



SEPTEMBER 2020

THE LEGION LINK

VOLUME 29 ISSUE II

IN THIS EDITION

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| 2 2nd Vice Commander | 4 Judge Advocate |
| 3 3rd Vice Commander | |

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From your Dept Commander Rick Johnson

Rick Johnson, Commander
commander@floridalegion.org



Happy September, everyone, I hope you are all doing well and healthy. A lot of upcoming schedule changes are on the horizon, so please be sure to follow us at floridalegion.org and [facebook.com/floridalegion](https://www.facebook.com/floridalegion), to stay updated.

The biggest change has just been announced, Fall Conference scheduled for November, has been officially cancelled. If you made your reservation under the "American Legion" room block at the Renaissance SeaWorld, you do not need to take any action. Your reservations will be automatically cancelled. We hope to offer a virtual Fall Conference later in the year, again make sure to follow us online to stay informed.

Some of you may be aware, that I recently

had to cancel the in-person installations, for the time being, due to noncompliance by some Districts not following the CDC guidelines. We have been working diligently with various agencies in Tallahassee on re-classifying our liquor license to remove us from the "bar and night club" category. Although this will take time, it is highly beneficial should we ever find ourselves in this situation again in the future.

The kickoff of our 2020-2021 Membership has been a record pace, and I hope this trend will continue. Please make sure to take advantage of the training we have put in place for you, utilize it now and don't wait until its too late. We will also host webinar classes in the near future for new and current officers, to assist in their duties.

Please remain vigilant in your travels, be smart and follow CDC guidelines at all functions you might attend. God bless us all, and as always, do the right things for the right reasons.

Service, Honor, Sacrifice,
 Tank Out

COMMANDER'S CHARITIES

PROJECT: VetRelief | C.O.T.A.



Commander's Goal: \$225,000 (Current funds raised \$180,451.33)



Training & Mentoring

Jerry Brandt, 1st Vice
1stvice@legionmail.org



Installations are over, and everybody should be in place for the upcoming year. Now, what is your plan? Are you now in the process of training your members? Are you helping them get started? Or, are you out finding new projects to energize your members? Have you reached out to the Department Membership Chair for extra training, or reach out to the Department Revitalization Chair, to see what they can do to strengthen your team and membership?

I know several Districts in Zone 3 are working on their training, either team training for their District Officers, Post

Training for individual Posts, or planning their District training for a future date. Please be safe, we know this virus is not going away soon, so plan according. Ensure social distancing and wear the mask, so we can be safe.

New Projects, have you looked at the National Commander's "100 miles in 100 Days Challenge"? The link is, <https://www.legion.org/commander/249768/american-legion-family-members-join-100-miles-challenge>. This is something that can energize your Post Members. Also look at "Challenge 22". This year's event will be held at Post 63 in Winter Garden Florida on November 14th. You can also hold one at your Post, this would not only get your Post involved, but it would also involve the community. Your Post and community will assist to make this grow and it is a great way to bring awareness to suicides of our veterans within your community.

Now something close to my heart, mentoring. We all have a number of new officers in our Posts, if you were a previous officer, please reach out to the new officers to see if they need any assistance. Help them through these trying times and encourage them to do the same when they hand over the Post to the next group to come up. You have experience, share that experience, help those who are still learning.

A problem we are seeing is Facebook. You may not realize it, but when you have a social function that shows a number of members shoulder to shoulder without a mask and it appears on Facebook, please realize a number of government agencies are also viewing this event. Please, during these times, watch what you post on Facebook, this would help keep other eyes off your Post.

Work Membership and Follow Directives

Eunice Butts, 2nd Vice Commander
2ndvice@legionmail.org



As of this article, all Posts are open and must follow the strict guidelines of social distancing. In my travels I find that some county's do not make masks mandatory. It is optional. Please

follow your location directives and The Governors directive. In Hillsborough county you will face a fine if you do not wear the mask. So, please be careful. It has been observed that all canteens are not following the social distance guidelines. Remember, only you can protect your Post and its licenses.

I visited 18 American Legion Posts and I take this time to thank you for

your hospitality. I have attended two membership rallies at Posts 138 and 139, did installations at Posts 30 and 72, participated In Post 186's Adopt a highway, attended Post 7's 2 fundraiser for a Post project.

Now that your Posts are open, you may concentrate on membership. Please call the O400's and transfer them to your Post. Some have not paid their 2021 dues and you can collect the dues for your post. I encourage all Posts to do membership drives and programs. Think out of the box and do the Buddy Check, it has proven to be very valuable membership tool. During my Post visitations, I find that some Posts need revitalization help. We will get you the help that you need.

Special thanks to all those Posts who continued to serve our veterans and the community during these trying times. I

congratulate you on a job well done. Keep up the good work.

Awards for 'Best Area Commander, 1st and 2nd place District commander were based on those who carried out the programs set by The Department commander and Zone 2 Commander. These recipients followed all guidelines set forth and some went beyond. Thank you, Commanders, for a job well done.

- Area Commander - SW Area commander Jerry Fought
- 1st place District - 15th district commander Bruce Carl who is also the 1st place membership in his category at National
- 2nd place District - 8th district commander Angelo Felicita (Skip)

GREAT LEADERSHIP IS NOT ABOUT CONTROL. IT IS ABOUT EMPOWERING OTHERS.




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Honor Our Heroes

Michael Raymond, 3rd Vice Commander

3rdvice@legionmail.org



As we continue through this uncharted territory that we call daily post operations, we only must remember one thing. Current emergency orders only restrict on premises consumption of

alcoholic beverages if you have a liquor license. All other activities are allowed if you adhere to current CDC guidelines of social distancing and personal protective equipment. Our Department Commander and staff are working tirelessly to try to loosen these restrictions but if we continue to flaunt violations through social media and other media, it makes their job much more difficult. Just continue to work the programs and membership like so many other successful posts, some that do not even have a post home.

One such program that I feel is very important is Honor Guard. When I first arrived in Florida, I was asked to take on

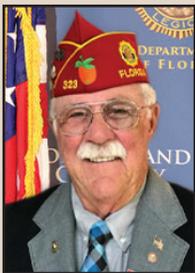
the duties of Sgt at Arms at my post. One of my duties was to lead the Honor Guard in ceremonies such as special meetings, events and providing military honors at funerals. I soon realized that our Honor Guard program needed a little sprucing up since we only had about 5 or 6 guys who were available at any given time to attend these events. We had the equipment and some resources so I began a recruiting effort of all Legion family members with "I want you" for the Post Honor Guard posters and managed to recruit close to 25 members which included Legionnaires, SAL and Auxiliary. We became the "go to" Honor Guard of our county providing honors at over 150 funerals and events a year. We also got the Legion Riders involved by providing motorcycle escorts to our National Cemetery in Sarasota.

