

# The Legion Link

January 2010

Vol. 17 Issue 6



## THE POWER OF COMMITMENT



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### In this Issue...

#### Page 1

Dept. Commander

#### Page 2

Dept. Vice Commander

Dept. Chaplain

Dept. Sgt-at-Arms

#### Page 3

Children & Youth

Legislative

#### Page 4

Membership

#### Page 5

Veterans Employment

#### Page 6

Americanism

Boy Scouts

JROTC

Shooting Sports

Internal Affairs

### Phil Hearlson Department Commander [phearlson@aol.com](mailto:phearlson@aol.com) 352.307.8119

Upon arriving in 6<sup>th</sup> District I was impressed by the forward thinking of Post Leaders and membership at Fruitland Park Post 219 and Lady Lake Post 347. I attended the ground breaking for a new Post in Fruitland Park. Post 219's new Post will almost be triple the size of their current Post. Lady Lake Post is in the progress of a huge Post expansion. Words cannot describe all the fantastic amenities Post 347 will have when the expansions are completed. You will need to stop by and take a look for yourself.



Groundbreaking  
Post 219-Fruitland Park  
November 20, 2009

I had the opportunity to visit six Posts in 6<sup>th</sup> District. Thank you to Fern Park Post 183 for the evening boat ride and thank you to Eastern Area Commander Earl Friedeborn, 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander Bill Walsh and 6<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander Bill Kiley for their hospitality.

I have always loved Thanksgiving, but this year was very special. Thank you to Seminole Post 252 and Commander Larry Brumaster for hosting a dinner for the veterans from Bay Pines Nursing Home. What a wonderful way to show appreciation and gratitude to those veterans who have served us all. You walked into Post 252 on Thanksgiving morning and it smelled delicious. We shared wonderful food and good feelings with over 250 veterans and their fami-

lies. Legion Family members prepared, served and assisted the veteran patients.



This picture says it all.  
92 year young WWII Veteran  
With his Purple Heart and  
Combat Infantry Badge.  
Thanksgiving 2009



Sailors aboard the USS Underwood



Presenting Commander Bowdin  
with challenge coin.



Pearl Harbor survivors  
December 7, 2009



**Al Porter**  
**Department Vice-Commander**  
**albertporter@bellsouth.net**

Well Hello Legionnaires, I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. Now it is time to get busy again. Thanksgiving brought me to Seminole Post#252 where I served dinner to the Veterans from Bay Pines V.A. Hospital. Everyone involved did a wonderful job, and I had a great time peeling spuds. I attended the 16th Dist. Meeting in St. Petersburg, where the Post was beautifully decorated. Supporting events, like the "Ride to Recovery" which was held Dec. 13-17, is very important for our Legion Family to participate in. Post #347 provided dinner for the Riders on Sunday the 13th. Three hundred persons were involved in the ride including Auxiliary President Mary Kelly Perkins who actually rode 5.3 miles on her bike. Another noteworthy participant was our Department Adjutant, Mike McDaniel who did an admirable job. I left the tour in Belleview Post#284 where lunch was being served. It was really impressive to see our Hero's giving their all.

Post, District and Area Commanders: If your schedule for District meetings and Post events are not on the Legion Web-site or if you have not mailed your schedule to Department, it is very hard for me to attend your event. We would all like to attend as many meetings and events as possible but if we do not know about them we cannot. Remember our 80% goal is coming up January 6th and your Post Oratorical Contest must be completed by January 10th.

Again if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

**Robert Vick**  
**Department Chaplain**  
**ravick311@yahoo.com**

Merry Christmas It's that time again. We all recognize this time of year as the time for giving and receiving gifts.

Sometimes we forget the greatest gift mankind ever received. Some 2000 years ago God gave us the greatest of all gifts. He gave us Himself. This holiday we celebrate His named for this gift. The person of this gift was born in an obscure village to a poor peasant girl. There has never, in the long history of mankind, been a person who has so influenced the actions of this world. He never ruled a nation....yet we call him King. He never attended a college....yet we call him teacher. He never attended medical school....yet we call him healer. He owned no slaves....yet we call him master. He was never a parent....yet we call him father. He probably never traveled 100 miles from where he was born....yet he has a universal presence. He was born as a man....yet we call him God. Yes this is the reason for the season. When you give and receive gifts this Christmas, thank God for His greatest gift. Remember to pray for our troops and their families. God Bless America and keep her free.

