

The Legion Link

June 2010

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THE POWER OF COMMITMENT



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Banquet



Phil Hearlson Department Commander phearlson@aol.com **352.307.8119**

What a busy few weeks it has been! It started with attending the 100th celebration of Boy Scouting in America in Orlando. On April 13th, Al and Edie Porter, Peggy and I attended this wonderful celebration.



On April 17th, we all enjoyed Department President Mary Kelly-Perkins Homecoming. It has been a great experience working with President Mary this year. We have truly worked together as a Legion Family; we have led by example hoping our actions would influence Posts and Units to work together.

A drum & bugle corps, bag pipers and hun-



dreds of veterans joined in the 23rd Annual Florida Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion held in Melbourne. I had the honor of speaking at this event on April 19th. The traveling wall was on display and over 100 wreaths were placed in tribute to those who died. We were well repre-



sented by Several Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units and Sons Squadrans.

Wow! That is the first word that came to mind as I toured the new All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg. As you know



this facility was founded by American Legion Post 14 in 1926. Over the years it became a community hospital. It has out grown several buildings and in 2010 they opened the new facility consisting of a ten floor hospital and a five floor outpatient care center. We were proud to continue the American Legion tradition and present All Children's with a check for \$2000.



One of the great things about this job is you get to meet the "cutest" Legion Family Members. On April 24th I spoke at the Jr. Auxiliary Day

Camp meeting. This was held at Post 5 in Tampa.

On April 26th I attended the ribbon cutting for the new expansion of Post 347-Lady Lake. Congratulations Post 347-job well done!

Continued on page 2

Commander's column, continued from page 1....



Thank you to 12th District Commander Carl Schneider and the members of 12th District for a great visit. We visited the Veterans Memorial Center in Merritt Island. If you have the opportunity visit the Museum at the Center, they have a wonderful collection of military memorabilia. We also visited the National Seal Museum located in Ft Pierce. We were given a wonderful tour. Later in the evening while visiting Post 39, I met Post 39 member, Chief Watson a retired Navy Seal. I also had the experience of going on a bike ride with a Legion Rider from Post 318.



This is my last Link article as your Department Commander. Words cannot express what a pleasure it has been to serve as your Commander. Thank you to the Department Staff, Mike McDaniel and to all Members of the American Legion Family. I ask that you give our in-coming Department Commander Al Porter the same outstanding support you have given me. Peggy and I wish Al and Edie a wonderful and successful year!

Al Porter
Department Vice Commander
albertporter@bellsouth.net

Legionnaires: As my year comes to a close, what a great experience this has been. I appreciate the faith you have placed in me as your Vice-Commander. Traveling the state and meeting most of you personally has been a pleasure. Your dedication to the Legion programs and our veterans is exceptional. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the hospitality you have shown my wife and I.

Serving as your Department Vice-Commander has been an honor not only for me, but for Steven N. Gladwin, Post 40 who has endorsed and supported me this year.

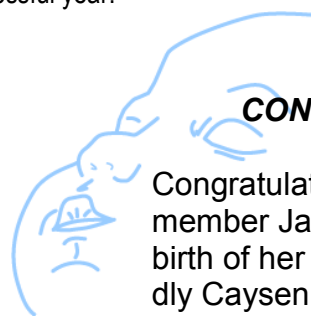
The American Legion is an organization to help our veterans, community, state and nation which I will continue next year. The challenges we face in the coming year, cannot be accomplished with only those who serve as Post, District, Area, and Department Officers. We can only achieve success with all of our members being involved.

Those who are attending the Convention in June, there are many classes scheduled for you to attend. Please take advantage of what is offered. It is important that you have as much knowledge about the programs as possible.

Again, it has been a great honor to serve you this year and I look forward eagerly to the challenges of next year. For God and Country



Thank You For Serving



CONGRATULATIONS!
It's a Boy

Congratulations to Department Staff member Jackie Gonzalez on the birth of her son. The cute and cuddly Caysen, 7lbs 3 oz, was born the morning of May 27th adding more love to their family.

Americanism
Dianne Thibodeau
DianneThib@bellsouth.net

The year is winding down and about to close. As your Americanism Chairman, I want to reach out to everyone I met this year; to thank them for their friendship and hospitality. I hope you have all learned something new; I know I did.

I also want to thank every post for all the work they did towards the Americanism programs. "Thank you and keep up the good work". I again ask that you try and participate in just one more Americanism program. Keep it in mind for next year. I suggested to everyone an inexpensive way to do that. For ten dollars (\$9.95), you can purchase the DVD from National called "For Which It Stands". The DVD is about the history of the flag of the United States and the significance and meaning of our flag, and respecting and caring of our flag. Then for another ten dollars, you can purchase fifty fliers called "The Flag of the United States, (How to display it – How to respect it)". These are twenty cents each, also from National. For just twenty dollars you can see to it that a classroom of children can learn about our flag and have material to take home. The DVD comes with a Teacher's Guide and is aimed at students in the upper elementary and middle/junior high school grades.