This is just one of the many programs that does not take a lot of effort but does require dedication. I firmly believe that every one of our heroes should be afforded the honors that they earned and it is our duty as Legionnaires to make sure this happens. Please contact me for any assistance you may need to "Honor our Heroes". Stay safe.

Child Welfare Foundation

Dennis Boland, NEC

nec@legionmail.org



The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., (CWF) has awarded more than \$17 million in grants for the betterment of children since its founding in 1954. The mission of the American Legion

Child Welfare Foundation is to contribute to the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual welfare of children and youth by awarding grants supporting beneficial research, studies, surveys, projects programs and other initiatives.

CWF has provide funds to help educate the

public about such topics as Huntington's disease, juvenile diabetes, shaken baby syndrome, autism, meningitis, Marfan syndrome and court-appointed advocates. The American Legion covers overhead costs for the foundation, so 100 percent of CWF contributions go directly to help children.

Below you will find the total amount awarded to grant recipients in the state of Florida from the Child Welfare Foundation for the last five years.

- 2015 - \$44,411
- 2016 - \$25,000
- 2017 - \$29,000
- 2018 - \$15,140
- 2019 - \$32,200

Contributions may be sent to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

SEPTEMBER 2020	
1	Boys State & Oratorical Manuals Mailed
1	Post Program Chair Form Due
3	Membership: Early Bird/NEF Kickoff 50%
5	District 11: Bartenders/Managers Training
7	Labor Day
7	Department Headquarters Closed
10	Membership: Renewal Cut-off
11	National First Responders Day
11	Patriot Day
12	District 2: Quarterly Meeting
12	District 9: Meeting
12	District 15: Meeting
12	District 17: Meeting
13	District 5: Meeting
13	National Grandparents Day
15	Legion Link Article Deadline
15	History Book Contest Entry Cert Forms Due
16	The American Legion Day
17	Constitution and Citizenship Day
18	Air Force Birthday (1947)
18	National POW/MIA Recognition Day
19	District 8: Meeting
19	District 12: Meeting
19	National Clean Up Day
19	Rosh Hashana
20-26	Employ Older Workers Week
21	PROJECT: VetRelief Golf Tournament
22	First Day of Fall
23	Post 138: Visitation
25	Post 246: Officer Installation
26	District 12: Picnic
26	ALR Post 189: Frank Strahorn Memorial Ride
27	Gold Star Mother's Day
28	Yom Kippur

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

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Want to be included in our next raffle?

Sign Up to receive your tickets by mail

floridalegion.org/raffle



Mental Health Life Coach Certificate

Barry Roberts, Chaplain
chaplain@legionmail.org



I pray for you often and with all that is going on in our country I would like to remind you that God is in control! 2 Timothy 1:7 says, For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and

of a sound mind.

September is National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. I firmly believe that The American Legion was designed

and created to be on the forefront of identifying veterans and their family's needs and working towards solutions on how to serve them best. With that in mind as part of our Challenge 22 efforts I have been in contact with the American Association of Christian Counselors and we are being offered a faith based Mental Health Life Coach Certificate through Legion Church. It is about forty-five hours of online training and the \$2400 tuition has been waived, so the only cost is a \$54.00 administration fee. I already have several people from around the state enrolled in the program. If you would like to know more please email me at bwroberts@rocketmail.com or call me at 863-661-9999.

Let's be proactive together in preserving "For God and Country" and let's be proactive together in reaching out into our communities and serving our veterans and their families. Let's be proactive together and go help somebody....

I am here for you, I encourage you to go to The American Legion Department of Florida Chaplains' Facebook page, feel free to like and share. www.facebook.com/floridalegionchaplains

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

Relationship Between a Post and the Lounge

Clarence Hill, Judge Advocate
judgeadvocate@legionmail.org

There appears to be some confusion about the relationship between the Post and the Lounge (bar). Posts are autonomous incorporated entities and the Post liquor license is in the name of that incorporated entity. Therefore, the Post is 100% responsible for the operation of the Lounge.

The Lounge needs to be run by a House Committee or Trustee Committee who is responsible to the Post Executive Committee. The House/Trustee Committee should have a Club Manager who oversees the Lounge operation (bartenders) and reports to the Chairman of the House/Trustee Committee. A Lounge cannot be successful if every Post

member tries to tell the Club Manager how to do his/her job, nor can they try to tell the bartender on duty how to do his/her job. If you have an issue with the bar operation, start with your House/Trustee Committee.

Some members ask why Posts are autonomous legal entities. Today, legal liability is a major obstacle for most nonprofit corporations. To protect the National American Legion and to protect the Department of Florida, the National Constitution requires Departments to be autonomous legal entities and Departments require the same from the Posts. Posts need to carry liquor liability insurance in addition to its general liability insurance.

Our Department Commander and staff have been in negotiations with State

Leaders and the leadership at Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT), a state agency. The goal is to allow a modification to the current alcohol guidelines so our Posts can be back in operation. During these negotiations, it is imperative that Posts follow CDC Guidelines on social distancing, wearing facemasks, 50% occupancy, the use of hand sanitizers and any additional guideline imposed. Posts need to protect our Legion Family Members. Finally, Facebook is public – let's put pictures on Facebook that show Legion Posts following the CDC guidelines and working their programs, instead of what has been posted to date. As this is written, to be clear, the ban on alcohol sales other than in sealed containers for off premises consumption remains in effect and applies to every Post.



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Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Paul Bosco, Southern Area Commander

southernarea@legionmail.org



I sincerely hope that this finds everyone in good health. While we're all concerned with our individual Posts being able to be open, let's please not lose sight of the fact that during these difficult times it's so important to do what we must to maintain our health and the health of our loved ones.

In line with that and with so much emphasis being placed on testing, I'll share some information with you. Should any of

our brother or sister veterans feel they have any of the symptoms related to COVID19, call the local VA Healthcare facility. This can also be established by using the Secure Messaging system at MyHealthVet. If you've not yet registered to use this system, I encourage you strongly to do so. Should it be the case that a facility doesn't have the ability to test, it will direct you to an outside facility or lab.

On a somewhat related note, as some of you may be aware, beginning in October the VA has expanded its Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. This is something of a mixed bag of news since there are, once again, limitations. The expansion now covers Vietnam veterans; however, the veteran must be rated at 70% or more disabled

by the VA and must require personal care in at least 3 areas of normal daily living activities. The aim of this program is to make it possible for veterans to be in a home setting for as long as possible.

In closing this month's article I'd like to share that I finally had the great pleasure to visit Post 318 to present the coveted Tracy Taylor Unsung Hero award to Matt Dunleavy, Department Service Officer of the Year. Every year it's my honor to present this award at the June Convention but under current circumstances it was just as much so in a Post setting. Congratulations to Matt and many thanks to the Post for sharing their wonderful hospitality and camaraderie.

