

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

2020—2021 Officers

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Commander
Benton Bonney

2nd Vice
Commander
James Middlekauff

Adjutant
Bob Colbert

Finance Officer
Bob Colbert

Sgt. at Arms
Russell Kraeger

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Asst. Judge Adv.
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Ted Costello

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Historian
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Sons of the Legion
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Jim Carten

Auxiliary
President
Marge Berrios

Newsletter Editor
Nell Colbert

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

COMMANDER'S MINUTE

Greetings fellow Legionaries of Post 112:

Happy New Year to all and Best Wishes in 2021! Time will tell as to what our "new normal" is going to be. The roll out of the vaccine will pretty much determine our activities in the near future, but thankfully there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Obviously, we are not very active at the Post for now; however, there is some activity going on. I pray that we can all see each other again soon in 2021. Please try to call other members, they may be lonely and just need to hear a friendly voice. We are all in this together. I am still reaching out to everyone - if you are in need of anything, please do NOT hesitate to call me or one of our officers for assistance and remain safe.

On a happier note - your Post is looking good and just needs us to safely return to use it as we remember in the past. Along with the Post looking great and operative in all respects, we need to push for membership. I know it is difficult presently, but we need to beat the bushes and find new members to join us. This is something all members should be talking to other Veterans about. *"Anyone who has served honorably in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 are now eligible to join, including Active Duty"* so let's get the word spreading.

The Sea Cadets have been using our Post using all the CDC guideline safety measures.

I have completed an online Veteran Service Officer training so I can assist with questions and concerns, but not actually process a claim. In order to be "accredited" I would need to be working for the State or County and attend a week-long training seminar, which obviously I am not able to do.

Thanks to Past Commander Costello, we provided Christmas gifts to a single father with 3 children (VA Angel Tree project). The Auxiliary provided food baskets as well and assisted with the Angel Tree shopping.

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Volume 13, Issue 4

Jan-Feb 2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As of December 15th, Yahoo discontinued their YahooGroups email reflector. To continue getting Post 112 family emails, please send Bob Colbert (bcolbert@usa.net) your correct email address ASAP

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Commander's Minute—Cont'd from Page 1

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My plan as of now, is to continue with our monthly ZOOM meetings until further notice. I am not sure about a Four Chaplains Ceremony at this point, so we need to remain flexible.

With that, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes in the New Year.

Please stay safe and take care until we can meet again.

For God and Country.
Jim Middlekauff
Commander, Post 112



2021 Legion Dues are now being accepted!
Please send your \$38 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!

Membership Update—Bob Colbert

We are at about the same place as last year in membership. We have 22 more members to renew to make our 100% renewal. Next year will be a little more difficult as we had two members pass away this year. You may have been able to watch the November Post Everlasting ceremony, so you know that both Gerry Dress and Dominik Incao have both passed this last quarter.

We also have a couple of members who have either moved or something has happened to them as their mail is being returned. If you are getting the newsletter by email but have moved, please let us know what your new address is. I can update it with National for you if you let me know.

We are at 76.3% renewal as of the 15th of December. Everyone who has paid should have their 2021 membership cards by now. If you don't have it, please let me know. You could be one of those that was returned to me as undeliverable.

We truly hope that the problems from 2020 do not continue too far into 2021 and that we can reopen the Post to everyone and resume the Breakfasts, etc.

Please stay safe and be careful.

.....



Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

As we come to the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, we all hope and pray that 2021 will be far more stable than 2020. This past year showed us some unusual challenges and the loss of some of our members. We had to say goodbye to Gerard Dress and Dominik Incao. Gerard Dress was a long-time member of the Post and held the positions of 2nd Vice Commander and Chaplain as well as 6th District Chaplain at one time, too. Gerry was also the Post's Liaison to the Sea Cadets and was present for almost every activity that the Sea Cadets held. Dominik Incao was one of our WWII veterans and had been with the Post for about 6 years. We will miss both and wish their families well.

We have also been basically closed since March due to the COVID-19 virus. While it looked like we had a handle on it, that fell apart and we have had nothing but trouble with it. The Department and National American Legion Conventions were called off and even the Department Fall Conference was cancelled. Boys State and Girls State were also cancelled, and the District meetings were done virtually. Our Post has remained active to some degree by holding our meetings on the ZOOM conference platform so some of our events like working with the Auxiliary on helping the Eastbrook Elementary School Pantry, provide flags to the same school, and work with the Auxiliary and Sons on funding and purchasing gifts for a needy veteran family suggested by the VA. This year the family was a single Dad with three children. The outcome was a load of toys, some clothes, and a supply of food for their Christmas Holiday Dinner. The Auxiliary also supplied three other holiday meal supplies to three other Veteran families. All were delivered to the VA at Lake Baldwin in early December.