Stanley Gold (Department Legislative Committee Chairman), Martha Davis (Western Area Commander), Larry Carpenter (1<sup>st</sup> District Vice Commander) and Steve Shuga (1<sup>st</sup> District Commander met on November 17, 2009 to meet with Freeport, Florida Mayor Mickey Marse to discuss plans to revitalize American Legion Post 249. The Mayor and City Clerk were supportive to the need of having the nation's largest veterans organization in the world a part of the revitalization effort underway for Freeport, Florida.



**Mike Addis, Sgt-at-Arms**  
**maddis@tampabay.rr.com**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Since our family is spread across the country, we spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with our Legion Family.

On Thanksgiving, Post 252 Commander Larry Burmaster invited Department Commander Phil Hearlson and his wife, Peggy, to spend Thanksgiving with us as we cooked for and fed about 250 Bay Pines Hospital Veterans and volunteers a home cooked turkey dinner. We roasted about 35 turkeys and deep fried another 25. On Wednesday Phil Hearlson was given a personalized apron and a NEW potato peeler and 150 pounds of potatoes to peel. Luckily, Al & Edie Porter, Bob & Marion Vick, Sue Mason, Mike & Donna Dooley and Butch & Patricia Jackson, Ron & Karen Van Wie were there to help. They were done in about ½ hour.

Thanksgiving morning found all of us setting up the food lines and decorating the tables and other incidentals. When the first BIG bus pulled in everyone was in awe. Soon other busses and vans pulled in with our veteran guests for the day. One veteran even brought his Purple Heart medal in his pocket. And one veteran entertained us by playing hymns for all the services on his harmonica.

I think everyone agreed, doing this gives you a new perspective on the meaning of "Thanksgiving" because that's what we did. We gave thanks from the bottom of our hearts. After all the veterans left, we all sat down to a family dinner. Thanks to all who helped and Thanks to Seminole Post 252.

I'm starting to organize the roster list for Asst Sgt-at- Arms for the upcoming convention in June 2010. If you would like to be a part of this elite operation, drop me an email and we'll get things started. Also, if you were part of the detail last year and wish to remain as such, drop me an email also. I don't want to leave out anyone.

If any Posts or Districts would like to have a Sgt-at-Arms class, just let me know and I'll be happy to put one on for you.

I hope you like the way I'm performing as your Sgt-at-Arms, because I am running for re-election in June 2010; might as well keep experience on the job. Your vote will be appreciated. By the way, if something bothers you or you need an answer to a question, don't hesitate to email me.

*Jim Ramos  
Department of Florida  
Children & Youth Chairman  
jramos149@bellsouth.net*

Let's start with Happy New Year to all of you Chairmen and Posts. Let's plan for January and February. There is still a lot of work to do for Children and Youth programs. January is first so let look at Operation Military Kids information which can be found at [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org). Just type in Florida and see what is coming up. Also, check with Legion and Auxiliary to see how your Post or Unit can help. Go out into the community and school's to say hello and let them know what is coming in the future with your Post activities. See if they need some help. Also this is a good time to present a flag and the flag codes to schools. While you're there it would be good to take a look at the Oratorical Contest for Posts. This should be done by January 10, 2010. Continue to help Veterans with daycare or a anything else a veteran's family may need. This comes under Child Safety and Welfare (AMBER Alert, Childcare Services, Fireworks Safety, Missing Children) just to name a few. Formulate a plan of action and continue to support the TFA program which helps our Veterans with children maintain basic needs. Send out news releases or a newsletter on all activities to the schools and your community leaders.

Facts for:

**Amber Alert** is a plan to cooperate with regional and national alert plans. Resolution # 54 Spring 2003

**Childcare Services** is to urge Posts to cooperate to the fullest extent with state, community, public and private agencies with childcare responsibilities to the end that licensed childcare facilities will be available to all children in our nation. Resolution # 2008 National Convention

**Fireworks Safety** is to urge Posts to educate their community, parents, and children about fireworks safety. Resolution # 33 Spring NEC 2006

**Missing Children** calls for Posts to encourage companies and organizations in their communities to continue and increase their efforts to locate missing children. Resolution # 330 2008 National Convention

**Please note all are suggestions.**

Plan a Children and Youth Bash like 8<sup>th</sup> District on January 9, 2010 at Post 24. The start time is at NOON (12:00pm) until finish.

Plan to sign a Community Covenant to Support our troops by the Mayor.

Also this is a good time to start writing a Resolution to make a change in the Post, Department or your community.

Now let's plan for February. In the month of February is President's Day. School's love to do things for Lincoln and Washington Birthdays. See how your Post can help. Also Valentine's Day is an event to plan a party for your Post and maybe invite the Community. Always communicate with Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL for help with planning.