As always, when passing out material, please remember to add the name of your post and a phone number. Remember to keep track of your time and money spent on your programs so you can fill out reports at the end of the year. You did the work so let the work speak for us. For God & Country

100% +1 Goal

May 19, 2010

Robert Brewster, Membership
brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net

District/Area Membership Report as of May. 27, 2010

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
16	George Paradise	12,147	12,057	99.26
3	James Troupe	1,655	1,634	98.73
4	Gerald	4,044	3,947	97.60
6	William Walsh	9,570	9,322	97.41
17	Arthur Schwabe	4,368	4,223	96.68
2	George Segrest	1,376	1,323	96.15
12	Carl Schneider	8,772	8,382	95.55
14	Angela Glover	2,314	2,195	94.86
7	Keith Holz	4,440	4,207	94.75
8	Gregory Putman	9,042	8,553	94.59
1	Stephen Shuga	6,473	6,103	94.28
15	Larry Faulkner	5,794	5,462	94.27
5	Gregory Lovejoy	8,154	7,663	93.98
13	Frank Ward	9,365	8,800	93.97
9	Joseph Motes	4,818	4,452	92.40
11	Paul Bosco	4,757	4,395	92.39
10	Larrio Walden	1,095	973	88.86
Central	Kathryn Ferrin	22,381	21,726	97.07
Eastern	Earl Friedeborn	18,342	17,704	96.52
Northern	James Corner	18,221	17,467	95.86
Western	Martha Harris	7,849	7,426	94.61
SW	Richard Francis	18,407	17,353	94.27
Southern	David Knapp	12,984	12,015	92.54
Depart-			93,691	
Post 400		22,248	16,954	76.20
Post 208		1,942	1,664	85.68
Totals		132,000	112,309	85.08

It's hard to believe that this will be my last Legion Link article as your Department Membership Chairman 2009-2010. As a Department, we have failed to reach our goal of 100%+. Also, very sad is that not a single District hit 100%+, which means no Area reached their goals either. However, over 1/3 of our 295 Posts reached 100% and some went considerably over. We had successful Posts in every District in the State. They were very small Posts, medium-size Posts, and large Posts. I have heard many reasons for not succeeding, but these excuses were not viable with all the Posts who did succeed. So I will take the blame myself for not being able to inspire the officers at the Posts that did not reach their goals.

During the last several years, I have held many positions in the American Legion, from Post level and on up. This is the first time I was not able to lead our Program to a successful conclusion. Membership is definitely out there if we go out and look for it. I was at 3 job fairs in one of our largest cities in the state this year, and no one from the District or Area cared enough about membership to be there. These are Veteran job fairs. I signed up membership at each of these activities. I could have done a lot better with some help.

Our Department paid to bring in James Fiedler, a member of our National Membership team. James and I worked with 2 Districts in the state. In the first District we visited, we worked the 2 Posts. One Post had us address their membership team, but we did not do any actual work. This Post did not reach their goal. At the second Post, they had members ready to go out and make calls. This Post exceeded their goals by going over 140%. At the second District we worked, we spent 3 full days making calls in their area. No Post officers or members of the membership team ever showed up. We did visit with the Vice Commander of the District and also listed to the District Commander give us all his reasons why they couldn't succeed. One member of a Post did work with us for a couple of hours, and then we learned he was not even a paid up member. Jim and I managed to sign up a few dozen members, and we turned in checks, cash, and proper paperwork to Department. This just goes to show that if you don't make an effort, you will not succeed. (Note: I am not talking about District 1 or District 2. I wish not to identify the Districts involved.)

Last, I want to give a huge thank you to all the District Commanders, Area Commanders, and Post Commanders, and all the fabulous Post members who are truly trying to make a difference. You are awesome! Keep up the great work! I would like to give my heart felt thanks to those 100 Posts who reached their 100%+ goals. For God and Country





AMERICAN LEGION

DAY WITH THE RAYS

WHEN Sunday, August 1 @ 1:40 PM



Gates open at 11:40 AM



\$20 Upper Reserved Tickets

(\$24 Value) \$3 OF EACH TICKET WILL GO TOWARDS THE HEROES TO HOMETOWN FUND

- ★ ALL POSTS WILL RECEIVE A GROUP WELCOME
- ★ FREE PARKING FOR CARS WITH FOUR OR MORE PASSENGERS
- ★ JEFF NIEMANN GROWTH CHART TO THE FIRST 10,000 KIDS 14 & UNDER
- ★ KIDS RUN THE BASES POSTGAME
- ★ TED WILLIAMS MUSEUM
- ★ INTERACTIVE GAMES IN LEFTFIELD STREET
- ★ ANY POST WHO PURCHASES 40 OR MORE TICKETS WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE FOR AN AUTOGRAPHED BASEBALL

