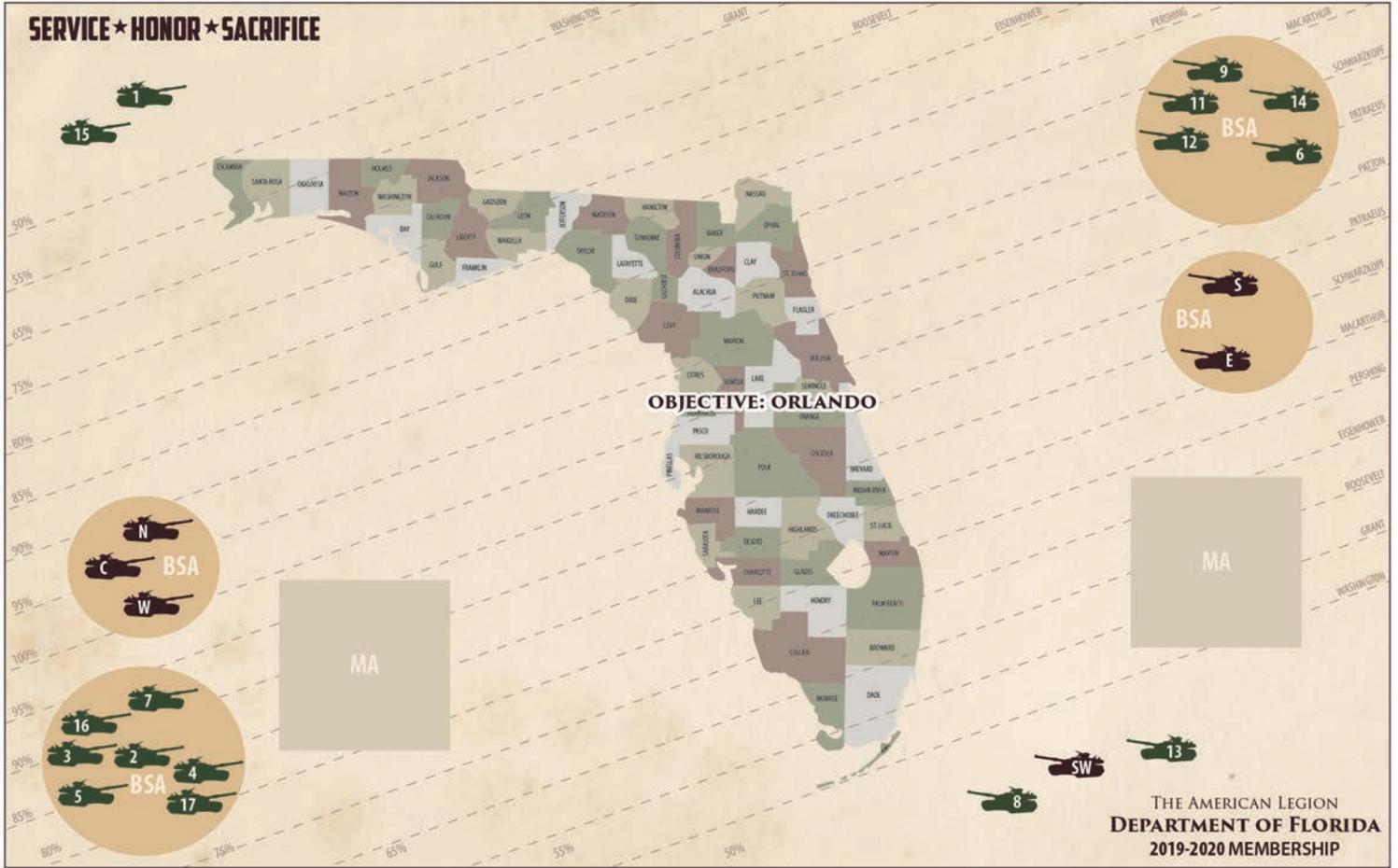
recruit 3 new members to move their tank from the Brigade Support Area into position on the battle map.

