

The American Legion Winter Park Memorial Post 112 Family



Winter Park Memorial Post 112
4490 North Goldenrod Road
Winter Park, FL 32792
www.wpflpost112.org
407.671.6404

2015-2016 Officers

Commander
Billy Dover

Vice Cmdr.
Gerard (Jerry) Dress

Adjutant
Bob Colbert

Finance Officer
Dyke Shannon

Sgt. at Arms
James Middlekauff

Judge Advocate
Neil Paulson, Sr.

Asst. Judge Adv.
Terry Brown

Service Officer
Ted Costello

Chaplain
Robert Smith

Historian
James Middlekauff

Sons of the Legion
Commander
Bob Colbert

Auxiliary
President

Marge Berrios

Sea Cadet Liaison
Gerard (Jerry) Dress

Newsletter Editor
Nell Colbert

Website
[http://
www.wpflpost112.org](http://www.wpflpost112.org)

COMMANDER'S MINUTE

As I began writing this newsletter I was asked by a member to sign her up for Paid-Up-for Life membership. How excited I was to assist her to do it on the computer in less than 5 minutes. This member decided to pay in equal installments over a year and will not have to worry about dues increases. A REMINDER THAT effective December 11th Dues increases to \$38.00 per year but if you pay now, you will save \$8.00. And if you join as a paid up for life member before then, it would be based on our current membership dues of \$30.00 instead of \$38.00 effective December 11th.

Currently we are in a waiting stage for the County Building Department to approve the plans for our pavilion which will double in size and give the post more cover during outside events. The current state of the Post is good compared to many in the state and nation. We, the staff, take seriously our role to maintain the FOUR PILLARS of the American Legion in providing support to each. Vice Commander Dress' activities have shown positive cash flow from donations received during his events. He does need help as the events begin and end; at the same time he is always trying new things to promote the FOUR PILLARS by our post.

As the year 2015 comes to a close we must remember the Post members we lost this year including our Service Members both at home and abroad. Our country has had heartache with Lone Wolf attacks at our recruiting stations, military bases and schools. We must protect ourselves by keeping aware at all times of our surroundings. Let us be THANKFUL during Thanksgiving and every day that GOD has blessed our Nation but it comes at a cost. Never think for a moment that life is short and keep positive thoughts and prayers each moment for we know not when we will meet our maker.

I hope to see you at our Yard Sale and Arts/Craft show, Veteran's Day OPEN HOUSE, Breakfast and all the other events especially Christmas Party at Perkins. Keep informed and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Vice Commander Dress or me.

REMEMBER PAY YOUR DUES BY DECEMBER 11 before the dues increases and think about the paid up for life before that date, it may save you money.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,
Billy Dover Jr., Commander

Volume 8, Issue 3
Nov.—Dec. 2015

YAHOO! GROUPS

See Bob to
sign up!

Do you

YAHOO!®

Inside this Issue:

Page 2

- From Jerry's Table
- Sea Cadet Update

Page 3

- Notes From the Adjutant's Desk
- Adventures in Building—Helping Seniors Stay in Their Homes

Page 4

- Advertising Info

Page 5

- Our Happenin' Auxiliary

Page 6

- Honor Flight 2015

Page 7

- ITN Orlando—Transportation for Seniors

Page 8

- ITN Orlando—cont'd from page 7

Page 9

- ITN Orlando—cont'd from Page 8

- Christmas Party RSVP

Page 10

- S.A.L. Update
- Words from the Chaplain

Page 11

- Adventures in Building—cont'd from Page 3

Page 12

- Calendar
- Officers Directory



From Jerry's Table

As we get close to the end of another calendar year we seem to be moving faster in time.