Relationship Between a Post and the Lounge

John Edens, Western Area Commander

westernarea@legionmail.org



I have waited until the last possible day to get this report out because of the constantly changing orders from the state of Florida or from our Department Commander. Well,

both of them (Florida DBPR and our Dept Commander) today, 15 Aug, said **we can open our lounges, IF**, your Post has a liquor license and a food service license or

permit from your county, city or state. We still must be in compliance with the 50% rule and the "social distancing" rule. This may change by the time this goes out on October 1st, so keep your ears and emails open for potential changes. And don't forget to use the "chain-of-command" for questions in reference to Posts activities.

We, the **American Legion Family**, continue to do what we can through **Buddy Checks** to find out who needs help or assistance. In District 1, we are working hard to get Post 33 in Pensacola back on their feet. It looks like they have a full house of Officers for this year and Department is working hard to get them

new officer training. Also, Post 375 (Southport) has purchased a new home and they are working hard to fix it up for Post meetings in the near future.

We still need to remember that our **membership** has been decreasing each year and we need to reverse that trend – **this year**. That means developing a well-organized plan and making sure it is executed in a timely manner.

Everyone stay healthy and keep your distance for now. I look forward to seeing every Post in Western Area again this fall. **Thanks again for everyone's hard work.**

Way to Go 15th District!

Bruce Carl, 15th District Commander

15thdistrict@legionmail.org



I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this pandemic! I would like to thank all my 15th District Officers and Committee Chairpersons for a great 2019-2020 year, I look forward to working

with them again this year. The 15th District

had a great year for membership, awards, and programs. To everyone who helped with the membership this past year, I want to say thank you for all your hard work! We finished first in the Department at 106.3%, and thanks to all of you, I won the Race to the Top for District Commanders in our category at National. In addition to everything we accomplished, we had 100% Post CPR reporting, 100% as a District Family, and some of the Posts had 100% family also. Also, Post 138 won the Best Scouting award from the Department.

I look forward to another great year working with everyone in the 15th District. I know we can reach the 100% again with some determination and hard work, and I know you are all up to the challenge. If we can do it again, this will make three years in a row as your District Commander that we have accomplished that feat!

Hopefully, this Coronavirus will turn around and we can continue to work hard doing the things we are supposed

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<< District 15 Continued from page 5

to be doing with our programs, Veteran's, Children and Youth, and our Communities. Unfortunately, the Annual Convention had to be cancelled, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we can have the Fall Conference. With many new Post Officers this year, the great training we get there will be an asset!

Renewals will continue to come in, so I hope you are working the DMS 0400 list to get those members to join your Post before they pay National. This serves a two-fold advantage for you, as you get them as a member and get their 2021 dues. You should also be doing your "buddy checks" on your current members.

Any changes or updates that need to be done to the calendar will be sent to Post Commanders and Adjutants via email. If you don't receive it, please check your spam folder, or let me know and I will resend it to you. As always, if you have any questions, problems, or concerns, or you need help with something, please feel free to contact me via text, phone, or email!

Membership Plan

Jim Ramos, Northern Membership
teamramos@legionmail.org



We are starting the beginning of a new membership year, 2020-2021. With a membership timetable we can make our new goal. (Your District Commander have your Post goals for 2020-2021).

How? Well we have membership chair in District's, Areas, and the Department to help you and your Post. Please just ASK. I am always a Phone call or email away and I will have some suggestions to help with membership to make it work.

First make a Membership Team at your Post for the following:

1. Reinstatements Team (3 Legionnaires who know membership minimum)
2. Renewal team (3 Legionnaires who know membership minimum)
3. Prospect team (3 Legionnaires who know membership minimum)
4. New Membership team (3 Legionnaires who know membership minimum)

*Recruiter Definition is a person whose job is to enlist or enroll people as employees, in the armed forces, or as members of an organization the American Legion.

With that we have an Active and Passive recruiter?

Which one are you!

A Passive recruiter is where the Real Magic happens they:

- Inspire others through PRIDE in the organization, through actions, and general human character.
- Have a plan that appeals to those you want to be members of the American Legion and your Post.
- Demonstrate consistent excellence and genuine benevolence in taking care of veteran.

An Active recruiter is one who goes out and:

- Obtains names of veterans through any means.
- Contacts veterans by telephone, area canvas, and home visits.
- Has a speech ready for when approached or approaching others.

Resources for recruiters below:

- Military installation and Transition groups
- Relationships with other VSOs
- Satellite military recruiting offices in every community
- Chamber of commerce
- Local hospitals, Fire and Police

What is the Goal to get new members into your Post?

Setting the Goals: (specific dates and timetable) below:

1. September free dinner for the early bird members and new membership card (send your membership in before Sept 3, 2020) is 50% goal for Department
2. Sept 7, is Labor Day (your Post can do something)
3. Sept 11, is Patriot Day (flag is at half-staff all day) (your Post can do something)
4. Sept 16, Legion Day (your Post can do something)
5. Sept 18, POW/MIA recognition Day (your Post can do something)
6. Plan for October order your Halloween coloring book
7. October, please send membership in before Oct 8, 2020 (your Post can do something)
8. Oct 12, Columbus Day (your Post can do something)
9. Oct 13, Navy Birthday (your Post can do something) for your Nary Veterans in your Post
10. Oct 27, Navy Day (your Post can do something)
11. Oct 31, Halloween (your Post can do something) for the kids in your community or Post
12. Plan for November Veterans Day turn out and come with a new member (send your membership in before Nov 5, 2020)



Southern Membership Bulletin

Ray Perez, Southern Membership
teamperez@legionmail.org



As of the date of writing this article the first weekly report is out. So here we go! The Districts should already have meeting dates, membership plans, training plans and visitation schedules in place. All in accordance with the CDC and Department Commander's Guidelines for COVID-19 and Executive Orders. It is a challenge but not impossible.

We must think outside the box. The Department has shown us that we can do it through conference calls and zoom meetings, so it is proven. I have attended two District meetings already by Zoom and the 11th District Commander did an excellent job. He presented the new membership training slides by sharing his desktop to the audience.

Jim Ramos and I are ready to present this training at your request. We expect the proper protocol be followed and with enough lead time to fit into our schedules. Look at your timetables and plan and make sure you have a gradual progress to the goals required by Department and National. In the end you are shooting for 103%.

On to my favorite subject, DMS Transfers and Post 400 members for your Post. I could not ask you to do something unless I tried it myself. As part of the Membership Committee or Team at my Post my job is credit card renewals and DMS transfers. I pulled a list by zip from Mylegion.org and started with the members that had email addresses. Next the Commander and I developed a good letter to send each member. It was an extension of the letter produced by Mylegion.org. I received immediate responses. Then I changed the letter slightly to the members that didn't have email addresses and sent them by snail mail or the postal service. My Legion.org produces those labels but another member of our team uses mail

merge which is simple once you have the addresses on that same excel spreadsheet you downloaded.