DON'T FORGET TO INVITE THE KIDS AND YOUTH GROUPS
 Groups of 20 or more should contact Rays Representative Dan Newhart
 at 727-825-3293 or email dnewhart@raysbaseball.com.
DEADLINE TO PURCHASE IS JULY 23

Offer not available through Tropicana Field box offices, International Plaza ticket outlet or ticketmaster | tickets subject to availability | no refunds or exchanges



888-FAN-RAYS

raysbaseball.com

raysbeisbol.com

Legislative Report
Stanley Gold, Chairman
786-423-2458

On May 2-3, I was attending a meeting of the Legislative Commission at our National Headquarters in Indianapolis. The meeting was held to go over all our Legislative goals for this year.

The American Legion celebrates signing of veterans caregivers and families relief Act

With an American Legion official standing behind him Wednesday afternoon, President Barack Obama signed into law the long-awaited *Caregivers and veterans omnibus Health Services Act*. As its name implies, the act calls for the government to provide health benefits, training, respite care and, in some cases, monetary stipends for individuals who provide at-home care for severely ill and disabled veterans.

As it stands, the benefits of the new act apply primarily, though not exclusively, to veterans and caregivers of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom – The Iraq and Afghanistan wars. According to a House Veterans Affairs press release, the act does require the Department of Veterans Affairs “...to provide hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide, and Gulf-War era veterans who have insufficient medical evidence to establish a service –connected disability” but contains little else specific to veterans of the pre-9/11 era other than to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to “...submit a one-time report on the feasibility and advisability of expanding the program to cover veterans who have a serious injury incurred or aggravated before September 11, 2001.”

“The American Legion has urged and will continue to press congressional leaders to expand this very important but incomplete legislation to benefit *all* seriously injured and ill veterans and their caregivers,” Hill said. “Our nation must not forget them”

The current cost of implementing all current provisions of the act is 1.7 billion over the next five years. Observers say future funding will be the biggest obstacle to expansion of its benefits.

I'll close my article by wishing the best for Bob Proctor, NEC and Stephen Shuga, 1st District Commander that they both get back to good health.

Also, good luck to Steve Robinson, National Legislative Director, on his retirement from the Legion and good luck on his new job.

ATTENTION ALL POSTS

The End of Year Reports were mailed to each post mid April. Please make sure each of you turn National's Consolidated Post Report and Department's Addendum. This information is how we tell Congress, and everyone else, how much Florida American Legion accomplishes. Florida achieves so much for our veterans and their families. Let's brag! Deadline May 17th

CONGRATULATIONS to the first 35 Posts who have turned in their National and Department reports. They are: 6, 10, 18, 21, 24, 33, 44, 52, 63, 82, 108, 119, 173, 187, 194, 200, 238, 244, 245, 265, 266, 272, 291, 293, 299, 309, 311, 317, 330, 333, 339, 344, 366, 381, and 383. CONGRATULATIONS to District 17, with 100% post reporting.

Department Convention Proposed Agenda

The Caribe Royale June 24- 27, 2010

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thursday, June 24, 2010

8:00am—5:00pm	Headquarters Office
8:00am – 5:00pm	Registration
8:00am—3:00pm	Service Officer School
9:00am—5:00pm	History Book Display/Judging & “Patriotism through Art” Contest
1:00pm—2:00pm	Internal Affairs Commission
2:00pm—3:00pm	Children & Youth Commission
2:00pm—3:00pm	District/Post Commanders Public Relations Course
2:30pm—3:30pm	Time and Place
3:00pm—4:00pm	Americanism Commission
3:00pm—4:00pm	Historians Association Meeting
3:00pm—4:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
5:00pm—6:00pm	Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, June 25, 2010

8:00am—5:00pm	Headquarters Office
8:00am – 5:00pm	Registration
8:00am—3:00pm	Service Officer School
8:00am—3:00pm	First General Session
9:00am—5:00pm	History Book Display/Judging & “Patriotism through Art” Contest
12:00pm—1:30pm	Past Department Commanders' Luncheon
1:00pm—6:00pm	Legion Institute
2:30pm -- 3:30pm	Division of Alcohol, Beverages & Tobacco