- OUR Sea Cadets will be going to SEAL Muster for four days serving Past and Present Special Warfare members of our Armed Forces.
- The November meeting will be the day before Veteran's Day Nov.11, come by for some snacks and drinks with our OPEN HOUSE from 9 to 2.
- Everyone is welcome to attend the Department of Florida American Legion, FALL Conference at Hilton Hotel.
- Our pancake breakfast on November 28 and December 26 will have the VETERANS from the VA Nursing Center, come by and celebrate with them and enjoy pancakes and eggs.
- Our 6th District meeting will be held at Lady Lake Post 347 on December 5th at 0900 hours.
- At the same time OUR Sea Cadets will be marching in the Winter Park Christmas Parade.
- OUR POST CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR MEMBERS AND SPOUSES WILL BE AT PERKIN'S on University Blvd from 7PM to 9PM. EVERYONE will be welcomed, we have notified them that we are anticipating 50 people to show up and enjoy the fellowship. Last year we had a great time but we need YOU to come and share the fellowship with other veterans.

Please keep our troops at home and on foreign soil in your thoughts and prayers during the Holiday Season. Be thankful for living in a great country and thank YOU for your service.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Vice Commander Jerry Dress

Have YOU Paid Your 2016 Dues Yet?
Please send your check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!

Sea Cadet Update: Billy Dover



CENTURION BATTALION

The new recruits are learning the meaning of HONOR, COURAGE and COMMITMENT to belong to such a great youth organization. They have been taught how to march information, completed basic swim qualifications, close order drill and how to wear the uniforms with pride. This November we will be attending the USN SEAL Muster to service our Past and Present Special Warfare members of the Armed Services. They will also learn how the FROG men were formed up and what all they do in today's military. It is our goal to assist with the Orlando Marathon on Nov. 15 to represent the USNSCC and WP Memorial Post 112.

December we will be in the Winter Park Parade to show off our unit and uniforms as well as representing the US Military as one of the few in this parade. If you cannot be there then it should be televised on one of the local channels such as channel 13. We will complete the year with finishing out our drill on December 6th. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we are larger than ever and with any organization it comes with challenges.

The Centurion Battalion wishes to THANK YOU for being our sponsor and may we continue to serve you as you have served us. Enjoy your Thanksgiving and Christmas as we remember our veterans and current service members.

Respectfully, Centurion Battalion Staff, USNSCC



Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

As we bring 2015 to a close, I want to remind EVERYONE who has NOT PAID your dues for 2016 that this will be your last chance to save the \$8 increase. Dues paid after 12/15 will have to be \$38 instead of \$30 for all Post Legion members! This increase does not apply to the S A L or the Auxiliary. It only applies to the Legionnaires.

You will also find the Vice Commander's information on the upcoming Post Christmas Party. Please let him know if you will be attending.

You will also see an article about our Vice Commander's (and his escort, the Commander's) trip on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC. Take a look and enjoy the article and pictures that we were able to include.

As you know, it is getting increasingly expensive to produce a printed copy of the newsletter. Our printer has been most gracious in keeping the cost of the actual printing fairly stable but the US Postal Service has raised the cost of mailing three times in the last 5 or 6 years. If you are able to receive the newsletter electronically, and are getting a "mailed" copy, please let me know what your correct email is so that your record can be updated AND the Post can save a little money. The total cost of the newsletter per copy is just under \$1. We have been able to offset it a little with advertising, but not all that much. Of your annual dues, the Post only sees about \$8. The rest goes to the Department of Florida and the Na-

tional American Legion to help them pay for the programs that they offer Veterans. All of these programs are important to us as Veterans, and the community. So, if you have an email address and are STILL getting the newsletter by US Mail, please see me at one of the meetings or send me an email to: FLPost112@gmail.com (The Post's email address).

The Department of Florida FALL CONFERENCE is coming up FAST! This is your chance to learn more about the Legion and what it does and can do for Veterans. And, there are classes for the various positions within the Post, so if you have an interest, this could be your chance to see if you want to become a Post Officer. The date for the Fall Conference is November 13 & 14, 2015. There is no cost, other than perhaps a parking fee, for the conference or any of the classes. For more information about the agenda, go to <http://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/fall-conference/event-agenda/> and select the desired venue. All three agendas are there, Legion, S A L and the Auxiliary.