Both processes take monitoring because you must obtain the verification of honorable service, in accordance with your By-Laws, if that's what you require, and then the receipt of the dues. They do not always follow directions and send them separate. In a month and half, I was able to transfer 35 members from Post 400 and I am still working the original spreadsheet I downloaded.

So, by the time you read this, it would have been four months that National sent out their renewal notices for these Post 0400 members. I have already received three members I have had to transfer as paid members. If you need any assistance with the DMS Transfer Program, please call me.

Good luck to all of you and let's make our goals!! TEAMWORK!!!

Legion Riders Upcoming Events

Jim Wineland, American Legion Riders
legionriders@legionmail.org



Well hopefully we can stay open now. I know it is back to the planning board for your ALR Committee. We have several things in the works.

First thing is the transfer of the Round Robin Trophy from District 1 to District 15. The plan is to make the swap during the 15th District meeting at Post 111, 6918 N. Florida, Tampa, Florida on Saturday September 15th 9AM to 12 PM. Stay tuned for more info.

Second on the list the October "Merry Go Round", for Children & Youth. FYI - am

sure most of you know that this years Children & Youth Picnic will be held at Post 1 on April 3, 2021 from 12p to 6PM. Please make sure you mark your calendar for this event, the kids really enjoy the bikes.

As I have mentioned before, Bev and I are looking for a little help. We are a little ahead of the schedule because we moved unused plans from last year to this, but we need more individuals to get involved and ready to step up as the needs of the program change.

Forth topic for the article, the Summit. Yes, the rumor is true, we are looking for a new venue for the Summit. It is hard to find a place that will let us have all the same activities we enjoyed at the International Palms. Wish I could snap a picture when I ask for 6 fire pits, a picture really is worth a thousand words.

Again, Thank You for all your Efforts! We already have our schedule put together for next year. More info coming. Here is our tentative schedule for next year for your review and comments

- October – all month, Merry Go Round – For Children & Youth
- Summit - February 3, Wednesday - Meet & Greet 6P – 8P
- Summit - February 4, 5, & 6 – Classroom, we may add AM Sunday for Road Captain Training
- April – all month, Round Robin, PVR/SPI
- April 18th Meet & Greet at Marathon & Pensacola FL.

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<< American Legion Riders - Continued from Page 7

- April 19th through 23rd North & South In-State Unity Rides
- April 24th In-State-Rally, Harley South

Kissimmee Fl.

- June 16th – 19th, Department Convention

Beverly and I would like to thank each of you for the support we received this last

year! Thank You for what you do, and we are proud to be part of your Leadership Team of such a great group!

Americanism Commission

Kurt Gies, Americanism

americanism@legionmail.org



“TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100 PERCENT AMERICANISM”..

Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights, and

unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world-wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.

Americanism is a philosophy that flows through the American Legion organization.

It can be found through participation in patriotic holidays and observances. Americanism comes in the form of naturalization and citizenship programs at hundreds of posts. The American Legion stands as the nation’s utmost authority on patriotic observances and traditions, including flag etiquette and proper behavior during the paying of the National Anthem or recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

As the 2020–21 Department Americanism chairman, is my honor to be selected to lead the Department of Florida’s Americanism mission; one of the four pillars of the American Legion (VA&R, National Security, Children & Youth, and

Americanism).

Through our numerous programs, we can instill a little bit of our Americanism into the youth and fellow citizens of this great nation by getting involved. My charge to you is to embrace Americanism. Take charge within your Post and become excited about one of the several one or several of the programs the Legion supports. Once you do, the feeling of satisfaction you receive when you see your child take a pride in this great nation will be amazing.

Oh and it doesn’t hurt to chant USA, USA, USA every once in a while to get the excitement going.



The 2020-2021 Baseball Plan

Terry Phillips, Baseball

baseball@legionmail.org



I pray you are all well and keep on keeping on.

We as a Legion Family would never have imagined our posts closed for weeks and months on end, or

suspending activities and programs, not having our Annual Convention in Orlando (hopefully we will be okay for the Fall Conference) and there are no words to describe the impact on us all and our

families over the past six months.

We, and what we do, must keep moving forward with purpose.

Our programs and community service may suffer some, but we will overcome this obstacle. It is very possible that our programs will help our communities, youth and families get through this very crazy time in our lives.

The Department Baseball Program and soon to add the Girls’ Softball Program are beginning the planning phase and handbook updates for next year’s operations.

Usually at this time of year, we have completed our ALB Department League Games, our Department Area Playoff Tournaments, our Department State Tournament, our National SE Regional Tournament and are in our National ALB World Series Tournament during this entire week.

As you can see our Baseball Program is very active and busy through the whole summer with hours on hours, weeks on weeks, months on months, seven days a week from 8:00 am early morning to at times as late as 11:00 pm at night with practices, games, tournaments, field

Continued on page 9 >>



<< Baseball - Continued from Page 8

preparation, maintenance and upkeep.

We are hosting the Department Sr. State Tournament in Jacksonville next July 21st - 25th, where the top 8 Department Legion Teams will play for the State Championship (expenses paid by the Department Budget) and the bid to represent the Department of Florida in the National SE Regional Tournament against the other 7 SE Regional Champions (all expenses paid by National) for a bid to the National World

Series (all expenses paid by National).

As your Department Baseball Chairman and Executive Baseball Committee, we need your help as this program is growing faster and bigger than ever before in the State of Florida and in all age groups and divisions. The addition of Girls' Softball is going to be crazy big.

Battle Plan:

- Legion Sponsor the Department Sr. State Tournament yearly
- Auxiliary Sponsor the Girls' Softball

- SAL Sponsor the JR. State Tournament yearly

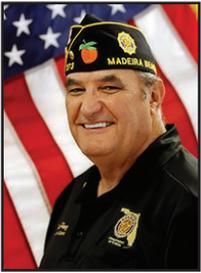
This will reduce the financial load on all, expand the program and serve hundreds of youth boys, girls, and families through our Legion program.

I also truly believe it will also bring in new membership and families as we make more and more impact in all our communities.

I will have a full detail plan to present to you in the near future.

OneBlood Needs Convalescent Plasma Donors

Ray Perez, Blood Donor
teamperez@legionmail.org



On the heels of a national call to action for people who have recovered from COVID-19 to become convalescent plasma donors, OneBlood, the not-for-profit blood center serving

Florida, North Carolina and much of the southeastern United States says a sustained donor response is needed to meet the unprecedented demand from hospitals requesting convalescent plasma.

"The need for convalescent plasma has reached extraordinary levels and it is going to remain that way for the foreseeable future", said Susan Forbes, OneBlood

senior vice president of corporate communications and public relations. "To ensure a ready convalescent plasma supply it's important that people who have recovered from COVID-19 donate each time they are eligible. These donors are playing a lead role in helping COVID-19 patients recover and they are needed for the long haul", said Forbes.