With any luck, we hope to resume activities during 2021 but the exact time is still not certain. We have chosen to "err" on the side of caution for the benefits of our entire membership, many of whom are considered "at risk." So far, this has proven

out as other Posts had opened and then found that they needed to close after a member has turned up with COVID positive tests.

Thanks to the Commander Middlekauff, Sergeant at Arms Kraeger and others who were able to help, we have a new roof on the Post, new piping throughout the building, new guttering on the East side of the building, a proper entranceway from the Post parking lot on the West side of the building with handrails to make it safe, and other improvements. Commander Middlekauff also used the pressure washer to clean the exterior of the building and sidewalks. Again, thank you Commander Middlekauff for supporting the Post even when we are not able to handle normal activities.

We really hope to be able to resume normal activities sometime this year. Unfortunately, we are not able to know at this time just how soon we can resume face-to-face meetings, Pancake Breakfasts, our Four Chaplain's Ceremony along with the dedication of the new Four Chaplain's Memorial out by the flagpole, annual picnic, and other activities.

Our membership is about where it was this time last year, but that will be covered in another article. The Post is at 76.3% of renewals, the Son's Squadron is at 75.86% and our **"Happening Auxiliary" is at 100%.** Way to go, Auxiliary! You made it before the end of the year! These figures come from 15 DEC 2020.

Online meetings have become the "norm" this past year and we have found that, even when we are able to return to meeting at the Post, we will continue the online side so that those who do not wish to drive at night or find that it is too far to come for an hour or so meeting will still be able to attend.

If you have an email address but continue to receive a "snail mail" copy of the newsletter, please let me know. **Continued on Page 8**





ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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.

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Our Happenin' Auxiliary—Nell Colbert



WE DID IT!

For the first time in our Unit's history, we achieved 100% membership before the end of the year! Thank you, ladies, for helping us get this done. By now, everyone should have their 2021 membership card. If you haven't received yours, please let Nell know so she can mail you a replacement. If you know of someone eligible for the Auxiliary, please encourage them to join our Unit.

Even though the Post building has been closed and our meetings have been done via Zoom, our November and December were very busy. Marge, Cathy, and Nell shopped for our annual Eastbrook Thanksgiving Backpack project and all the Thanksgiving food items were delivered to the school in mid-November. Marge, Cathy, and Nell also shopped for our an-



nual Christmas Veterans Food Basket project and we joined Legion and SAL members to shop for the now annual VA Giving Tree project. The Post sponsored one Veteran family, a father with three children. Once the shopping was done for all the goodies, our three food baskets for Veteran families in need were delivered to the VA



at Lake Baldwin along with the Giving Tree items. Both the school and the VA were very appreciative of our efforts.

Late November saw our committee chairs preparing and submitting our mid-year reports to the 6th District. All total, we reported thousands of service hours for the

work that we've done to support Veterans, Children & Youth, Education, and our other community service efforts. If you are performing community service for your church or any other organization for which you volunteer, please be sure to send your service hours to Marge every month. Our projects are reported to the District and each District reports their activities to the Department Chairs who, in turn submit their reports to the national organization. All the service hours and funds donated are then reported to Congress annually. We may be a small unit but our thousands of hours get included in the millions of hours reported as part of the Auxiliary report to the nation. The dollar value placed on the services provided by Auxiliary members nationwide to our communities amounts to billions of dollars each year!

We're looking forward to a great new year with Girls State, our annual Americanism Essay contest and Scholastic Achievement medals presentations this spring.

We welcome new Veteran spouses along with the mothers, sisters, grandmothers, granddaughters and great-granddaughters who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call Nell at 321.303.7445.

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.



Notes from Our Service Officer

On Wednesday, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on toxic exposures and VA's presumptive service connection determination process. National Legislative Service Associate Director Kristina Keenan submitted a statement for the record in which she explained the difficulties Veterans face when filing VA disability claims for conditions related to toxic exposures due to the lack of documentation proving direct service connection. Keenan expressed the need for a comprehensive framework for VA to study, assess, and grant presumptive service connection for past, present, and future veterans affected by toxic exposures.

President Trump signed into law the VFW-supported [H.R. 8247](#), the *Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment (COMPACT) Act*. This legislation will enhance a wide variety of much-needed services related to improving transition, suicide prevention, and care and services for women veterans.

The Army on Wednesday announced its [recommendations for eligibility changes](#) at Arlington National Cemetery – changes which would reduce those eligible for below-ground burials but still offer above-ground inurnment of cremated remains for many veterans.