Due to technical difficulties, we are unable to provide the usual Happy Birthday list but we do want to wish everyone with birthdays in November and December a VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Bob Colbert, Adjutant



Adventures in Building-Staying in Your Home

Do you secretly wish someone from HGTV would show up at your house and present you with a "free" home improvement? Well, the chances of that happening are probably pretty small. Even more frustrating: there aren't many sources for funds for home improvement out there.

Now for the good news: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has money*. The VA has four main grant programs to assist disabled veterans and service members with necessary home modifications:

The Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant is available to veterans with medical determination indicating that improvements are necessary for the treatment of their disability. Service-connected veterans may be able to receive up to \$6,800 and nonservice-connected veterans up to \$2,000. This amount would probably help with minor projects, like a ramp installation, door widening, automatic door opener, etc. A veteran may receive both a HISA grant and either a SHA or SAH grant.

The Special Home Adaptation (SHA) Grant is for modifying an existing home to meet adaptive needs, such as assistance with mobility throughout the home. Veterans and service members with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to the SHA grant. The SHA Grant is limited to \$12,992. This amount would probably not pay for a complete bathroom remodel with a custom built curb-less shower, but it may pay for a prefab shower unit with a low profile entry and grab bars.

CONT'D ON PAGE 11



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Would your business like to advertise in our Post newsletter? This newsletter, with distribution via email and USPS to over 200 members and organizations, is now accepting advertising for our monthly newsletters.

Advertising rates per issue are as follows:

- Business card size - \$ 6.00 (3 3/4"w x 2 1/4"l)
- 1/4 page - \$ 10.00 (3 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l)
- 1/2 page - \$ 18.00 (7 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l or 3 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)
- Full page - \$ 30.00 (7 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)

If paid in advance for FIVE ISSUES, THE SIXTH ISSUE IS FREE!

Copy MUST be emailed to the editor as a jpg or Publisher file but payment MUST be mailed to the Post's PO Box or hand delivered to the Post by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

COPY DEADLINES:

- Jan-Feb issue—15December
- Mar-April issue—15February
- May-June issue—15April
- July-August issue—15June
- September-October issue—15August
- November-December issue—15October

QUESTIONS—Contact the editor at 407.401.8360 or email

nell.colbert@communimatics.com.



Full Color Business Cards
Starting at \$59
INCLUDES DESIGN
 (1-2 day turnaround Single Sided)

FAST and Friendly Service

- Business Cards
- Stationary
- Carbonless Forms
- Custom Invitations
- Flyers and Brochures
- Signs
- Graphic Design Services
- and more.....



(on the corner of Aloma Ave. and Hall Rd.)

4962 Hall Road
 Orlando, FL 32817
 407-677-4077
 printstart@earthlink.net • Fax: 407-677-7424



Mobile Notary Services
Serving Central Florida Since 1970

Where Making it OFFICIAL
Meets CONVENIENCE

407.401.8360
nell.colbert@communimatics.com

Notary Public & Certified Signing Agent

National Notary Assoc.
Goldenrod Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

www.communimatics.com

Have Seal



Will Travel



Our Happenin' Auxiliary

Our September meeting featured our annual planning conference. This year we have lots of exciting projects that will benefit our Veterans, children and youth, and our community. A few of our projects include our school supply drive, our holiday food basket project for Veteran families, our annual Bingo party for the Veterans at the VA Medical Center in Lake Nona, Girls State, our annual Americanism Essay Contest, Poppy distribution for November and May, our school medals programs, and assisting the Legion with their projects like the Halloween children's party, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Arts & Crafts and Yard Sales.