A surge in COVID-19 cases combined with the fact hospitals are providing convalescent plasma earlier in treatment is driving demand to new heights. OneBlood is one of the largest blood centers in the country and has seen more than a 500% increase in hospital orders for convalescent plasma in recent weeks.

"The need for convalescent plasma is now and it is ongoing. It is an all hands-on deck situation at OneBlood. As quickly as donations come in, they are being

processed, tested, and rushed to hospitals" said Forbes.

People who have recovered from the coronavirus have developed antibodies to the virus that remain in the plasma portion of their blood. By transfusing plasma from a person who has recovered from COVID-19 into a patient still fighting the virus, it can boost their immune system and potentially help them recover.

Plasma can be donated every 28 days.

People who have recovered from the coronavirus are urged to visit www.oneblood.org to see if they meet the eligibility requirements to be a convalescent plasma donor. **Appointments are required.**

Stay safe, wear a mask & Keep Your Distance!!



Collect Cannisters & Support Children & Youth

Les Martin, Children & Youth
cy@legionmail.org



I hope your summer has been great. It' time for us all to ramp up for this Legion year. There are many things that are coming up that will affect all Legionnaires, not just regarding our Children

& Youth programs. Many Posts have been on a yo-yo string regarding being open or closed. I know this is frustrating, but our Posts are part of a larger organization, and the leadership of our Department is taking steps to help all of our Posts and Legionnaires. As frustrating as it is, we must allow our Parent group to do their job, please be patient.

Like many programs within The American Legion, our Children & Youth Commission

is suffering. With Posts closed, they are not raising the income they need to support themselves and support through donations, the Children & Youth programs. But, we at the Children & Youth, can't sit back and do nothing. I will be attending as many District Meetings and events as possible to promote our programs and ask our Posts and Riders to hold at least one fundraising event to support the Department Children &

Continued on page 10 >>



<< Children & Youth - Continued from Page 9

Youth Commission. It could be as small as holding a raffle for a basket of cheer or as large as a Riders Chapter holding a Poker Run to Benefit the Department Children & Youth Programs.

Last year, 300 canisters were passed out at District Meeting for Posts to place in local businesses. Only 5 Posts turned in a check to me totaling \$940. If your Post has not collected these canisters from your local businesses, please do so now and deposit the funds into your account and then make out a check to the Department of Florida and in the memo area put C&Y Canisters, and sent to me at Les Martin, 309 9th Ave. E., Palmetto, FL.

34221. I have visited some Posts recently, and have seen canisters on their bar. PLEASE, send this money in.

I'm sure you have seen by now that our Children & Youth Picnic is scheduled for April 3rd. It will again be scheduled for Post 1 in Titusville. Please mark your calendar. We will need as many people supporting this event as possible.

The Gold Tournament is still in the works. The Department has for sale at Emblem Sales, our 2020-2021 Children & Youth Coin, the cost is \$10. You can purchase them online from floridalegionstore.org. When I attend District Meetings, I will have the coins and also some of the Pins for sale.

The Pins are only \$5.00. Please support our programs and purchase both a Pin and Coin.

Please don't get discouraged by your Posts closing. You can still help our veterans and their families by holding fundraisers at your Posts that don't involve selling alcohol. Remember, every little bit helps. STAY SAFE.



Halfway Through the Hurricane Season

Bill Hopner, Disaster Preparedness
disasterprep@legionmail.org

It has been 3 months since the beginning of hurricane season and there have been eleven named storms. The peak season for hurricanes is from mid-August to late October but that does not exclude the rest of the season. As expected, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have reevaluated their prediction on the number of storms for the 2020 hurricane season. From thirteen to nineteen named storms at the beginning of the season to nineteen to twenty-five named storms. If we reach the twenty-

second storm the Greek alphabet will be used. The last time the Greek alphabet was used was in 2005.

Hopefully, every chairman at the District and Post level have received their package from Department pertaining to disaster preparedness. If you have not yet received it please notify me and I will get it out to you. District Commanders, at your next district meeting it would be a good idea to go through the procedures for all legionnaires and for your Posts. Having a contingency plan in place for your Post and members will benefit all. This also is an opportunity to discuss and make plans if you must evacuate with the concern of the pandemic. Concerns

will have to be taken when there is a mandatory evacuation and you must leave. Do I stay, do I go, do I go to a hotel, or do I call a relative these are questions that will be asked and you should have a plan and be prepared and safe as well.

It was impressive to see that every District has a chairman and hopefully the word gets to the Posts. I will continue to keep everyone informed as best I can. What is very satisfying that people are taking each storm serious and are aware of the situation and are interacting with each other. As always, I may be reached by phone at 305-968-7979 or at gonepost1@aol.com.

Entrepreneur and Leadership Military Academy

Loretta Young, ROTC/JROTC/JSSP
jrotc@legionmail.org



The Broward County JROTC "Back to School Meeting" was held virtually today for all instructors and staff for the incoming Cadets. For the present time, all classes will be by a virtual program. After school activities in Broward will have to be postponed until

further notice. I will be in attendance at the National JSSP Virtual Meeting to be held later in the month to get updates on how the rest of the nation is progressing during the pandemic and the scheduling of the Postal Match which was scheduled to start earlier than last year's November 01 start date.

This announcement was made today at the Meeting regarding the newly formed Entrepreneur and Leadership Military Academy (ELMA) @ Boyd H. Anderson High School.

Eight years ago, the Entrepreneur and Leadership Military Academy opened at Hollywood Hills High School and became one of the most successful magnet programs in Broward County. Now a second Entrepreneur and Leadership Military Academy is opening at Boyd H. Anderson High School. The new academy was created to afford families in northern Broward County a personalized and rigorous academic environment with a high standard of discipline. The Senior Instructor at the new academy, First Sergeant (1SG) Marvin Solis, said, "Cadets

Continued on page 11 >>



<< ROTC/JROTC/JSSP - Continued from Page 10

enrolled in ELMA @ Boyd Anderson are beginning their high school experience taking International Baccalaureate (IB) courses...something that ELMA at Hills cannot offer." Of course, 1SG Solis has first-hand knowledge of what both academies offer because he worked at Hills prior to spearheading the effort at Boyd Anderson. He goes on to say, "teenagers that freely commit to structure

and to wear a uniform every day deserve a level of respect...I'd really like to see the community embrace and support them.

I congratulate them and welcome to Broward County. Wishing the program much success and thanks to all who contributed to the effort of expanding this program which continues the motto: to build a better citizen.

First Round target sales and club

registration opens for Junior Shooting Sports September 1, 2020.