As the Area/District Commanders reach their membership goals, their tank will advance closer to Orlando. If the Area/District fails to meet their membership

goal, they will be moved to the Maintenance Area for support. Once back on track, they may resume their position.

Bragging rights to the first Area/District Commander to complete OBJECTIVE: ORLANDO.

BATTLE MAP



Follow progress at [www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org)

LEGION Act signed into law

The American Legion

(INDIANAPOLIS, July 30, 2019) — In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed

or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

"Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do and it is

long overdue," National Commander Brett Reistad said. "The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them 'Legionnaires.'"

Continued on page 19



*The American Legion - Continued from page 18*

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion's eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

The law's journey began on Feb. 14 when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, was introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

Reistad expressed gratitude to the bipartisan members of Congress for passing the legislation.

"We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act in the White House today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives," Reistad said. "In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country."

Reistad pointed out that existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. "In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write 'LEGION Act' in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras," Reistad said. "The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well."

**11 things you need to know - LEGION Act  
The American Legion**

*Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.*

**Question:** How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?

**Answer:** The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

**Question:** What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?

**Answer:** Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at [www.legion.org/join](http://www.legion.org/join).

**Question:** I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?

**Answer:** The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president's signature changed that.

**Question:** : So how does this differentiate

The American Legion from AMVETS?

**Answer:** The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "wartime." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

**Question:** How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

**Answer:** The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

**Question:** How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?

**Answer:** This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

**Question:** How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?

**Answer:** This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

**Question:**The current membership applications don't address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?

**Answer:** New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write "Other Conflicts" in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

**Question:** What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?

**Answer:** A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

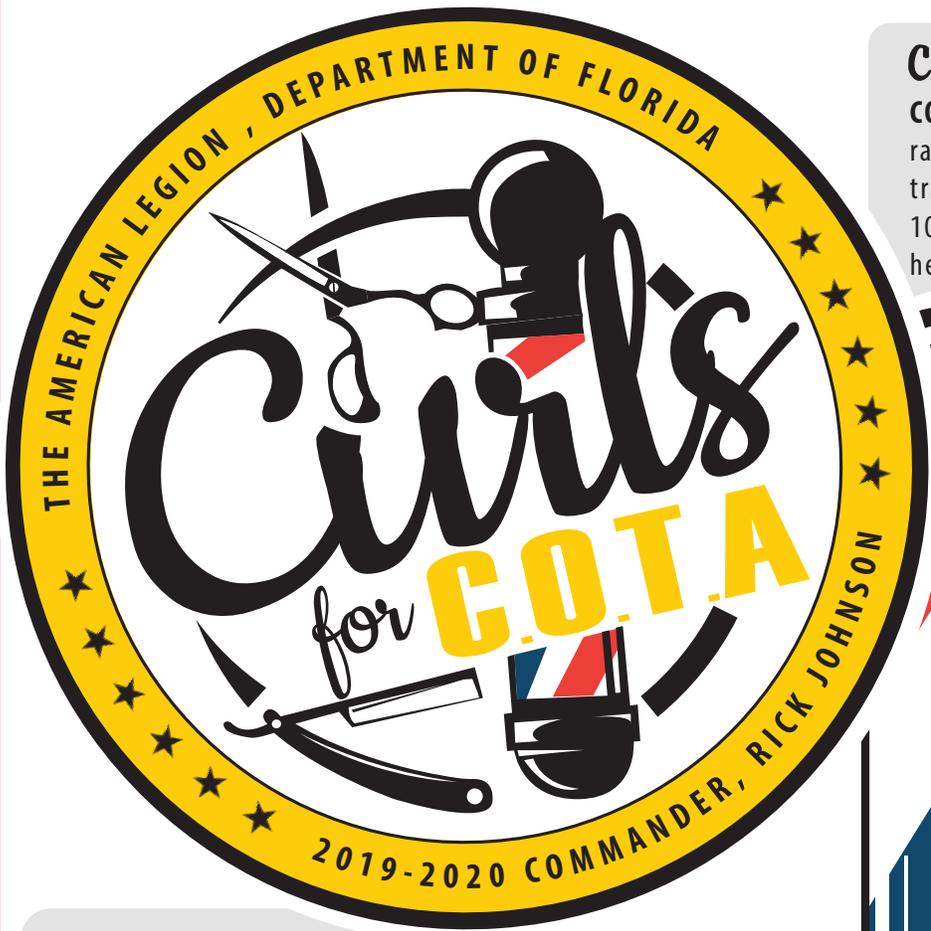
**Question:**How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?