In addition to preserving 1,000 gravesites for current and future Medal of Honor recipients, the proposed revised criteria for those who honorably serve the nation are as follows:

For below-ground interment:

- Killed in Action, to include repatriated remains of service members
- Award recipients of the Silver Star and above who also served in combat
- Recipients of the Purple Heart

Combat-related service deaths while conducting uniquely military activities

Former Prisoners of War

Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States

Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service.

For above-ground inurnment:

World War II-era veterans, to include legislated active duty designees

Retirees from the armed forces who are eligible to receive retired pay but are not otherwise eligible for interment

Veterans who have served a minimum of two years on active duty and who have served in combat

Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service

These proposals follow months of deliberation and input from veteran service organizations like MOAA and two independent surveys with over 250,000 responses. "Nearly all of the 22 million living armed forces members and veterans are eligible for less than 95,000 remaining burial spaces within these hallowed grounds."

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has no plans to challenge a court ruling last week ordering it to make retroactive payments to a small class of "Blue Water Navy" Vietnam veterans and their survivors who were wrongly denied benefits for exposure to [Agent Orange](#), the head of the Veterans **Continued on Page 7**



Notes from Our Service Officer

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Benefits Administration (VBA) said Wednesday.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a backlog of about 300,000 new disability claims at the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), the head of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) said Tuesday.

Basic information about getting your vaccine at VA

As the supply of vaccine increases, we'll work with our care teams to let Veterans

know their options.

Where we'll offer vaccines

The first authorized COVID-19 vaccine requires special storage and handling. Because of this, we'll start by offering vaccines through certain VA medical centers.

When more vaccines are available, we'll determine if we can provide vaccines through our community provider network.

Eligibility and cost

When more vaccines become available, we plan to offer a

free COVID-19 vaccine to all Veterans receiving VA health care who want one. Your team will contact you when a vaccine is available to you. If you decide to get the vaccine, your team will help you schedule your appointments.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced one new identification: **Navy Chief Warrant Officer John G. Connolly**, 48, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma.

**Have YOU Paid Your 2021 Dues Yet?
Please send your \$38 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!**

Boys State—Bob Colbert

This year may be a bit of a challenge. As you may recall, the Legion had to cancel Boy's and Girl's State last year. We are hoping that they may be held this coming June and the Department has set the date for Boys State for June 20-26, 2021 in Tallahassee. Of course, the participant must be have completed the 11th grade in High School or equivalent by June and have at least one more semester before graduation.

We are currently recruiting from a couple of the local high schools and will make the actual selection at the February General Meeting. Should we still not be meeting face to face, we will have to become inventive and handle it over the ZOOM platform since it has a "seclusion" area for the participants while the interviews proceed.

Watch for email and check the WEB page for more details. We would like to have as many members participate in the selection as possible.

By the way, the girls are going to be doing a parallel program called Girl's State in the summer and our Auxiliary will have notes about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

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Notes from the Adjutant—Cont'd from Page 3

Continued from Page 3

I would really like to send you the color version of the newsletter by email. It gets there faster, and we can only print the “snail mail” copy of the newsletter in black & white. With internet access, you can also view any of the newsletters for the last 10+ years in our archive, including the current newsletter, at our WEB page:

<https://www.wpflpost112.org/>.

This is also where the most up to date calendar for Post Family activities can be found. And Auxiliary members shouldn't feel left out as their WEB page is: <https://www.amlegionaux112fl.com/> for more Auxiliary Unit specific information.

Once we get back to having the

Post open, don't forget that we have free Wi-Fi access for our members. If you want to use it, see the Commander or Adjutant for the password.

Finally, since you are seeing this after the holidays, but I am writing it in mid-December, we hope that 2021 is a whole lot better for you and your family than 2020 was.

The Chaplain's Prayers : Donnie Jackson

I just want the Post to know that I am praying for you and your wellbeing and I pray that everyone's holidays will be very good ones even though we are going through a battle with the virus. We will win the battle if we just believe in God and he will protect us all. I am looking forward to next year's arrival and for it to be a better year. I am also looking forward to seeing everyone again in the next year.

2021 **Philippians 2:8-10.** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Happy New Year Donnie Jackson, Chaplain

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Sons of the American Legion—Bob Colbert

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! We hope and pray that 2021 will not be a repeat of 2020, so we look forward to being able to resume our activities. We gave Commander Carten time off for this issue, as the articles were due across his birthday. So, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JIM!