Next plan for March - The American Legion Birthday Make it BIG and PLAN BIG. We will be 91 years old or young. Let's invite the Community and our local Veterans who may not be members of the Post. Plan an open house with a dinner and a guest speaker.

My program push for this year is for the Child Welfare Foundation. If you or your Post can gave just \$25.00 it will help our Children and Youth Program.

Start making a written report of all the activities of your Children and Youth programs. This way you will be ready. The time will fly and May is Consolidated Post Report and Addendum month. More information and suggestion will follow next month.



*Stanley Gold  
Legislative Chairman  
stanleymgold@gmail.com  
786.423.2458*



Ask your member of Congress for their support with the following recent Legislation:

H.R. 4221 (introduced Dec. 12, 2009) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improved acquisition practices by the Department of Veterans Affairs and for other purposes was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Sponsor: Representative Steve Buyer (IN-4)

H.R. 4307 (introduced Dec. 14, 2009) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Artesia, New Mexico, as the "Alejandro Renteria Ruiz Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" was referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Sponsor: Representative Harry Teague (NM-2)

H.R. 4319 (introduced Dec. 15, 2009) To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain improvements in the laws relating to specially adapted housing assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs was referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Sponsor: Representative Jerry Moran (KS-1)

H.R. 4360 (introduced Dec. 16, 2009) To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation center in Long Beach, California as the "Major Charles R. Soltes, Jr. O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center" was referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Sponsor: John Campbell (CA-48)

H.R. 4386 (introduced Dec. 16, 2009) To amend title 10, United States Code, to require emergency contraception to be available at all military health care treatment facilities. Sponsor: Michael H. Michaud (ME-2)

H.R. 4403 (introduced Dec. 16, 2009) To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for services and the unremarried surviving spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected or compensable disability, and for the dependents of such spouses was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services. Sponsor: Representative Timothy J. Walz (MN-1)

S. 2864 (introduced Dec 10, 2009) a Bill to provide for the enhancement of United States preparedness for outbreaks of infectious disease to protect homeland security was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Sponsor: Senator Mark L. Pryor (AR)

# 80% Goal

## January 6, 2010

*District/Area Membership Report as of Dec. 30, 2009*

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
4	Gerald Montgomery	4,044	3,572	88.33
16	George Paradise	12,147	10,174	83.76
2	George Segrest	1,376	1,130	82.12
17	Arthur Schwabe	4,368	3,586	82.10
7	Keith Holz	4,440	3,634	81.85
8	Gregory Putman	9,042	7,308	80.82
6	William Walsh	9,570	7,730	80.77
11	Paul Bosco	4,757	3,824	80.39
15	Larry Faulkner	5,794	4,644	80.15
9	Joseph Motes	4,818	3,853	79.97
12	Carl Schneider	8,772	6,979	79.56
3	James Troupe	1,655	1,315	79.46
13	Frank Ward	9,365	7,412	79.15
1	Stephen Shuga	6,473	5,089	78.62
10	Larrio Walden	1,095	854	77.99
14	Angela Glover	2,314	1,760	76.06
5	Gregory Lovejoy	8,154	6,136	75.25
Central	Kathryn Ferrin	22,381	18,452	82.44
Eastern	Earl Friedeborn	18,342	14,709	80.19
Northern	James Corner	18,221	14,609	80.18
SW	Richard Francis	18,407	14,720	79.97
Southern	David Knapp	12,984	10,291	79.26
Western	Martha Harris	7,849	6,219	79.23
<b>Dept</b>			<b>79,000</b>	
<b>Post 400</b>		<b>22,248</b>	<b>14,776</b>	<b>66.41</b>
<b>Post 208</b>		<b>1,942</b>	<b>1,441</b>	<b>74.20</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>132,000</b>	<b>95,217</b>	<b>72.13</b>

*Robert Brewster, Membership*  
*brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net*

First of all, I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and there were no hiccups in your festivities. Now we are officially in the 2010 year, and we must get down to work. It's very easy to talk the talk, but it takes sincere commitment to walk the walk. Remember, you asked to be in the position you are now in, whether it is a Post officer, District, Area or Department. You asked to have the opportunity for this privilege. I have repeatedly mentioned in the Links how we have all committed to make this a banner year in membership.