Our annual school supply drive is underway and we again thank everyone who has been so generous with their donations. Lots of organizations collect school supplies for the start of school in August, but by January, school supplies have been depleted so the supplies we collect are delivered to the schools in January. If you have not dropped off school supplies yet, please help your Post and your Auxiliary. Remember, when Post and S.A.L. members support Auxiliary projects, the Post and Squadron can count your contributions when they make their year end reports. Our students will need the usual supplies: pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, Elmer's glue, glue sticks, 3 ring notebook paper, Duotang folders with both pockets and fasteners, spiral notebooks, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, rulers, scissors, etc. If you don't have time to shop and

would rather make a cash donation, please see Nell Colbert, our Treasurer, before or after any meeting. **Please be sure to drop off your donations before the December meetings.**

On October 31st, our members were very visible at the Goldenrod Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival and Parade. We sponsored the children's coloring table and gave out hundreds of Halloween Safety coloring books. We also conducted an Auxiliary Membership Drive alongside the Legion and S.A.L. We also assisted Commander Dress and the Legion with the children's Halloween party. We had a great time playing with all the children and visiting with prospective Auxiliary members.

Membership renewals for 2015-2016 are now due. And we have some exciting news! This year, Auxiliary members can pay their dues on-line by going to the national Auxiliary website at: <https://www.alaforveterans.org/> - just click on the Members Only tab across the top of the page.

If you haven't yet paid your dues, please bring your check to the November Unit meeting, send your check for \$30 made payable to Auxiliary Unit 112 to PO Box 2246, Goldenrod, FL 32733-2246 or if you would rather pay by credit card just go on-line to pay. We did not reach our 100% goal by 9/26 but if we can get to 100% before 12/15, we will receive a \$100 check from national that will really help fund our activities. We are currently at 50% so please check

your records and if you have not sent in your 2016 dues, please get them in quickly.

In November we will have our annual Veteran's Day Poppy Drive. Please get your Poppy from the Auxiliary at the November meeting.

We will begin recruiting candidates for Girls State in early November. Information will go out to Winter Park, Lake Howell, Oviedo and Haggerty High Schools along with Trinity Prep. Our interviews will be held in February.

November will also see our Unit members participating in the Auxiliary Fall Conference along with our Legion and S.A.L. brothers.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



As always, we welcome new ladies who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call us at 321.578.8612.

Check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ALA112FL>

or our website at:

www.AmLegionAux112FL.com to see what we've been doing.



Honor Flight 2015



Our own Vice Commander Jerry Dress was one of 48 members from WW II, Korea, and Vietnam wars who were chosen to take part in this Honor Flight. I was given the opportunity to be Vice Commander's Guardian and I wish to thank the membership for allowing me this opportunity. The event actually began the Saturday before with a pre-planning session where the organization explained the activities for the trip.



We arrived at the airport at 0430 and were taken through TSA extremely fast along with a color guard from TSA and had our breakfast at the gate of our flight. The sendoff



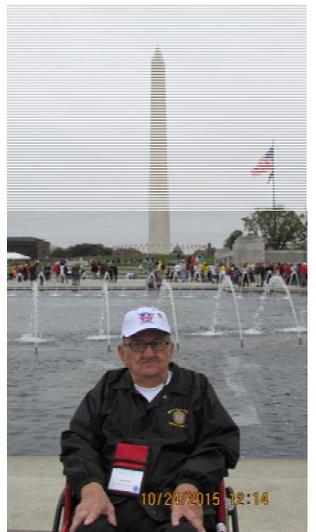
was well attended by about 100 individuals representing many branches of service organizations. Southwest Airlines made sure we were well taken care of. Upon arrival at Baltimore terminal we were welcomed by USN Sea Cadets, Midshipmen from the US Naval Academy along with members of the local guard. Once placed on buses we were given a police escort to Washington, DC. Stopping first at the WWII Memorial there was a reception by reenactment members in WWII



uniforms that was also attended by Mrs. Elizabeth Dole.

After a group picture, we took in the WWII Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, and finally the Korean War Memorial. Vice Commander Dress really enjoyed the statue representing the Air Force personnel. What a great memorial to those who serviced in each war, along with those representing some of our nation's great leaders.

After a great sack lunch we proceeded to the Marine Memorial and finally the changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. During this service they replaced two wreaths and the members of the Honor Flight had front row seats. Due to the time constraints we drove by the memorials representing Women serving our country along with the Air Force Memorial before being given a police escort back to the Baltimore airport.