Calls for additional Training for First Responders

Daryl Bass, Law & Order
laworder@legionmail.org



It was brought to my attention this past month that Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighter/Paramedics may better perform their jobs if they had additional training. Legionnaires, I can personally vouch

that the State of Florida has one of the most extensive training programs for Law Enforcement and for Firefighters/Paramedics.

Basic Requirements (Florida Police Standards)

- 770 Hours of class training which includes mandatory yearly refresher courses on Human Diversity, Domestic Violence, Discriminatory Profiling, Use of Force, Firearms Qualification (every three months) as well as many additional courses available ex: Crime Scene Investigation, Crime Prevention, ect.
- Cost to the cadet entering the Academy \$3,000.00 (Approximately)
- Additional \$700.00 for Polygraph and Background check

It's not cheap for any person desiring to start a career in Law Enforcement or as a Firefighter/Paramedic.

An article I found online addressing Firefighter/Paramedic Training says it like it is.

"Firefighter/Paramedics save lives, but they hold one of the most hazardous occupations available. Because of the potential for loss of life or injury associated with fighting fires they must complete extensive training constantly to meet the standards established by the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training."

I say your Police Officers and Firefighter/paramedic are the most highly trained in the World. We as the American Legion Family need to recognize them for what they do for us. Let's award these heroes this year. Get with your Post & District Law and Order Chairman and make it so. That's all I have to say about that.

VA&R News

Alan Cohen, VA&R
var@legionmail.org



I sincerely hope that this finds everyone in good health. While we're all concerned with our individual posts being able to be open let's please not lose sight of the fact that during these difficult times

it's so important to do what we must to maintain our health and that of our loved ones.

In line with that and with so much emphasis being placed on testing I'll share some information with you. Should

any of our brother or sister veterans feel they have any of the symptoms related to COVID19, call the local VA Healthcare facility. This can also be established by using the Secure Messaging system at MyHealthVet. If you've not yet registered to use this system I encourage you strongly to do so. Should it be the case that a particular facility doesn't have the ability to test, it will direct you to an outside facility or lab.

On a somewhat related note, as some of you may be aware, beginning in October the VA has expanded it's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. This is something of a mixed bag of news since there are, once again, limitations. The expansion now covers Viet Nam veterans, however the veteran

must be rated at 70% or more disabled by the VA and must require personal care in at least 3 areas of normal daily living activities. The ultimate aim of this program is to make it possible for veterans to be in a home setting for as long as possible.

In closing this month's article I'd like to share that I finally had the great pleasure to visit Post 318 to present the coveted Tracy Taylor Unsung Hero award to Matt Dunleavy, Department Service Officer of the Year. Every year it's my honor to present this award at the June Convention but under current circumstances it was just as much so in a Post setting. Congratulations to Matt and many thanks to the Post for sharing their wonderful hospitality and camaraderie.



Oratorical Program Information

Meri West, Oratorical
oratorical@legionmail.org

The Americanism National Conference will be taking place virtually on Saturday, September 26. The Oratorical break out meeting time will be announced in early September so you can participate in only that portion if that is your interest. Here is the link to register and it's free: <https://www.legion.org/cacregistration>. I will send a reminder to chairmen via email and I will post the information on our new Facebook page.

Last month I noted how the awards at the national level have increased. I also learned that twice as many students get to move forward after the quarter finals. In the past, the contest started with nine groups of six states in each group. The 1st place winner of that group would advance to the Semi Finals. This year, the 1st AND 2nd second place winners in each group

advance. Twice as many students will win more money as they advance forward and twice as many get to participate at the higher level.

School is starting up this week all over Florida and Oratorical chairmen will be busy promoting their contests. Many school districts are doing hybrid schedules with one or two days a week in person and the other days students attending virtually. Now more than ever, Oratorical chairmen (including myself) need to start using social media and digital technology to connect with teachers, students and parents.

We have created a Facebook Florida Oratorical page, a Twitter account and an Instagram account. As a chairman, please consider signing up on these platforms so we can communicate with each other and participate. Personally, I prefer Facebook to hold a discussion about a topic, but Twitter and Instagram are platforms the students

will most likely be using and where we can post information and reach the younger crowd.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/oratoricalfal>. Or if you search for "Oratorical" it should show up as a group. "Like" us and share it with your friends and colleagues to increase awareness about the program.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/faloratorical>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/oratoricalfal>

Lastly, here are the Department Oratorical Chairmen. This information is in the roster online, but here it is for your convenience. If you are not a chairman but know a teacher, student or parent who is interested in the program, direct them to the appropriate chairman or to me or Bekki Tibbs.

Central Area	Sidney Damsgard	CentralArea@legionmail.org
Eastern Area	Chris Hamrick	EasternArea@legionmail.org
Northern Area	Doug Hockenberry	harleyesm@gmail.com
Southern Area	Johnny Castro	16thDistrict@legionmail.org
Southwestern Area	Randy Eck	Saran38@aol.com
Western Area	Countess Guiles	cmguiles@att.net
1st District	Countess Guiles	cmguiles@att.net
2nd District	Fred Ingley	Fritzy39@gmail.com
3rd District	Stuart Scott	3rdDistrict@legionmail.org
4th District	Cherie Korn	4thDistrict@legionmail.org
5th District	Lena Herediaperez	Hpfamily3@yahoo.com

6th District	Bill Thompson	Wjt24@gmail.com
7th District	Burl Thomas	7thDistrict@legionmail.org
8th District	William Hiltgen	crownvicwilliam@yahoo.com
9th District	Arthur Barber	Buzz8210@bellsouth.net
11th District	Johnny Castro	16thDistrict@legionmail.org
12th District	Joseph McNeil	Jmcneil9853@gmail.com
13th District	Michael Schwartz	Msg.mike58@gmail.com
14th District	Wayne Schorr	wayneschorr@hotmail.com
15th District	Kathryn Boyer	Usaf0127@yahoo.com
16th District	Bob Bober	Dvcbob_bober@yahoo.com
17th District	David Lori	Dlori99flh@gmail.com

New Year Challenge

Richard Smith, SAL Advisor
sal@legionmail.org



Boy how I wish I could come out and say what a great year we are looking forward to.

However, the truth is, it is hard to be excited about what

this new year holds for us as we continue with the shutdowns and the unknown. From everything I have seen and read the SAL throughout the state has done another incredible job this past year. I know that I can't wait until we can reopen and get our programs rolling again.

Please continue to support your squadrons during this time and help them stay motivated. Stay well.



PROJECT: VETRELIEF BULLETIN

AN OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

GOLF TOURNAMENT CRUCIAL FOR FUTURE OF PROGRAM

Our largest fundraising event for PROJECT: VetRelief, the Annual Golf Tournament hosted by RL James, Inc., is scheduled for Monday, September 21st. Without this event, it would cause a huge financial strain to our Emergency Assistance Program!



