

The Legion Link

September 2010

Vol. 18 Issue 2



STEERING FORWARD FOR VETERANS



Web Site: www.floridalegion.org

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My Fellow Legionnaires:

Traveling around the highways and byways in the State of Florida:

My month began at the Rays baseball game in Tampa. It was at this game that the Madiera Beach Post #273 color guard presented the colors at the start of the game. Then, I spent four days at the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis with our Area commanders along with our Membership and DMS Chairmen. It was full of new ideas for everyone.

National is in the process of rolling out a new web-site which will be a great help to all our Post Commanders and Adjutants. I understand the many challenges that our Post Commanders and Adjutants are encountering with the continuing move to being more and more computer oriented. It continues to be a learning process.

It is always very special to attend Post Installations and to visit the Posts. Over the last few weeks I have attended the Grand Opening of Post#219, Fruitland Park where I cut the ribbon to open their new building. It is a friendly post and if you happen to be in the area it is worth a visit. That same night I had the pleasure of attending the installations at Mt. Dora Post #35 along with 6th District Commander Bill Walsh, his staff, and the Eastern Area Commander Carl Schneider.

Traveling the Southern most part of Florida, the Keys, it was a pleasure to perform instal-

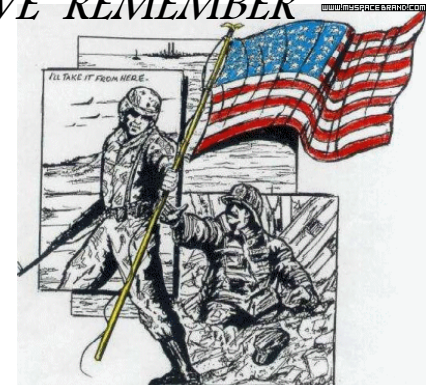
lations at Marathon Post #154 and, following U.S.#1 South, I installed Key West Post #28 and Post #168. Coming back up the Keys I stopped at Post #333 Key Largo to install their new officers where many of my old friends were in attendance.

Next on the agenda was attending the meeting of the Veterans Council in Orlando then off to Lady Lake Post #347 for their installation. Here the Sixth District Staff and some of the guests will wear pink to instill in everyone an awareness for Breast Cancer.

This will bring us to our National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 26 to the 2nd of September. During this convention a new National Commander, Jimmy Foster from the state of Alaska, will be installed for the 2010-2011 year.

September 11, 2001

WE REMEMBER



ORATORICAL Contest Dates

Must be completed by:

Posts - January 9, 2011

Districts - January 30, 2011

Areas - February 20, 2011

Department - March 12, 2011

To All Post Commanders

This year the District Commander's have been requested to obtain a copy of the forms below for each post in their District. Neither the District nor Department wishes to become involved in the running of any post. The forms below are the basics for a post to run properly and several are required by National or Department Constitution and By Laws.

Department is asking each of you to cooperate with your District Commander and make ready each of these items:

Post Constitution & By Laws
Sales Tax Certificate
Florida Incorporation Certificate
Local Health Certificate
IRS 501C (19) Letter

NOW AVAILABLE HALLOWEEN COLORING BOOKS

By your request, the Department has Halloween Coloring Books available for purchase and distribution to the Elementary classrooms in your area. The order form is on page 11 of the Post Administrative Manual. Supplies are limited—get them while they last! The cost remains \$20.00 per 100 books. If you have any questions, contact Bobbi at Department, 800.393.3378x233 or bobbi@floridalegion.org.

UPDATE!

With the new year comes new information. We have updated all of our guides and manuals. **Throw out all old materials.** Communication is the key to keeping our programs active. Make sure your program chairmen have all the material they need. Send in the Packet Request forms;
**Administrative Manual
pages 12-14.**

Scouting

Robert "Bob" Scott
wvcaller@msn.com

I have some great news - we are going to have a Legion Boy Scout Camp at Camp La-No-Che. The dates for the camp are January 14-16. After checking with some of the Boy Scout Troops in the area, it was suggested that we work on merit badges. I hope to see your Boy Scout Troop there along with your COR or Post Boy Scout Chairman. I am looking forward to having a great time.

Remember to get your reports into the Department Boy Scout Chairman. We need to brag on what we have accomplished. How is the world to know what we are doing if we don't tell them. It's like kissing a girl in the dark, no one knows what you did unless you tell them. Be proud of your Scouting Program.

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but I must make sure that you are checking out the people you appoint as adult leaders for your Boy Scout Troop. This is very important. It is also important that your adult leaders have taken and passed the Youth Protection Program, on the Scouting web page. No adult leader or volunteer can work with the boys until they have the certificate stating that they have passed this program.