Last year from the Commanders' Retreat forward, we were all extremely excited and proud to have Clarence Hill as our National Commander (the first ever from the state of Florida.) We are equally proud to have Phil Hearlson as our 2009-2010 Florida Commander. Phil's motto of "Commitment" and the membership motto of "One More," we are ready for a banner year for the state of Florida. Department gave us a \$5.00 reward for all new memberships, with the only stipulation that the proper paperwork must be in place. We were expecting anywhere from 10,000 to 25,000 new members from this program. So far this has not happened, but I firmly believe this goal can still be reached. If only 25% of our members are successful, we will fly beyond 200,000 members.

We need our leadership from the Post level on up to get committed, get sincere and promote this program. And on top of this, if each Post would have a membership team of 3 or 4 people, and if just one of the four would spend a few hours each week working the phones, calling up the 400 members, and members who have not paid their 2010 dues. Also contact those members who have not paid in 2009, 2008, 2007, etc. During my visits to Posts throughout the state of Florida, Posts in other states, and my own experience of being a Post Commander for 6 years, I know how easy it is to become complacent in regards to membership. WE MUST REMAIN COMMITTED.

Fifty-four Departments are looking at us to see how committed we are to growing our membership, doing our programs, and standing behind our State and National Commanders. One Legionnaire can make a difference. Ten, twenty, a hundred, or more can make a huge difference. Again, I repeat, I will be all around the state visiting Posts in all Districts to help them exceed their quotas. If you have something coming up, big or small, give me a call, e-mail, smoke signal, or something, and unless I am committed somewhere else, I will be with you. Starting with January 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of June, I have only been asked one time to attend a membership drive, and that is in District 3. As Diane's motto said last year, "Just Ask," and I will be there to help you get more than "Just One More."

For God and Country

### Future Goal Dates

**February 3 - 85%**

**March 3 - 90%**

**April 7 - 95%**

**May 5 - 100%**

**May 19 - 100% plus 1**

*Protecting Our Flag Worth The Effort?  
Networking is Essential for Veterans Jobs  
Dick Mondro, Chairman Veterans Employment  
dickmondro@comcast.net*

Those that are veterans have a leg up on many other people in the work force. The mere fact that a veteran has a wealth of professional experience derived from being in the service is a huge plus. Then, there is another major plus: there are scores of veteran's groups to belong to that can greatly help with networking opportunities. Whether you are recently discharged from the service or you are someone that has been retired for years, if you want a new job you need to take the steps necessary for networking into a new position. Honestly, networking makes it a great deal easier to land a solid new profession. That is why it is extremely important to invest time in networking when looking for career advancement.

Why is networking important for career advancement? Basically, when a resume is sent to a hiring professional for consideration for a job, the individual reviewing the resume only has the words on the paper to go on. That means the job review professional does not have a clue as to whether or not the presented information is accurate. It may be or it may not be. But, with such a question mark surrounding one's resume, a lot of good careers are stymied simply because the person reviewing the resume simply cannot verify things to the best of his opinion.

This is why networking is so important and why it has been beneficial to so many careers. When a veteran networks with other colleagues, a character reference can be put forth on the person's behalf. This means the ability to land jobs that were previously outside the person's grasp can now be reached. Then, there is another great benefit that one can procure from working with others and networking for jobs. Specifically, it becomes possible to land those employment opportunities that are part of the hidden job market.

What type of employment opportunities is available in the hidden job market? Basically, these jobs are those that are not open to the public. Most companies try to fill jobs internally. That means unless you are tied into a networking venture you would have a very tough time landing one of these jobs. Again, those that affiliate with decent sized veteran's organizations will discover it much easier to find such work opportunities.

These organizations are not difficult to join. Signing up with them is easy and you can literally hit the ground running when you do. So if you are a veteran and are looking for networking opportunities, these organizations are well worth looking into.

Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

#### **JOB FAIRS**

##### January 2010

**ReInvest Local Job Fair & Expo – A Professional Exposition for Job Seekers in the Big Bend Area**

January 13, 2010, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Leon County Civic Center, Tallahassee

##### **Job News**

January 21, 2010, 10:00AM - 2:00PM Ramada Conference Center 3130 Hartley Rd Jacksonville 32257

##### **Career Central Job Fair**

January 22, 2010 7361 Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill, 34652

##### **The Mayor's Job Fair**

Central Florida Fair Exposition Park

4603 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL

January 27, 2010 12Noon to 4 PM

##### **Employer Showcase: Business and Liberal Arts (Previously called: Spring Career Expo)**

January 28, 2010, 1:00pm -5:00 p.m. University of North Florida Student Union Ballroom Jacksonville

##### **Military Friendly Job Fair**

January 29, 2010, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Jacksonville Morocco Shrine

3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, South Jacksonville, FL 32224-2620

##### February 2010

##### **Spring Career Networking Fair**

February 3, 2010 -10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

University of South Florida, Tampa -Marshall Student Center

##### **WorkNet Pinellas Professional Mixer**

February 10, 2010 Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 N. McMullen Booth Road Clearwater FL, 33759

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

*Use soft words and hard arguments.*

— *Anonymous*

*Americanism*  
*Dianne Thibodeau*  
*DianneThib@bellsouth.net*

Dianne Thibodeau

DianneThib@bellsouth.net

### Americanism - The Pledge of Allegiance

This is our pledge to our country. You hear it and say it a lot but do you know what it really means? Do your children know? Do your grandchildren?