The biggest reception was given once we returned to Orlando International Airport with over two hundred members of the public clapping and shaking hands with each Veteran. We left at 0700 and returned at 2200 hours in a tired but happy state with memories that will last a life time. We thank those volunteers for their support and making this event possible.



Independent Transportation Network of Orlando: A Gift of Independence from our Community



May 4, 2009 changed my life forever. This date was so impactful because it was the day I told my grandmother, Emma Jean Jackson, about Independent Transportation Network of Orlando. I started to explain to my grandmother who was my friend and shopping buddy, that ITNOrlando is a nonprofit organization that helps create a small town feeling by providing reliable and safe transportation to insure that seniors stay independent. The transportation service is specifically for seniors 60+ and those who are visually impaired; it is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Volunteers are level 2 criminally background checked and have a clean driving record. After sharing with her this wonderful new organization it surprised me that she wanted to know how she could sign on to such a wonderful service. I must admit that I was confused

because the first of every month we would spend the day shopping. I looked forward to this outing each month. I asked my grandmother why she needed an application. She had me to take her where she wanted to go. She explained that there were several stores that she had seen that she wanted to visit. I explained that all she had to do is ask and I would have stopped. My grandmother let me know that she really didn't want to be a bother, she appreciated all that I did but she really wanted to take her time in the store without feeling like she was inconveniencing me. As much as I said it was no bother and she could never inconvenience me I realized at that moment my grandmother saw ITNOrlando as a way to reclaim her independence. ITNOrlando meant that my grandmother would No longer need my dad and mom to take her to all her doctor's visits, She didn't have to rely on the church bus to get to church and more importantly she could take the time to socialize with some of the other ladies after church instead of having to leave when the bus left. You can't imagine her disappointment when I informed her that ITNOrlando was not available in her area just yet. She wanted to know why and when would it be available in her community? You see I had the answers to my grandmother's questions because at the time I had just started to work for ITNOrlando as the new Executive Director. I had been given the direction from the board to grow our footprint in the community. I explained to my grandmother that I would work hard to expand the network to her neighborhood. I did not see this as being a great challenge because ITNOrlando's coverage area ended just a few blocks over from my grandmother's community. I explained to her that right now it was not available because we did not have enough volunteers to offer the service and we would need to also hire a paid driver to cover the area when volunteers were not available. My grandmother spread the word quickly to other seniors that wanted ITNOrlando's transportation services. I promised my grandmother and her friends that my gift to them would be this service in their area. After advocating in her community for a year and a half we were able to expand our services into my grandmother's area. Unfortunately my grandmother was never able to use the service because she passed before she could take her first ride. However, the gift that was inspired by one is now enjoyed by many.

Independent Transportation Network of Orlando is a national 501 © (3) organization that engages the community to join in the shared care of seniors in our community by volunteering and or supporting safer and reliable transportation for seniors and the visually impaired. We are a part of ITNAmerica with 24 other affiliates throughout the US.

Over the last 10 years ITNOrlando has come to mean so much more than just transportation. ITNOrlando is about a community network that has provided over 60,000 rides to seniors and the visually impaired. The network which got its start with assistance from the Winter Park Health Foundation and the Senior Resource Alliance has expanded from 15 zip codes of coverage to 27 zip codes. We are now available in Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Longwood, Maitland, Parts of Orlando, Oviedo, Winter Park and Winter Springs. This growth has been a gift of independence from our community. ITNOrlando's network is made up of 85 Volunteers that cover 53% of all rides provided. The network has several community partnerships. Holler's Drivers Mart provides free, oil changes and tire rotations to all volunteer and paid drivers. We also partner with other organizations such as Neighbors Network with a similar mission **CONT'D ON PAGE 8**





Independent Transportation Network of Orlando: **A Gift of Independence from our Community**

CONT'D FROM PAGE 7

of assisting seniors to age in place and Brain Fitness as well as, the Florida Hospital Maturing Minds program that enables seniors with Alzheimer's/dementia to stimulate their brains. ITNOrlando provides safe and reliable transportation for users of both of these organizations and many more.