Caucuses

2:30pm – 3:30pm	Eastern Area
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Western Area
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Northern Area
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Southwestern Area
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Southern Area
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Central Area
3:45pm – 4:45pm	Legion Riders
3:45pm – 4:45pm	100% + 1 awards
4:30pm—5:30pm	Past Commanders Club
4:30pm—5:30pm	FALPA
4:00pm – 5:30pm	20/4 Bivouac
6:30pm – 10:00pm	Commander/President's Banquet
Saturday, June 26, 2010	
8:00am—5:00pm	Headquarters Office
8:00am—9:30am	Registration
8:00am	Second and Final General Session
4:00pm—5:00pm	Commander Class
4:00pm—5:00pm	Adjutant Class
4:00pm—5:00pm	Division/Alcohol, Beverages & Tobacco
4:00pm – 5:00pm	FALPA
6:00pm	Installation of Officers
7:00pm—8:30pm	Reception
Sunday, June 27, 2010	
8:00am – 10:00am	Headquarters Office
8:00am – 8:30am	Joint Religious Service <i>Presented by Auxiliary</i>
9:00am—11:00am	Department Executive Committee Meeting

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

Thank you for all your hard work with April Children & Youth month. Now it's time to do the hardest work which is the Consolidated Post Reports (CPR). This is how we know how hard we worked for our community, state, and nation. The CPR's are due on May 17, 2010. PLEASE send it in to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. This is how our National Commander Hill reports to Congress. To each District and Post thank you and please pass it on to your member's. GOOD JOB with Children & Youth program is year I personnel saw a lot of very good program around the state. Remember to continue with Children & Youth program it does not stop because CPR is done. Let's plan with some suggestion, a question; How can we continue to help our community and Post? In May we have Mother Day, Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day all are important to us and the community too. Also we have School Medal program by going to schools to awards them and Boys State and Girl State briefing to aid the parent on what is going on.

Summer Children and Youth programs are as follows:

Family Support network, Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), Mercy Medical Airlift, Operation: Military Kids, Missing Children, Fireworks Safety to educate communities, parents, and children about fireworks safety (ask a Firefighter for some help). Special events on holidays like Memorial Day are good for a picnic for their family but be careful not to miss the big picture. The meaning of Memorial Day is to "honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of our country, and of those others who have dropped their burdens by the wayside of life, and are gone to their eternal rest" our "fallen comrades". We don't stop programs; we continue to plan.

In June 23-27, 2010 at the Department Convention I will have a final year end report on the Children & Youth program. All chairmen are welcome to attend and discuss the program and make final suggestions. Please be ready to talk about them.

My program push for this year was for the Child Welfare Foundation. If you or your Post, Auxiliary, or Squadron can give just \$25.00 it will help our Children and Youth Programs. We are doing well but we can do just a little more. I will still be trying donations for CWF also.

Please Start writing and reporting all activities of your Children and Youth programs. Because the time is here and May 17, 2010 is the time for Consolidated Post Report and Addendum. Why? Because of this charter, we are required to submit an annual report of our activities and expenditures to the Congress of the United States. Therefore, the number of Post reporting their Children & Youth activities is very important. Thank you and I hope see you at Department Convention.

District Constitutional Conferences

<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
1 st	June 12 th	193	Pensacola	9:00a CST	9:30a CST
2 nd	June 12 th	100	Marianna		1:00p CST
3 rd	June 5 th	57	Lake City	9:00a	10:00a
4 th	May 29 th	149	Newberry	9:00a	10:00a
5 th	June 6 th	283	Arlington	10:00a	11:00a
6 th	May 15 th	53	Sanford	1:00p	1:45p
7 th	May 16 th	4	Lakeland	2:00p	3:00p
8 th	June 5 th	159	Venice	12:00p	1:00p
9 th	June 6 th	180	Ft. Lauderdale	8:00a	9:00a
10 th	June 12 th	29	Miami	9:30a	10:00a
11 th	May 23 rd	268	Riviera Beach	9:00a	10:00a
12 th	May 15 th	39	Vero Beach	9:00a	10:00a
13 th	June 5 th	103	Punta Gorda	8:00a	9:00a
14 th	May 8 th	43	Homestead	10:00a	11:00a
15 th	May 22 nd	111	Tampa	9:00a	10:00a
16 th	May 16 th	7	Clearwater	10:00a	11:00a
17 th	June 6 th	6	Deland	12:00p	1:00p

COMMANDER & PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

“A Salute to the Armed Forces”

Friday, June 25, 2010

Cocktails at 6:30pm

Dinner at 7:00pm

*Plated Menu: Mixed Green Salad, Fresh Rolls and Butter,
Sliced Baron of Beef with Herb-Roasted Seasonings
and Au Jus Gravy Served with Mashed Potatoes,
Fresh Sautéed Vegetables
and Cherry Pie Dessert.*

Entertainment by:

Donna Moore's Diva Legends Show

Semi-formal attire

Commander & President's Banquet Reservation Form

Name: _____

Number of Tickets _____ x \$33 each = \$ _____ Enclosed

*(Tickets will be available for pickup during Convention,
located in Headquarters Office)*

Please send this form and a check payable to:

The American Legion
ATTN: Mary
1912A Lee Rd
Orlando, FL 32810