Our membership has reached 75.86% as of this writing. We have several members that are leaving the area and we do not expect them to renew, so our hopes of reaching 100% depend on getting at least three new members or more. Giving a SAL membership to your son or grandson is an excellent way to support the Squadron and they don't have to be local. Our meetings are streamed, even when we meet face-to-face, to they can participate from anywhere in the free world. The Squadron will pay for any ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY sons or grandsons that you may have as a "Thank you for your service" gesture. Contact Bob Colbert for details.

We want to have the Pancake Breakfasts resume, but it may be late Spring or over the Summer before we can do this. We want to be certain that everyone who attends is safe and that our friends from the VA can join us. We will give ample notice when we resume. Don't forget, an RSVP for the breakfasts is a must as we have them catered by Perkins Restaurant. Since we must pay for them whether they are eaten or not, it costs the Squadron when there are "leftovers."

Watch the WEB site for more details. The WEB page is <http://www.wpflpost112.org> and it is updated every few days or so. The calendar is right up front!

The Squadron staff hopes that everyone has a GREAT NEW YEAR!!!

Oratorical Contest—Bob Colbert

For the first time in many years, we will attempt to hold an oratorical contest in January 2022. We will approach several of the local schools in September to provide contestants. Students must be registered or participating in High School (Grades 9 thru 12) and under 20 years of age. Home Schooled students are also encouraged to participate. While the schools do not judge the participants, each student does have to get recommendation to participate once selected to participate by a Post. We will have contestants from Lake Howell and Winter Park High Schools and one or more of the private high schools in our area.

There are some logistical issues involved and it will require member support to make it happen correctly. It is recommended that the judges come from the "outside" and not be members of the Post. The judges cannot be parents or relatives of a contestant and judges cannot come from the same organization. The contest will take some time and will have to be held at other than a meeting night. In fact, National recommends limiting one day's judging to three students, maximum. Should there be more than three contestants, a second and or third session should be held with the scores tabulated after all contestants have been seen.

One major attraction is that there are monetary prizes at all levels for the winners. If a student were to take first place all the way through National, it could amount to \$27,800. These are contests started at the Post level and proceeding to District level, Area level, Department level and then on to the National level. Winners at each level will receive a cash award.

Anyone who would like to "Champion" this event is asked to contact the Adjutant. The Post will make itself available for the Post level judging, so a place to hold it has been solved. We can make this happen, with your help. At this time, we are seeking that "Champion" who can make the initial contacts in the Fall. With luck, our current health situation will have improved enough to allow us to move on this.

.....



Happy Birthday to YOU!

*Happy Birthday to YOU!
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday dear _____.
Happy Birthday to YOU!*

JANUARY

1 Martin, Drew K
2 Smith, Rhonda M
8 Hohman, Glenn E
11 Diehl, Ares S
12 Loveitt, Lucille
12 Smith, Stephen A
15 Brasher, Lawrence A
15 Colbert, Braelyn A
17 Roberts, Wayne D
19 Kraeger, Russell W
21 Travers, Charles

22 Purdy, Todd A
25 Colbert, Russell C

FEBRUARY

2 Moreno, Jasmine I
6 Flanagan, Donald E
6 Menier, Herbert J
7 Ackley, Wayne S
8 Dearden, Miles C
8 Posada, Eduardo
9 Brown, Brenda A
10 Colbert, Robert C
17 Colbert, Victoria L
18 Sines, Irvin A
21 Gagne, Lisa
23 Boyle, William J

23 Brown, Donn W
24 Anderson, Charles N
24 Towles, Robin
27 Diehl, Cathy M
27 Paquin, Joseph E



YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

See Page 4 for

Advertising Rates

and More Info



Looking for USN, USMC and USCG honorably discharged veterans to join the Fleet Reserve Association. You do not have to be retired, just a veteran. Dues are \$40.00 per year, BUT Branch 117 will pay half your dues for the first year when you join. We meet at the American Legion Post 112 in Winter Park every 3rd Saturday of the month at 0930. Contact Steve Miglionico at 407-301-6256.

THE AMERICAN LEGION



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

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2021

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 5 SAL Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM ONLY
- 12 Executive Board Meeting - 6 PM - ZOOM ONLY
- 12 Post General Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM ONLY
- 19 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM ONLY

FEBRUARY 2021

- 2 SAL Meeting - 7 PM - Post* & ZOOM
- 9 Executive Board Meeting - 6 PM - Post* & ZOOM
- 9 Post General Meeting - 7 PM - Post* & ZOOM
- 16 Auxiliary Unit Meeting - 7 PM - Post* & ZOOM

***Meetings will be held in person when safe to do so**

Please see our website for additional dates and more detailed info about each event.

OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

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