ITNOrlando's core value of neighbors caring for neighbors is at the heart of the organization. It is this core value that many can identify with, the desire to have a small town feel in a metropolitan city. Independent Transportation Network is an organization that anyone can plug into and help provide the gift of independent living for seniors and the visually impaired.

Interested in learning more about ITNOrlando Dignified Transportation for seniors?

What is ITNOrlando? Independent Transportation Network (ITN) began in fall 2006. Known as ITNOraIndo, the system is a nonprofit organization that provides door-through-door, arm-through-arm, dignified transportation service to seniors and adults with visual impairments using volunteer and paid drivers. ITNOrlando has operated successfully in Portland, Maine for over 21 years and is currently being replicated in Orlando and several other cities in the United States.

What areas does ITNOrlando serve? Altamonte Springs: 32701 & 32714, Casselberry: 32707, 32730, Longwood: 32750, 32779, Maitland: 32751, Winter Park: 32789 & 32792, Winter Springs: 32708 (eastern boundary is Tuskawilla Rd), Oviedo: 32765, Orlando: 32801, 32803, 32804, 32805, 32806, 32807, 32808, 32809, 32810, 32811, 32812, 32814, 32817, 32822, and 32839

How can I use ITNOrlando's services?

- Register with ITNOrlando and set-up a pre-paid self-care personal transportation account that covers your monthly usage.
- Call ITNO to schedule your pick-up and drop-off times
- Enjoy the comfort and convenience of rides in a private car.
- Go as often as you like with unlimited, unrestricted trips within our service area.
- Seniors dignity is maintained because their self-care contribution is approximately one third of the true cost of each ride. The balance is supported by private donations, corporate giving, volunteers and fundraising.
- There is no need for seniors to carry cash or tip drivers because all accounts are funded through a seniors prepaid travel account and fares are deducted as they travel. Fares are listed in a detailed monthly statement sent monthly.

What are the benefits of ITNOrlando To seniors?

- Transportation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week within our service area
- Door-through-door, arm-through-arm service with assistance from our paid & volunteer drivers
- Community partnerships to help reduce costs for seniors, through our road scholarship program, Car-trade program and gift certificate program
- ITNOrlando will supplement, not replace existing transportation options for older and visually impaired adults in the communities that we service.

What are the qualifications to be a volunteer Driver?

- Valid Driver's license and at least 3 years driving experience
- Ability to lift wheelchairs and walkers, and carry packages
- No moving violations in last 3 years
- Pass a level 2 criminal background check
- Personal references from three non-relatives
- Proof of 100K-300K in liability insurance for vehicle
- Current registration of vehicle

CONT'D ON PAGE 9





Independent Transportation Network of Orlando: A Gift of Independence from our Community

CONT'D FROM PAGE 8

What are the benefits of ITNOrlando to Volunteers?

- Making a significant difference in someone's life
- Umbrella liability insurance coverage while in service for ITNOrlando
- Building your resume
- Mileage reimbursements (.45 per mile when a senior is in the car with you. All unoccupied mileage is tax deductible at the end of the year.)

Mileage reimbursements can:

- * Be taken as a check at the end of the month
- * Be donated to the organization for the road scholarship fund
- * ITN transportation credit for yourself or someone special to you
- * Meeting other community-minded people
- * Learning community history from the people who lived it

How can I help ITNOrlando?

- Volunteer to drive at least 4 hours a month
- Become an ambassador for ITNOrlando in your community
- Donate to ITNOrlando www.itnorlando.org
- Donate to your car to ITNOrlando

Article submitted by
Kimber Threet Saint-Preux
ITNO Executive Director

988 Woodcock R, Suite 200
Orlando, FL 32803
Office: 407-228-7761



Merry Christmas --- Please join us for your annual Christmas party at the Perkins Restaurant located on University Blvd at Forsyth Road. The party will be held on Thursday, Dec 17th, 2015. Our festivities begin at 7 pm. There is no special menu—everyone will order off the menu.