"I pledge allegiance" – I promise to be true

"to the flag" – to the sign of our country

"of the United States of America" – each state that has joined to make our country

"and to the Republic" – a republic is a country where the people choose others to make laws for them. The government is for the people.

"for which it stands" – the flag means the country

"one Nation" – a single country

"under God" – the people believe in a supreme being

"indivisible" – the country cannot be split into parts

"with liberty and justice" – with freedom and fairness

"for all" – for each person in the country ... you and me.

The pledge says you are promising to be true to the U.S.A.

**For God & Country**



*ROTC/Shooting Sports*  
*Loretta Young*  
*Lorettayung@yahoo.com*

There are many events that the local JROTC Units have throughout the school year. One event that I find most rewarding are the Formal Inspections conducted by our Military Branches. I had the pleasure of attending all five Army JROTC Units in Broward County last week, Everglades H.S., South Broward H.S., McArthur H.S., Monarch H.S. and West Broward H.S. These inspections are done every three years to give an overall review of the program. The cadets plan the program throughout and conduct outstanding staff briefings as well as drill expeditions and color guard performances. This is a time when you can see the best of the program and know that our country will have some outstanding future leaders who can lead our country in the way that will help us continue to be a world leader.

The programs are very full and I know the schools who have marksmanship are already firing targets with local and county matches. There is still time to get the postal targets ordered. The deadline is Jan. 15th to get the paperwork in to National. So far the requests are coming in very slow. A reminder was sent to all District Chairmen or the Commander to have the posts contact their schools. Let's keep Florida at the top of the list. It's just a little effort on the part of the post. For all the Legionnaires out there supporting our programs, I want to thank you for your hard work. At this holiday time remember to keep our troops in your prayers for their safe return home. For God & Country

*Stephen Shuga - Boy Scout Program*  
*shugaste@knology.net*  
*Robert "Bob" Scott - Boy Scout Program*  
*wvcaller@msn.com*



Happy New Year from our Scouting partners to the American Legion. As we start another grand year of Scouting Adventures, we are preparing to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – the Centennial of the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 2010. We hope that you will support us and celebrate in some way the end of the first Century and the Beginning of the next.

Eagle Scouts who meet the eligibility criteria and desire to compete for the Department of Florida American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year are directed to the Department or National American Legion website under the Boy Scout or Scouting links to download or copy of the 2010 Candidate Form. Review and follow the instructions. Submit it on-time (**NLT 1 March 2010**) to American Legion Department Headquarters for your package to be considered.

Please remind your American Legion Florida Chartered Scout units of the American Legion Florida Scout/Americanism Patch that they can acquire by meeting their Scout Americanism/Citizenship requirements. The requirements for each patch have been sent to all District Boy Scout Chairman and all American Legion Florida Chartered Scout unit Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, and Crew Advisors in the state of Florida. Pictures of the patches are below.



For God and Country – Yours in Better Scouting

*Larry Sheets*  
*Department Internal Affairs Chairman*

A few months ago, I mentioned in a link article that all posts should update their Constitution and By - Laws on a regular basis to assure they do not conflict with Department and National. Why not start off the new year by doing just that?

At the Fall Conference, we had two sessions with an agent from the Florida Division of ATF. here was a good attendance at both sessions, and I hope the information presented will be helpful. The information presented was very good, and there were a lot of questions from those in attendance. Times are changing, and we must all be aware of the statutes that apply to the operation of a Lounge, Bar, or Clubroom in an American Legion Post. Posts need to remember that they don't want to put their liquor license in jeopardy, because they are operating in a manner that violates those statutes. If any Post has questions regarding the Florida Statutes, please contact myself or the Department Adjutant. If we do not know the answer to your question, I assure you we will get the answer, and notify you. I can be reached via email at: rivetckr@aol.com, or by phone at: 305-467-7713.

I hope everyone has a very enjoyable holiday season, and that 2010 will bring nothing but good things to you and your Posts, and members. For God and Country