As they used to say in radio, until next month, same time, same station and may the good Lord take a likin' to you. Yours in Scouting - For God and Country



65% Goal

October 6, 2010

District/Area Membership Report as of Aug. 26, 2010

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
2	Ralph Camp	1,373	654	47.63
16	Charlie Wing	12,208	5,541	45.39
17	James Baker	4,256	1,920	45.11
7	Nancy Thomas	4,221	1,820	43.12
4	Jay Conti	3,983	1,691	42.45
9	George Rafajko	4,513	1,899	42.08
6	William Walsh	9,445	3,794	40.17
15	James Zipler	5,508	2,193	39.81
8	Gregory Putman	8,621	3,382	39.23
1	Lawrence Carpenter	6,197	2,291	36.97
12	Wayne Smith	8,471	3,084	36.41
3	Ira Westbrook	1,660	604	36.39
13	Steven Slachta	8,895	3,216	36.16
14	Angela Glover	3,170	1,094	34.51
11	Paul Bosco	4,447	1,513	34.02
5	Jerry Brandt	7,894	2,665	33.76
Central	George Paradise	21,937	9,554	43.55
Western	Stephen Shuga	7,570	2,945	38.90
Northern	James Troupe	17,793	6,880	38.67
Eastern	Carl Schneider	17,916	6,878	38.39
SW	John Ebling	17,516	6,598	37.67
Southern	John Farrington	12,130	4,506	37.15
Dept			37,361	
Post 400		17,306	8,249	47.67
Post 208		1,682	897	53.33
Totals		144,079	46,507	32.28

Art Schwabe
Membership Chairman
schwabeartur@yahoo.com

Greetings Legion Family - Moral Is High!!!

Well, by now you should all have your membership cards and have members renewing. Great!!! I hope each Post has a plan on how to get members to renew early. Try to think of new ways of getting members to renew. "We have been doing membership like this since Patton joined in 1943". If that's the case it's time to change. Things need to change if it's not working. If it is working, then just disregard the last statement. We (Department) are sending out a Recruiting Poster to each Post. The Poster lists all Post recruiters who have signed up new members at your Post. Let's reward those members who are bringing more veterans into the family. Thank You!! Thank You!! Thank You!!! Those new members are our future volunteers, chairmen, and officers of your Post. To be successful you have to bring in new members with new ideas. The Posts with a plan will be the ones who are most successful.

This year we have started something new; Zone Chairmen. The purpose is to have more training given to Posts regarding development of a good post membership team. Their goal is to help all Posts achieve 100 % in membership. Training will consist of recruiting new membership, transferring 400 members, DMS and non renewals. The Zone Chairmen will work closely with Post Commanders, Adjutants and the Post Membership Chairmen. (AIM HIGH IN MEMBERSHIP) AWARENESS + VISIBILITY + PROGRAMS + EFFORT = MEMBERS

Our new National Commanders pin will be given out to members who sign up two (2) new members and five (5) non renewed members, that's a total of seven (7) members. His motto is: "S.A.V.E.D." - "Serving American Veterans Each Day." What a great Motto!!! Post Commanders and/or Adjutants will have to submit a form with the members name and the names of the new and non renewals. This form will then be sent to Department, then to National. Pins will be mailed to the individual from National Headquarters.

The Departments first membership goal is 55% on September 1, 2010. We have already hit a few bumps in the road but the goal is obtainable with Team Work and Effort. (Moral is High)!!!

Attention Post Commanders and Adjutants: Please consider signing up on www.mylegion.org. Go to the National web site, click on 'mylegion' on the right side (cold water side if you're a Marine!!!!) and go to the site. Fill out the necessary fields. It's a great tool for your post and your membership team. Membership is only as important as the effect it has on other lives. Ole'

Future Goal Dates
November 3, 2010 - 75%
December 1, 2010 - 80%
January 5, 2011 - 85%
February 2, 2011—90%



Ride Safe
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American Legion Riders chapters are often well known for their charitable work which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in the Legion Legacy Run, to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

At the time of writing this article we are packing our bikes and getting ready to head out to Indianapolis. I want to personally thank all the Riders for collecting money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. We are delivering over 30 checks totaling \$29,085.00 during the run. Organizations that donated over \$500 will receive a plaque from National Commander, Clarence Hill. Again thanks for all the hard work!!!! Now it is time to start raising Funds for next year's Ride and beat this years contributions.

Remember the purpose of the American Legion Riders is to promote motor cycle safety programs and provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members; to use our association to promote and support programs of the American Legion and charities of the local community; participate in parades and other ceremonies that are keeping with the aims and purpose of The American Legion. We are the fastest growing program within the American Legion and we are the one communities see as we support our purpose. So remember the Four Pillars of The American Legion; Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, AMERICANISM, and Children and Youth; as we conduct ourselves in the light our community, state and nation.