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

There will be some changes to this year's event in order to adhere to the

CDC and PGA Guidelines for COVID-19. There will now be a morning and afternoon shotgun start.

Additionally, the Silent Auction will be featured online. Therefore, you do not have to be present to participate and anyone can bid on these items.

There are still some opportunities 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!**



BOARD MET DESPITE VIRUS

There were new orders of business for our Board Members during their meeting this past month. Members met on August 18th and practiced social distancing by keeping 6 ft apart or tuned in virtually via Zoom to discuss the progress and future of our program.

For the next year, the Board will focus on establishing sustainable funding and expanding the Network and Coalition for both the Emergency Assistance and Suicide Prevention programs.

As COVID-19 continues, the Board is concerned that the ability to provide financial assistance to veterans and their families is at risk. Since March, the program has approved 165 cases and given out \$124,479.17 for veterans who have experienced a loss of income due to the virus. As you can see, our veterans desperately need us!

Congratulations to our NEW Board Member, Larry Roberts!

SUPPORT PROJECT: VETRELIEF THROUGH THE COMMANDER'S CHARITY

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought on some unique changes to the American Legion, Department of Florida, including our **first ever** two-term Department Commander. Congratulations to William "Rick" Johnson on being the Department Commander again for 2020-2021!

We are so thrilled to learn that he has chosen to continue to support PROJECT: VetRelief as one of his charities for his Commander's Project. Here's how the Commander has chosen for the donations to be processed:

Any donation marked as "Commander's Charity" will be divided equally between

his two charities: PROJECT: VetRelief and Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA).



If you would like your donation to go towards a specific charity, please note that on the check. For example, write "Commander's Charity - PROJECT:

VetRelief" in the memo line.

Last year, through his efforts, Commander Johnson was able to bring in over \$116,000 for our program. We are challenging YOU to help him surpass last year's total!

Legion Posts are asked to make a one-time donation or hold fundraising event(s) to help him reach his goal. If you are planning an event for PROJECT: VetRelief, we can help promote it. Contact Jennifer Cooper by sending an email to jcooper@floridalegion.org with all of the details!



SUPPORT CASES
*Numbers reflect PVR Cases ONLY

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

31 families helped

\$28,312.45 amount distributed

American Legion Scouters

Chris Ragusa, Scouting
scouting@legionmail.org



Outstanding Post Scouting Program Winners

My hardest congratulations to the 2019-20 Americanism Award Outstanding Post Scouting Program winners:

- Post 273 - Madeira Beach
- Post 138 - Port Tampa City
- Post 79 - New Port Richey

As you may be aware, a change was made to this recognition, and three programs are now recognized for excellence each year. Quite an honor considering that the American Legion Department of Florida posts charter almost 100 Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops, and Venturing crews, and sponsors (provides financial support to) almost that many again. According to the CPR tracking, well over 2,000 Scouts benefit from the American Legion's support to the Boy Scouts of America in Florida!

Operations

With little change regarding our ability to resume "normal" Scouting operations at the unit, district, and council levels, we are challenged to be creative in providing this important aspect of our Americanism pillar. There are many resources available to help our posts' Scouting programs continue to provide the finest values-based outdoor adventure and youth leadership development program. Most councils have invested time and energy into program ideas that conform to their regions' risk mitigation guidelines. Additionally....

Point your posts and units to Bryan on Scouting, which is typically a wealth of information. For example:
<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/04/07/check-out-this-scout->

[shop-gear-to-help-work-on-merit-badges/](#)

Pinterest never ceases to amaze me. Search any topic, and you'll rarely come up empty handed: <https://www.pinterest.com/leaderconnectingleaders/virtual-scout-meeting-ideas/>

ScoutShare is also a good source for ideas on how to maintain the Scouting spirit while maintaining good social distancing practices: <http://scoutshare.org/Resources/Articles>

2020-21 Fee Increase

The executive board of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America approved a membership fee increase for all Scouting programs effective August 1, 2020. For the new membership fees are as follows:

- Beginning August 1, 2020:
 - New members for all traditional programs (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts) will pay \$66.00/year for registration (the previous fee was \$60.00/year).
 - All new members for Exploring programs will pay \$42.00/year for registration (the previous fee was \$36.00/year).
 - All new volunteer adults for all programs, unit or non-unit, will pay \$42.00/year for registration (the previous fee was \$36.00/year).
 - New Member Fee – There is now a one-time new member fee of \$25.00 for all new youth of traditional programs (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts). This fee will be assessed regardless of when a youth member joins. The new member fee is for youth only.
 - No joining fee for Exploring participants.
 - No joining fee any youth previously registered in any BSA program.
 - No joining fee for transfers from one program to another.
 - No joining fee for adult volunteers.
 - All new units and units renewing their

- charter will pay a \$75.00/year charter fee (the previous fee was \$60.00/year).
- Beginning October 1, 2020 (or when the BSA council recharter, which varies by council):
 - All youth members renewing with respective traditional programs will pay \$66.00/year for registration.
 - All youth members renewing with their Exploring Post will pay \$42.00/year for registration.
 - All adults will pay \$42.00/year for registration with their unit or district positions. (multiple registrations will continue to pay one fee).

BLUF: This creates an additional challenge, as this second increase in as many years now includes the one-time \$25 joining fee for new Scouts. There are also reports that the (recommended) on-line registration process automatically charges the 2021 National recharter fee up front. This can be a daunting financial ask for new Scout families that have not experienced the value of the program when asked for a combination of the prorated 2020 National Fee, joining fee, and the 2021 National registration fee when signing up for the first time.

This is above and beyond any dues associated with their individual unit. None of those fees remain at the local level to support operations. Although I haven't heard back from all of the seven Boy Scouts of America council that operate in the state of Florida (Suwannee River Area, North Florida, Central Florida, Greater Tampa Bay Area, Southwest Florida, Gulf Stream, and South Florida), I know that council-level programs exist that can help Scout families that are resource-constrained with these fees. I have begun an outreach program to the Directors of Field Service in these councils to get better fidelity on that topic.

As always, reach out to me with any questions, requests for clarification, or thoughts on best practices regarding the information above. Yours in Scouting.....
Chris Ragusa



VA Entitlements Chairman Bulletin

Larry Roberts, VA Entitlements
veteransbenefits@legionmail.org



With the Pandemic still going on please continue doing BUDDY CHECKS.

I have found several veterans that needed help and had know idea that help was available.

I have also gotten veterans to join the American Legion and members to renew

their membership by doing buddy checks. I am always looking for great deals for veterans and their families, one of the best deals I have found recently is.

**FREE ADMISSION
 For Veterans and 3 Guests
 Bush Gardens
 Tampa Bay
 &
 Sea World
 Orlando**

Limited-Time Offer through November 11

U.S. military veterans and up to 3 guests one complimentary visit to SeaWorld Orlando, SeaWorld San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay through November 11, 2020. Tickets must be reserved through ID.me for verification.