**Answer:** There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.legion.org/PUFL>

**Question:**Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?

**Answer:** Contact the national Membership Division. Visit this web page to find the representative in your state. <https://www.legion.org/membership/contactus>



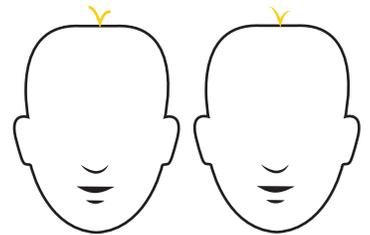


### Commander's Charity

COTA is an organization solely dedicated to raising life-saving dollars for transplant-needy children and young adults. 100% of each contribution made to COTA helps meet transplant-related expenses.

COTA's services are free to families, and gifts to COTA are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**\$35,000**



TANK AND GAMBLER  
GO BALD

**\$25,000**



GAMBLER  
CUTS THE PONY

Department Commander Rick "Tank" Johnson and 3rd Vice Commander Michael "Gambler" Raymond are committed to raising a minimum of **\$35,000** for COTA by November 2, 2019.

Gambler has pledged to **cut off his pony-tail** if the goal of **\$25,000** is met.

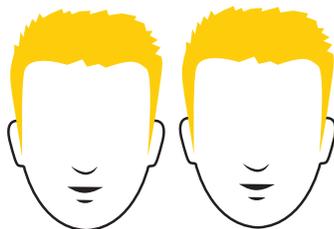
Tank and Gambler, will get **crew cuts** if a goal of **\$30,000** is met.

Tank and Gambler, will **shave it all off** if a goal of **\$35,000** or more is met.

**BONUS:** *COTA kids will be their barbers!*

It all goes down at Department Fall Conference, General Session, Saturday November 2, 2019 at the SeaWorld Renaissance in Orlando.

**\$30,000**



TANK AND GAMBLER  
GET CREW CUTS

**MEET THE  
GOAL BY  
NOVEMBER 2ND**



*The American Legion*



# NORTHERN AREA MEMBERSHIP RALLY

**Saturday, October 19, 2019**

**9AM Registration - 10AM Start**

**Where: American Legion Post #57**

**Lake City**

**GENERAL  
QUARTERS!**

**MAN YOUR  
BATTLE  
STATIONS!**

**AM - Coffee - Donuts**

**Lunch by SAL Squadron #57 for a nominal fee**

**What:** Consists of detailed Membership training in

## **RECRUIT-RENEWAL-RETENTION**

**Each Post Commander Bring your Membership Team and other Legionnaires. Bring your Cell Phones, Chargers, pen & paper**

**More INFO: Contact your District CDR**

**“SERVICE—HONOR—SACRIFICE”**

# 2019 Fall Conference

## PRESIDENT & COMMANDER'S BANQUET

Saturday, November 2, 2019



FEATURING

# Gracie and Lacy



**Advanced Tickets—\$35.00**

**Tickets Day of Show—\$40.00**

**Cocktail Hour— 6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner—7:00 P.M.**

**Prize will be Awarded for best vintage (WWII era) costume**

**No Vintage ? Business Attire is Fine.**

---

YES !!! I want to attend the 2019 President & Commander's Banquet on Saturday,  
November 2nd at Department Fall Conference,