Name: _____

of people ____ at \$17.00 per person = \$ _____

Please return this information with your payment to Post 112 or mail to:

American Legion Post 112
PO Box 910
Goldenrod, FL 32733

It must be received NOT LATER THAN 10 DEC 2015.

For more info, contact Jerry Dress at 407-671-6404/407-671-8616 or CMDR Billy Dover at 407-383-9455.





S.A.L. Update—Bob Colbert, Commander

Our year is ending and it has started looking up.

Our Post's Family/Membership picnic saw some member's dues paid but we do have a ways to go. If you have not paid your 2016 membership dues, now would be a good time. You can send them to the Post's mailbox as shown on the newsletter. Dues are \$18/year, if you don't remember.

We need your suggestions and help! We are one of the smallest Squadrons in the State so we need everyone's help. There are several

projects that we can partner with both the Post and the Auxiliary to help with as well as some other projects that only take a couple of members to perform.

Our meetings are still on the same evening as the Post's Executive Committee. It starts at 6 p.m. and the conference bridge is available if you want to call in. The standing date is "the Monday on the week before the General Meeting for the Post" - and the General Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month. Most of the time, the S A L meeting would be on the First Monday

of the month, but it is moved to the last Monday of the preceding month whenever there is a holiday like Labor Day, or when the first Monday is the day before the second Tuesday of the month.

Check the Post's WEB site - <http://www.wpflpost112.org> - for more information.

If I don't see you before, have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas or whatever seasonal holiday you and yours choose to celebrate.

Thoughts from the S.A.L. Chaplain

There are many things for us as sons of veterans to be thankful for. Each day as we wake up and begin our daily walk through life, we need to have a daily walk with GOD. Just as in the **Matthew 28:20** *"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* All we have to do is open the door to our Lord and Savior, he is already there for us and with us.

As Thanksgiving rolls around we have plenty to be thankful for. Keep our members of the Sons of American Legion, American Legion and those servicing currently in your thoughts and prayers. Awareness of the surroundings of GOD's presence by the air we breath, water we drink and the daily food is created by our Lord and Savior.

Let us also remember that GOD took the form of MAN to die for US so that we may have eternal life after death. Christmas should be a reflection of the sacrifice that GOD had to accomplish to give us the freedom to choice the right path. Just as in Hebrews 12 1-2 1. ***Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.***

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,
SAL Chaplain





Adventures in Building-Monarcha Marcet, CGR, CAPS

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant can provide for an accessible home to those with "specific service-connected disabilities" with a grant amount up to \$64,960. The SAH Grant is the one that a Veteran and his wife was able to obtain and their project is described below.

A Temporary Residence Adaptation Grant (TRA) is available to modify the home of a veteran's family member if living with the family member (application is made for the SAH or SHA grant).

Here are some items that the VA will require: Home ownership (or written permission from property owner for modification), Contractor contact information, Veteran's contact information, ***Plans and Drawings for the modification***, Itemized list of materials, cost, and labor, All required permits, and a picture of the location where the work will take place.

The Grant program does not allow for reimbursement for **Design Services**, relying instead upon each of the Remodeling companies to come up with their own plans, often based on information that may differ when given to the Remodeler verbally by the Veteran. Often the plans will not be prepared by a professional **designer** and written specifications may be missing. Another challenge is that the three Remodelers put a lot of effort into preparing plans and proposals and only one will be awarded the work. This is a discouragement for Remodeler's to participate in the VA Grant program. Also, what a Veteran gets is three different proposals that can't be compared apples to apples. If a homeowner is fortunate to be able to self-pay for **Design Services**, this may be an advantage to getting a project completed with proper plans and with all three Remodeling companies using the same information to prepare their bids/proposals. One homeowner and his wife were able to self-pay about half of the project cost with the VA Grant paying for the rest. The **Designer** helped with the interaction with the VA in explaining the necessity for certain changes based on need.