**Plus, 50% Off
 Up to 4 additional tickets**

Add additional family and friends to your next visit for half off general gate admission price. Book your visit online now through [ID.me](https://www.id.me)

Not All Veterans are the Same

Debbie Wheeler, Women Veterans
womenveterans@legionmail.org



Hello Everyone! Hope the finds everyone happy and safe!

Over the years I have been told countless times that we are all veterans, that women veterans should be

treated like our male counterparts. If that were true, I would not have to explain this. If your grandmother, mother, wife, daughter, or granddaughter, has ever served in the US military those experiences would not be the same as a male soldier. What if she had been sexually harassed, raped, kidnapped, or even killed. Look at most recently Vanessa Guillam, she was someone's

daughter and granddaughter. Raped, murdered, dismembered, and missing from Ft Hood and later her body was found. In the past couple days I have read about a female soldier who was shot and killed by her soldier husband after she had alerted her primary physician, supervisor, and her entire chain of command of her fear and situation - no one listened. This appears to have been a trend for decades. Reports made fall on deaf or uncaring ears.

I have heard personally some shocking and compelling stories. Let me mention just a couple. An Air Force Academy Cadet female experienced the hazing, snickering, spying, and harassment for starters. After surviving that she headed to flight school and she experienced the same treatment, no worse on the ground than in the air. After earning her wings, off to be in a C130 unit as a pilot. It didn't

stop there. She retired after 20 years as a Colonel only due to her strength, faith, and perseverance. She still suffers from nightmares, PTSD, and more. Another young lady, a Marine deployed to Iraq, was brutally raped and was discharged medically due the nightmares, anxiety, and panic attacks. Her discharge documents stated Bipolar disorder. Again, her rape was reported to her change of command.

These are just a few of the stories I hear, some would make the hair on the back of your neck stand up. I now want to ask the question, are all veterans the same and should they be treated the same? Just think twice about someone's daughter, granddaughter, wife, mother, or grandmother being a veteran!

Coming soon to a District near you!

2020 Fall Conference Cancelled

Michael McDaniel, Department Adjutant
mmcdaniel@floridalegion.org



The American Legion, Department of Florida regretfully announces that the 2020 Department Fall Conference has been cancelled.

Your health and safety are our number one priority, especially in such ambiguous times as these.

Your Leadership made the difficult decision

to cancel the 2020 Fall Conference, scheduled for November 6-8, based on an abundance of caution with the information currently available on the COVID 19 pandemic.

If you or your Post have made hotel reservations at the Renaissance Sea World, under the "American Legion" room block, your reservation will be automatically cancelled, and no further action is necessary. In fact, the hotel has currently suspended all operation at this present time.

Over the course of the next few months, we will provide a series of webinars. We will detail information on our website, [floridalegion.org](https://www.floridalegion.org),

on these upcoming web-based learning opportunities. These classes will focus on current Post Officer positions, and we strongly encourage current officers to participate. Members interested in learning more about Post Officer positions, interrelationship of the Post, District, Department and National organizations are welcome to participate as well. We are even in discussions of a full Virtual Conference. Again, details, will be released soon at [floridalegion.org](https://www.floridalegion.org).

We thank you for your understanding and support of our Florida Veterans, families and communities during this challenging time.



August 27, 2020 50% Target Report (Currently 47.85%)		
4	Cherie Korn	54.81%
11	Johnny Castro	50.58%
6	Kurt Gies	51.12%
2	Roger Hewitt	46.68%
15	Bruce Carl	47.85%
7	Burl Thomas	47.18%
12	Dennis Mallon	47.18%
1	Lamar Carroll	47.5%
14	Thomas Frank	46.17%
17	Jim Bowers	44.87%
16	Randall McNabb	44.63%
8	Skip Felicita	45.55%
5	Troy Horsley	43.12%
9	Arthur Barber	43.69%
13	Jessica Moore	41.44%
3	Stuart Scott	39.82%
Eastern	Christ Hamrick	49.40%
Western	John Edens	47.35%
Southern	Paul Bosco	47.01%
Central	Sid Damsgard	45.87%
Northern	Marie Conti	45.78%
Southwestern	Jerry Faught	43.33%
Post 400		58.29%
Post 208		48.65%



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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

NEXT MEMBERSHIP GOAL
50% 9/3/2020

www.thelit.com





COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2019-2021



Did you know you can order online? Just go to www.floridalegionstore.org

Name: _____ Post: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DELIVERY METHOD

Pick Up at HQ Orlando Delivery*

**Additional Shipping fee is required for delivery, see chart below.
Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. You will be notified prior to shipment.*

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SHIRT OPTIONS

Style	Size	Qty														
Men's W/POCKET	XS		S		M		L		XL		2XL		3XL		4XL	
Ladies' NO POCKET	XS		S		M		L		XL		2XL		3XL		4XL	

TOTAL

Shirts are **\$28 each**, price includes personalization. Please see next page for personalization options. If tax exempt, please include copy of exemption form.

DELIVERY FEES*

(Qty: 1) - \$7.95 (Qty: 4-7) - \$15.95 (Qty: 15-17) - \$33.95
 (Qty: 2) - \$8.95 (Qty: 8-10) - \$21.95 (Qty: 18+) - \$39.95
 (Qty: 3) - \$9.95 (Qty: 11-14) - \$24.95

Subtotal	\$
Tax (6.5%)	\$ 0.00
Shipping	\$
Grand Tot	\$ 0.00

PAYMENT

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters:

The American Legion, Dept of FL; Attn: Emblem Sales, PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32810

Cash Check # _____ Credit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

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Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Halloween SAFETY

COLORING BOOKS

Newly Designed Halloween Coloring Books for posts.

These coloring books are great for kids of all ages. We're please to offer this newly designed book with even more pages of fun!

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

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



ORDER ONLINE WWW.FLORIDALEGIONSTORE.ORG

\$25
100 PACK

** plus shipping*

Post # _____ Attention To _____

Shipping Address (NO P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

PAYMENT Cash Check # _____ Credit Card

Card Type: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

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SHIPPING FEES

(Qty: 1) - \$7.95 (Qty: 2) - \$8.95 (Qty: 3-5) - \$9.95 (Qty: 6-8) - \$15.95 (Qty: 9-12) - \$21.95 (Qty: 13-16) - \$24.95 (Qty: 17-20) - \$33.95 (Qty: 21+) - \$39.95

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

How many packs would you like? _____

Subtotal \$	\$ 0.00
Sales Tax (6.5%) \$	\$ 0.00
Shipping \$	_____
Total \$	\$ 0.00

Expiration MM/YY _____ Security Code _____

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

You may also fax completed from with credit card information to **407-299-0901.**