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 per ticket = Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail check payable to: ALA Department of Florida

(Please Enclose Form) P.O. Box 547917 Orlando 32854

\*\*\* For more information and menu, please visit [www.wlafl.org](http://www.wlafl.org)

\*\*\* Learn more about our entertainment, visit [www.gracieandlacy.com](http://www.gracieandlacy.com)



**Saturday, November 2, 2019**

## **PRESIDENT & COMMANDERS BANQUET**

**“Celebrating 100 Years of Strong Women”**

**FEATURING**

**Gracie and Lacy**



## **BUFFET MENU**

**-Soup of the Day**

**-Chopped Romaine Hearts, Parmesan Cheese and Herb Croutons**

**-Pan Seared All Natural Chicken Breast, Chef's Roasted Mushrooms  
in Saltimbocca Sauce**

**-Roasted Market Fish Piccata, Lemon and Capers**

**-Cheese Tortellini, Blistered Tomato, Spinach and Pesto Cream**

**-Broccolini with Olive Oil and Lemon**

**-Roma Pesto Focaccia**

**-Chocolate Cream Cannoli**

**- Warm Apple Crisp**

**TICKETS: \$35.00 In Advance**

**\$40.00 Day of Banquet**

**Attire: Vintage Attire/Costumes - 1919—1950 Era—Prize for Best Costume**

**Or Business Attire Acceptable**

**Please visit [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org) for additional information**



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

*For God and Country*

## Greetings, Florida Legionnaire!

Thank you for becoming a member of The American Legion, the largest and most powerful veteran service organization in America! Today, I invite you to renew your membership and transfer from Post 400, the administrative “holding” post where your membership is currently located at the National level. **I’m confident one of our local posts is a great fit for you.**

Our local posts in Florida exist to support fellow veterans and their families, assist youth leadership development, and preserve our nation’s flag. At a local post you have greater opportunity to affect your community. Not only can you connect with other veterans, but a portion of your annual dues will be kept local, and you’ll be a part of the true strength of our organization.

We are proud of our posts and our commitment to fellow veterans! Members like you make it possible for us to grow stronger, improve our service to veterans and strengthen our programs within our community. By transferring, more of your annual dues will be spent here in Florida supporting the veterans and youth of *your* community.

Basically, our posts are a family. Like all families, we see all levels of involvement from our members. Some attend all our functions while others pick and choose their post activities based on prior commitments to other organizations or family responsibilities. Some members still only commit to paying their annual dues. Regardless of individual commitment levels, our members create the strength necessary to honor those who served before us, take care of those who are serving now, and set the foundation for those who have yet to serve.

Although transferring is not required, we hope that you decide to join a local post today by following the directions in the box below. We’ll take care of the rest!

**MICHAEL MCDANIEL**  
**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

All the local posts near you are described on the **yellow post selection page**. Check the box next to the post you feel is the best fit for you. Please base your decision on all factors (location, programs, activity rating, etc.). We want to place you in a post you will be proud to be a member of for years to come. If you would rather transfer to a post not listed, please note that on your form.

Once you have selected your local post, sign the bottom of the included Member Data Form and follow the instructions on the reverse side of this letter for payment for your 2020 membership dues. The dues amount varies based on the post, but the amount is listed on the post selection page. Please review your information for accuracy and fill in the missing or inaccurate data areas before signing.

# AMERICAN LEGION POST DESCRIPTION LEGEND

Thank you for taking the time to select the best post for you.

The strength of our organization and our ability to support our fellow veterans depends on the engagement and involvement of members like you. Use the information in the listing to choose the post that best fits you based on meeting location, mission, available programs, and activity level. Remember, posts with a specialized mission or focus may not reflect an activity level as high as a traditional posts because of their structure, but may still be a good fit because of their unique nature.