This couple's project was a complete remodel of a two bedroom two bathroom condo (see photo). The condo was stripped to the concrete block and some of the slab was removed to re-work plumbing. Special accessible features of the remodel included: a bathtub with a side that raised and lowered for wheelchair transfer access, a curb-less shower with hand-held faucet and grab bars, an automatic door opener, roll under sinks in bathroom and kitchen, lowered window sill and door to the exterior in the bedroom, vinyl flooring, interior ramp to the garage/utility area, and new driveway and walkway to the no-step doors. Some other items included: new septic system, new electrical, new HVAC system, new windows/doors, new kitchen cabinets, countertops, appliances, re-roof, and new garage door. A designer can help with the interaction with the VA in explaining the necessity for certain changes based on need.

Actual Project Timeline:

- 2010 6-21 Homeowner purchases condo
- 2010 11-1 Homeowner calls **Designer** to inquire about meeting (**Designer** suggests the Homeowners get a survey before meeting and a determination that they are eligible for VA HISA grant money)
- 2011 5-31 Homeowner and **Designer** have preliminary meeting
- 2011 7-23 **Designer** develops a preliminary budget and begins work on plans
- 2011 9-8 **Designer** sends Design Development Plans and specifications to VA for review and approval
- 2011 12-6 **Designer** sends Bids/proposals from 4 qualified Remodelers to VA for review (Homeowner selects Remodeler)
- 2012 2-22 Remodeler obtains VA approval
- 2012 6-5 Remodeler obtains City Building Permit (**Designer** provides oversight during construction)
- 2012 10-30 Project substantially complete and Homeowner moves in

The timeline above illustrates the project process. As you can see, utilizing the Grant program is not an overnight endeavor and takes interaction with the VA representatives at all stages. From start to finish these homeowners invested 2-1/4 years of their time. When the project was finally complete, the Veteran and his wife were thrilled with their newly remodeled condo home.

*Note: the amount of money shown for the Grants is subject to modification by the VA. Check with the Department of Veteran's Affairs office for application details.

Article Submitted by Monarcha Marcet, CGR, CAPS

monarcha@adventureinbuilding.com

Adventure in Building, Inc., 2305 Edgewater Dr. 1719, Orlando, FL 32804
407-222-5582, CBC028164



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Winter Park Memorial Post 112
4490 North Goldenrod Road
Winter Park, FL 32792

www.flpost112.org

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 2 SAL Meeting 6PM
- 2 Executive Board Meeting 7PM
- 10 Post & Aux. General Meeting 7PM
- 11 Veterans Day OPEN HOUSE 9AM—2PM
- 13-15 Fall Convention at Hilton, LAKE BUENA VISTA
- 14 ART/CRAFT YARD SALE 8AM—4PM
- 26 THANKSGIVING DAY (remember what we all are thankful for)
- 28 Pancake Breakfast 8-11AM
- 30 SAL Meeting 6PM
- 30 Executive Board Meeting 7PM

DECEMBER

- 5 6TH District Meeting—Post 347 Lady Lake—9AM
- 7 PEARL HARBOR DAY
- 8 Post & Aux. General Meeting 7PM (ORATORICAL CONTEST)
- 17 CHRISTMAS PARTY—PERKINS on UNIVERSITY—7 PM
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
- 26 Pancake Breakfast 8-11AM
- 31 NEW YEARS EVE

OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

- Commander: Billy Dover
407-383-9455 – bgdjr14@gmail.com
- Vice Cmdr.: Gerard (Jerry) Dress
407-671-8616 – gdress2@cfl.rr.com
- Adjutant: Bob Colbert
407-619-9611 – bcolbert@usa.net
- Finance Officer: Dyke Shannon
407-322-6126 – dshannonfl@aol.com
- Chaplain: Robert L. Smith
407-678-4517—mybroskepr7@aol.com
- Sgt. At Arms: James Middlekauff
407-977-0521—racenut478@aol.com
- Newsletter Editor: Nell Colbert
321.303.7445— necolbert@usa.net

Winter Park Memorial Post 112
PO Box 910
Goldenrod, FL 32733