Remember Riders are Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL first. If there is a problem in the POST it is not always a Rider problem.

New ALR Chapter List is on the Department website, if data is missing from your chapter please let me know and we will get it updated.

If anyone has questions please e-mail or call me. We need to keep the lines of communication OPEN....Ride Safe



Jim Ramos
Department of Florida
Children & Youth Chairman
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Hi! We have some suggestions for the next several months:

September has Labor Day on the 6th, Patriot Day on the 11th; Citizenship Day and POW-MIA Recognition Day (both) on the 17th. Make a plan for some type of events at your Post. Oh! And how about doing all of this with an open house at the Post. Have a dinner or just some snacks for everyone. We need to order the Halloween coloring books from Department Headquarters (100 books are just \$20.00).

October is the time to give the Elementary Schools the Halloween Safety Coloring Book. This is for the Elementary Schools and why? The Halloween Safety Coloring Book has safety tips for the children and a message to the parents on how to keep their children from becoming one of America's "Missing Children". It also has a membership application on the back cover right next to your Post address label sticker. And don't forget the Middle School kids. A good brochure for them is "Make Halloween A Fun and Safe Night". It has more safety tips for Big Brother and / or Big Sister as well as parents. It also encourages working with your local Law Enforcement Officers to provide or assist in making child identification activities available which gives parents a means of providing this information to authorities should the need arise. If you can, have a Halloween party for the children and youth in your community along with an open house. October has Columbus Day on the 11th, Navy Day is on the 27th, and Halloween on Sunday the 31st. Don't forget our Heroes to Hometowns Recruiting week. No cost is involved other than a commitment to assist the transition of a wounded warrior and his/her family back into your community when needed. So plan something around those days for your membership.

November - There is a lot going on so PLAN now. The elections are on Nov 2nd. Please think about giving out the "Get Out the Vote" brochure from Department HQ; and its free. For Veterans Day plan something for our veterans (members and non-members) too. Show your support for our troops. Education week is next with veterans in the classroom. Work with the schools in your local area. Family week is the same week as Thanksgiving. Please again plan something for our Children & Youth. Include Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). These programs are all year round. Then, start a plan for December.

I will have more plans (suggestions) for you and your Post next month. Thank you for your support with Children and Youth programs.

My program push for this year is, once again, the Child Welfare Foundation. If you or your Post, Auxiliary, Squadron and ALR can give just \$25.00 it will help our Child Welfare Foundation Program. We are doing well but we can do just a little more. I will still be trying to get donations for CWF. I also have Children and Youth Pins for sale just \$5.00 each and some baseballs will be in soon for you to see. They are impressive and they will be for sale soon.

I will be going out to see you at your District meetings. Again, thank you and please keep working our Children & Youth programs. If you or your Post needs help or if you have any questions just e-mail me.

Legislative Report
Stanley Gold, Chairman
786-423-2458



To everyone plus your family members old enough to vote – I hope all of you voted in the Primary election on August 24th. It's not only right, but that's what we fight for.

Legislative Division Update -

Updating last week's report on the supplemental appropriations bill (H.R. 4899), cooler heads in the House of Representatives prevailed as that chamber agreed to the Senate version of the spending measure on July 27th. The House vote for passage of the Senate version was 308-114. The bill now goes to the White House for President Obama's signature.

The final version of the bill eliminated all the funding which House appropriators added to H.R. 4899. As pointed out two weeks ago, the Senate used the original House bill as a vehicle for supplemental war funding and disaster relief funding. The final funding in the bill totals \$58.8 billion in FY2010 funding for which \$37.1 billion is included for the troops in Afghanistan & Iraq. The remainder is funding for FEMA disaster relief, Haiti earthquake relief, money for the Gulf Coast oil spill and other discretionary programs.

On July 28, the House passed H. R. 5822, the FY 2011 appropriations bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), military construction programs and related agencies by a recorded vote of 411-6. The House-passed bill closely follows the Senate Appropriations Committee's version, S. 3615, with minor exceptions. Both measures closely mirror the President's FY 2011 budget request released in February.

For the coming fiscal year, VA would be funded at \$121 billion, the largest overall budget in the agency's history. In addition, both measures allocate advance appropriations for VA medical care accounts for FY 2012 in the following amounts: \$39.65 billion for medical services; \$5.54 billion for medical support and compliance; and, \$5.42 billion for medical facilities, a total of \$50.61 billion.

Funding levels for related agencies that are of interest to The American Legion include:

\$67 million for the American Battle Monuments Commission in the Senate measure, \$66 million in the House version;

\$90 million in the House measure for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, \$53 million in the Senate bill;

\$43 million of Army cemeterial Expenses –which maintains Arlington National Cemetery –in the Senate bill, while the House measure would fund this account at \$40 million; and, \$71 million in both bills for the Armed forces Retirement Home.

Military construction programs would be funded at \$13.7 billion in the H.R. 5822, while the Senate version would fund these programs at \$18.7 billion. Major program areas include: \$2.4 billion to implement base closures and realignments and re-stationing of troops and their families under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process in both measures.



Michael Clark

Department Americanism Chairman

captret95@tampabay.rr.com

Recently I've seen proof that the Americanism Programs of the Legion really work. Last week Post 273, Madeira Beach, received a card from an elementary school student who was awarded a school award and medal from the post. In his thank you card, this very young kid said he mowed lawns in this heat wave and donated fifty dollars to The American Legion. When I read the card it sent chills over me, thinking how this future adult has already started showing his patriotism toward the Veterans and his Country.

I challenge all the Area Americanism Chairmen to get their posts to step up and implement one more of the Americanism Programs. The cost to the individual post is minimal and the rewards are great for the post when you get the thank you cards and letters from the kids. Remember, some of these kids, that we have a chance to influence, will be the leaders of tomorrow, holding our future and health care as Veterans in their hands. The schools are not really teaching the history of our Nation, and what little they get is usually not factual. That, my friends, is where we come in. Please visit the schools, plan with the guidance counselors to get the Oratorical Program started, support the Scouts, Shooting Sports, Boys State and teach Flag Etiquette to the young citizens of our Country. This is where you can really be an influence and make a change for their and our future as well as this great Nation.

I am working on some other things with the Americanism Program and hope for a very great coming year ahead. Let's make the Department of Florida's Americanism Program the best in the entire 55 departments of The American Legion. If you have a question or need help please email me at Captret95@tampabay.rr.com God Bless America



Department Headquarters Staff		
Michael McDaniel	Department Adjutant	239
Jerry Mullenix	Department Assistant Adjutant	239
Rachel Castleberry	Executive Assistant	239
Irene Graham	Membership Director	231
Bobbi Halle	Bookkeeper	232
Jasmine Shipley	Post 400	228
Jackie Gonzalez	Receptionist/Administrative Assistant	221
Mary Ricci	Special Events Coordinator	233
Carol Polk	Programs Director	222
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Ryan Gonzales	IT Director	235
Vanessa Anderson-Rosa	Public Relations	229



**Visit our online Web Store - www.floridalegionstore.org
Hats, Shirts, Ties, Jackets, and other items.
Renew your membership online here!!**

*Sons of the American Legion
Chris Fisher
fservice@cfl.rr.com*

I would like to thank Commander Porter for appointing me to this position. I am a dual member of the Legion & S.A.L. I have been active at various levels in both organizations from the Post/Squadron, District & Department/Detachment. I am passionate about The American Legion, the S.A.L. and the Auxiliary. I believe that it takes the entire family to accomplish our mutual goals. If the family harmoniously works together as a unit, amazing things can happen. If there is discord in the family, we will all suffer for it and our goals will not be realized. I believe that it is our job as Legionnaires to set the standard and to assist the SAL & Auxiliary. We should be above reproach in our dealings with the other family members and we should expect nothing less from them in return.

The S.A.L. had an amazing year last year. I would like to share with you some of the highlights: (Please keep in mind that this is only with 96 Year End Reports). Membership: ALL TIME HIGH IN MEMBERSHIP – 13,142 MEMBERS (103.72%). Donation to various programs: Florida Special Olympics - \$36,994.00, Children's Miracle Network - \$28,600.00, Child Welfare Foundation - \$15,550.00, Florida Children & Youth - \$3,600.00, All Children's Hospital - \$10,900.00, N.E.F. - \$2,550.00, Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation - \$34,784.00, Dollar Contributions to American Legion Posts - \$75,784.54, Various Other Program Donations - \$104,456.00, TOTAL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS - \$408,421.68. MAN HOURS: Hours to American Legion Post's – 49,964, Community Service Hours – 32,967, Hours for Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation – 4,841, Various Other Hours – 60,001.5, TOTAL MAN HOURS – 147,773.5

As you can see the Son's are making a difference! The amazing thing is these numbers reflect the efforts of only the 96 Squadrons that submitted Year End Reports. I wonder what the true numbers actually are.

If you have any questions concerning the S.A.L., please do not hesitate to call or email me. You can reach me at: 386-690-1295 or detflja@gmail.com For God & Country