**KEY**

- Auto-Transfer
- DD214 Required
- Post has home
- Facebook
- Lounge
- Smoking
- Non-Smoking

**SELECTION BOX**  
Place a check in this box to select post.

**POST REQUIREMENTS**  
 indicates the Post will accept an auto-transfer for review. indicates the Post requires a DD214, and must vote on new members.

**POST DESCRIPTION**  
Indicates the post number, address and city.

**POST HOME**  
Indicates whether the post maintains physical property.

**LEGION FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS**  
Indicates whether the post has an American Legion Auxiliary (AUX) Unit, a Sons of the American Legion (SONS) Squadron, or an American Legion Riders (RIDERS) Chapter affiliated with post.

Auxiliary membership is open to wives, daughters and grand-daughters of eligible veterans. SAL membership is open to the sons and grand-sons of eligible veterans, and Legion Riders memberships are available to American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members.

POST DESCRIPTION	DUES	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE	FACEBOOK	ACTIVITY RATING
<b>Post 400:</b> 1912A Lee Rd, Orlando Boys State, Oratorical, and more	<b>\$38</b> 	Where to call to contact the post. <b>407-295-2631</b>	Learn more about the post online. <a href="http://www.floridalegion.org">www.floridalegion.org</a>	Indicates whether the post as a Facebook page. 	<b>5/5</b>

**POST HIGHLIGHTS**  
Highlights individual programs the post supports.

**LOUNGE**  
Indicates whether the post operates a bar or clubroom.

**SMOKING**  
 Indicates a post allows smoking inside the facility or has a designated area.  
 Indicates a post is Non-smoking.

- ACTIVITY RATING CRITERIA**  
Posts were assessed a zero to five star activity rating based on activities which promote The American Legion and veterans in our communities.
- The posts received a half star for conducting activities and programs in the following ten categories:
- Support of an American Legion Auxiliary Unit
  - Support of a Sons of American Legion Squadron
  - Support of an American Legion Rider Chapter
  - A physical structure operated and maintained by the Post
  - Participation in American Legion activities above the post level (Attendance at events or appointments at the district, state or national level)
  - Active Veteran Support Programs (Assistance for veterans or families in need, stand-downs, an accredited service officer, etc)
  - Active Youth Support Programs
  - Active Military Support Programs (Adopt-a-Military Unit, care packages, cell phone program, military families assistance, etc.)
  - Active Americanism/Patriotism Programs (Honor Flight, flag retirement and education programs, elementary school visits, etc.)
  - Active Community Participation Programs (Parades, flags on veterans grave sites, community fund-raisers, etc)

## INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE TRANSFER

Study the post selection sheet included in this packet to select a post that you would like to join. Then continue to the next applicable step below:

- If the post has a , the post will accept auto-transfers. Complete the enclosed *Member Data Form*, check the post you wish to join on the *Post Selection Sheet*, and return it, along with your renewal fee to the Department of Florida. Note: An auto-transfer does not mean you are guaranteed to become a member of the post, your transfer is still subject to review by the post membership. For auto-transfers mail completed forms and renewal fee to: **The American Legion, Dept of Florida, P.O. Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854**
- Complete the enclosed *Member Data Form*, and return it, along with your renewal fee directly to the post of your choice. If the post has a symbol, you will also need to bring a copy of your *DD214 Form* with you. The post will facilitate your transfer. Note: Often the post membership will vote on new members before completing a transfer.

Questions? Please call Irene Graham at 407-295-2631 or 1-800-393-3378, or email to [membership@floridalegion.org](mailto:membership@floridalegion.org).

**MARK A BOX in this column to make a post selection.**

Return this form and the signed member data form in the provided envelope to transfer your desired post.

**KEY** Auto-Transfer DD214 Required Post has home  
 Facebook Lounge Smoking Non-Smoking

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 22</b> : 241 PEACHTREE ST, COCOA	DUES \$40	321-636-9720				ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
			AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 117</b> : 189 VETERANS DR, PALM BAY	DUES \$38	321-729-8089	www.al117.com			ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
	Boy Scouts, Special Olympics, Boys State and more		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 189</b> : 807 LOUISIANA AVE, SEBASTIAN	DUES \$45	772-589-8710				ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
	Parades and Ceremonies		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 200</b> : 105 OCEAN BLVD, SATELLITE BEACH	DUES \$40	321-773-5151				ACTIVITY RATING 4.5/5
			AUX SONS	-			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 348</b> : 105 LINCOLN AVE, CAPE CANAVERAL	DUES \$45	321-799-1060	www.challenger7post348.com			ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
	Boys State, Little League Baseball, Special Olympics and more		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 366</b> : PO BOX 55, ROSELAND	DUES \$35	410-739-7108				ACTIVITY RATING 3/5
	Americanism, Patriotism, Active Community		AUX -	-			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 394</b> : 396 COGAN DR SE, PALM BAY	DUES \$38	321-726-9777				ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
			AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 1</b> : 1281 N US HWY 1, TITUSVILLE	DUES \$45	321-269-9959	www.titusvillealpost1.org			ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
	Homeless Veterans, Boys state, Americanism		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 39</b> : 1535 OLD DIXIE HWY, VERO BEACH	DUES \$45	772-562-9726				ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
	Youth, Next Gen., Gold Star Mothers		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 81</b> : 2909 S HARBOR CITY BLVD, MELBOURNE	DUES \$40	321-723-2939	www.americanlegionpost81florida.org			ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
	Boys/Girl State, Memorial Day Parade, ALR events		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 163</b> : 1795 N HARBOR CITY BLVD, MELBOURNE	DUES \$40	321-259-7239	www.legionpost163.com			ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
	Girls/Boys State		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 318</b> : 1000 SAVANNA CLUB BLVD, PORT ST LUCIE	DUES \$45	772-878-0655	www.americanlegion318fl.org			ACTIVITY RATING 5/5
	Helping Veterans, Children & Youth Programs		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 328</b> : PO BOX 1, CHRISTMAS	DUES \$40	321-217-6699				ACTIVITY RATING 2.5/5
	Children & Youth, Americanism		- -	-			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 358</b> : 4350 OLEANDER AVE, FORT PIERCE	DUES \$45	772-595-0656				ACTIVITY RATING 4.5/5
	Operation 300, Veterans Stand down and more		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 410</b> : 2130 WEST KING ST, COCOA	DUES \$40		www.helpamericanlegion.com			ACTIVITY RATING 4.5/5
	Taking care of veterans		AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 40</b> : 810 S US HWY 1, FORT PIERCE	DUES \$40	772-461-1480				
			AUX SONS	RIDERS			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 126</b> : 3195 NE SAVANNA RD, JENSEN BEACH	DUES \$40	772-334-1621				
			AUX -	-			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 171</b> : 1814 N 21ST ST, FORT PIERCE	DUES \$35	772-460-2224				
			AUX SONS	-			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 177</b> : 402 S BURNETT RD, MERRITT ISLAND	DUES \$40	321-639-2182				
			AUX -	-			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Post 181</b> : 4630 36TH AVE, VERO BEACH	DUES \$35					
			- -	-			

Please, note some post information may have changed.



Join Us On

# **NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**

at the

## **GATHERING IN THE PINES EVENT**

**Saturday  
September 21, 2019  
10am - 3pm**

Chapel of the High-Speed Pass - 6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32221

Join us on National POW/MIA Recognition Day under the pines with many great veteran organizations.

Events of the day will include:

### **POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony**

10 AM

### **POW/MIA Movies**

**Stolen Freedom & Missing Presumed Dead**

shown throughout the day in the  
Chapel Conference Room starting at 11:30AM



 **Car and Bike Show**

 **Food Trucks**

 **Live Entertainment**

 **Silent Auction**

 **Kid's Area**

Please bring your lawn chairs and spend the day!

**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

All proceeds from this event to benefit the

**The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum**

Hosted By

**VETERAN COUNCILS OF**

**Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties**