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

Volume 11, Issue 3

Nov-Dec 2018

2018-2019 **Officers**

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1st Vice Commander Stephen Miglionico

2nd Vice Commander James Middlekauff

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Finance Officer **Bob Colbert**

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> Auxiliary President **Marge Berrios**

Sea Cadet Liaison Gerard (Jerry) Dress

Newsletter Editor Nell Colbert

Website http:// www.wpflpost112.org

COMMANDER'S MINUTE

Greetings fellow Post 112 members:

I hope everyone is doing well and ready for some cooler weather. Unfortunately, due to construction behind our Post we have not been able to do anything or even have access to the building lately. I have been in contact with the construction supervisor (Bill) and all I get is apologizes for interrupting our activities. So far, we have had to cancel the pancake breakfast, our Executive Board meeting and our last general meeting. TDK is now developing the roadway into the apartment complex, so I am hoping that we can regain access to our Post by the end of October.





On a lighter note, the Post Adjutant and I attended the Blue Star Memorial Ceremony at Mead Gardens. I gave the Invocation and

Benediction and Bob did his awesome job of playing TAPS.

I had plans to have a Veterans Day event at our Post • next month; however, with the uncertainty of the construction, parking issues and traffic, I have cancelled for Page 10 this year. With perseverance and assistance, we will get things moving in 2019 and get our Post noted once again. There will be plenty of Veterans Day events and ceremonies throughout Orlando, so please show your . support by attending something.

Our membership efforts are going strong and appreciate everyone who renews. If you know of a fellow Veteran that qualifies, feel free to bring them to a meeting or just get him signed up. Continued on Page 2

YAHOO! GROUPS

See Bob to sign up!

Do you



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COMMANDER'S MINUTE—cont'd from Page 1

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The First Vice, Steve Miglionico does an awesome job; however, he is just one man. If we all talk to our fellow Veterans, we can get more members to help support the Post.

Be safe this Halloween and don't let the goblins get you. Next month is a time for family and giving Thanks for all we have worked for and are enjoying. I wish everyone a Happy Veterans Day, a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas. We are working on a Christmas Dinner someplace at this time, so stay tuned for information concerning this.

Best wishes for the New Year, be safe and hope to see more members at the Post in 2019.

For God and Country, Jim Middlekauff



2019 Legion Dues are now being accepted!
Please send your \$38 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!

From Stephen's Korner—S. Miglionico

We all know how important it is to retain and recruit members.

A post card reminder to all who have not paid their 2019 dues yet was mailed to you last month. Thank you to all who renewed and looking forward to the rest who have not. The dues for renewal are \$38.00, payable to American Legion Post 112.

Please mail your check to:

American Legion Post 112 P. O. Box 910 Goldenrod, FL 32733

Or go online to: http://legion.org and click on "Renew."

Thank you for your continued support. Stephen Miglionico





Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

It's Fall Conference time! We will be attending the Florida American Legion Fall Conference near Sea World on the 2nd and 3rd of November. Remember, there is no cost to attend the actual conference though there may be a small cost for parking. It is being held at the **Renaissance SeaWorld Orlando** at 6677 Sea Harbor Dr, Orlando, FL 32821. The agenda for each part of the Legion Family can be viewed ONLINE at https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/fall-conference/ and there are lots of things that would help you to better understand the functions of the Legion both locally and nationwide.

Our 1st Vice Commander has an article in the newsletter but just to reiterate, we are at 60.6% of membership renewals. If you haven't send in your 2019 dues, now would be a great time to do it. Remember that you can also RENEW ONLINE and save the postage.

By the way, postage is going up around the first of the year. We don't think much about it, except that this will be a larger than normal increase and will put the cost of mailing the newsletter, including printing it, is **OVER A DOLLAR** per copy!! We realize that some of the members do not have a computer, and accept that. Those members will still be receiving the newsletter by US Mail. If you are one of those members, we value your membership and will NEVER deny you the newsletter. If, on the other hand, you have access to a computer and are still receiving the newsletter by US Mail, it means that we don't have a CURRENT email address for Please send a note to the Post's email, flpost112@gmail.com so that we can update our records and save the Post some money.

For a complete and updated calendar at any time, go to the Post's WEB page at http://www.wpflpost112.org where you can find past copies of the newsletter for over the last five plus years (in color) as well as many other items of interest to Post members.

With all of the construction, the Post hasn't been able to have the "Work Days" that were planned for the fourth Wednesday of each month. I learned from Commander Middlekauff that they have resumed. The first one was (will be) on October 24th at the Post from 10 to 2. The next one will be on November 28th and if we can get some members to participate, it should be relatively quick. The driveway past the Post was (is) supposed to be done during the week of October 15th, so we should have access to the Post again.

November 6th it an election day! Do your civic duty and vote. Maybe even offer to take another person or member or veteran to the polls so that he or she can also vote. The Legion is not permitted to "back" one candidate or another, but as Veterans, we wholeheartedly support the idea of getting out the vote! It is a right that we all fought for so let's promote the idea! This year there are 12 amendments on the ballot so you need to read them carefully before selecting YES or NO. If you want to read them in their entirety, "google" "2018 Florida Amendments" and there will be several resources that have the full wording for the amendments. I found one version at https:// dos.myflorida.com/media/699824/constitutionalamendments-2018-general-election-english.pdf (You may have to copy and paste or hand type this one in).

And, finally, for those who don't like to drive at night but still want to participate in the Post activities, our conference bridge is available for both the General Meetings and the Executive Board meetings for anyone with a cell phone or computer. If you want to participate via the conference bridge, please let me know by 5 p.m. on the meeting day. You can send me an email or call me or even text me to let me know to set it up.

With that, let me wish everyone a **Happy Thanks-giving PLUS Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** (As our next newsletter will be in 2019).





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

2019 Membership

Dues for 2019 are now due and can be sent to the Unit's PO Box:

ALA Unit 112 PO Box 2246 Goldenrod, FL 32733-2246

Please remember that our Unit dues are now \$36 for Seniors and \$12 for Juniors. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in their 2018-2019 dues. As of our October meeting, the following members have paid their 2019 dues:

Marge Berrios
Theresa Berrios
Nell Colbert
Rory Colbert
Christine Costello
Takako Cunningham
Cathy Diehl
Mary Doyle
Staci Klinger
Cheryl Knapp
Aunita Padgett
Debi Shannon

2018 dues expire as of 12/31—remember that you joined the Auxiliary to honor a Veteran family member, so please don't let your membership lapse—send your check today.

Meeting Change

Because of the construction on the road leading to the Post, rather than cancel our October Unit meeting, we moved it to Perkins for October only. We got our agenda items completed quickly and had time to enjoy a meal and wonderful fellowship. We'll be back at the Post for November on the **THIRD** Tuesday, 11/20/18.

Fall Conference

The Department of Florida Fall Conference is coming 11/2-4 at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea World. Classes start at 10am on Friday morning and the general sessions will be held on Saturday. Please refer to the packet of information that was emailed about 10/1.

Girls State

We'll be mailing in our paperwork so we can send a delegate to the 2019 Girls State. Tentatively, we will hold the selection of our delegate on the last Sunday on February, 2019. Our 2018 delegate came to the Post meeting in August to share her experiences.



Eastbrook Veterans Day Program

We have been invited to participate in the Eastbrook Elementary School Veterans Day program on 11/9 beginning at 10am. We will have a booth to distribute Poppies and miniflags to the families attending. We will also be holding a membership drive, talking about the Auxiliary and its benefits for military families. If you would like to help, please let Nell know and then plan to join us at the school at 9:30am to set up our table.

Eastbrook Food Pantry

This year we have been asked to support the school's food pantry by supplying food items for Thanksgiving dinner. The school has 70-75 families that it provides food for each Friday. We need items like candied yams, canned vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie filling, cranberry sauce, and any other goodies that you enjoy on your Thanksgiving table. Please drop off your donations at the next Post meeting on 11/13 and the Auxiliary will deliver them to the school.

Americanism Essay Contest

We will be visiting schools in the near future to present this years' essay contest information. Winning essay writers receive an essay medal at the end-of-the-year graduation ceremonies.

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.



Notes from Our Service Officer

On-Base Shopping Privileges to Expand:

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 includes a provision to open onbase commissary, exchange and MWR privileges to stateside Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and those with serviceconnected disabilities and their caregiver spouses. Once implemented on Jan. 1, 2020, the new beneficiaries will be allowed to use these facilities on the same basis as any service member, dependent or military retiree, although a new user fee might be created for this population to offset additional expansion expenses. Gate access and shopping privileges will be based on the new VA-issued Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC), which identifies the holder as having a service-connected disability. The DOD's electronic physical access control system, to be completed by Sept. 2019, will accept the VHIC to enable streamlined access to installations.

Approximately 840,000 military retiree households, a total of 1.7 million beneficiaries, now rely on the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program for dental insurance. It's been the sole military-backed dental coverage offered to retirees over the years, and Delta Dental has serviced the contract for the past five years.

Sometime in October, military retirees will be able to begin to review online the various features and monthly premiums of dental plan options for replacing their TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP), which is set to expire after Dec. 31.

Features of those 10 or more plans, as well as premiums to be charged in 2019, will be un-

veiled by OPM and the Defense Health Agency next month. After military retirees and their families decide which plan is best for them, they will have to enroll in their picks during an open season to run from Nov. 12 through Dec. 10. Participants will be able to choose either self-

only coverage, self-plus-one coverage, or self-and-family coverage, with premiums adjusted accordingly. Coverage under the new dental plans will begin Jan. 1.

The "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" (H.R.299) has stalled in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC). The bill already passed the House (382-0).

A recent letter from Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee marked the latest VA effort to scuttle proposed legislation that would extend benefits available to Blue Water Navy veterans of the Vietnam War. Wilkie's letter, outlined in a Military Times report, calls into question the scientific evidence behind the proposal, which would allow those who served aboard ships off the coast of Vietnam to claim presumptive exposure to Agent Orange, which is connected to a variety of cancers and other long-term illnesses. It also takes issue with the cost of the legislation; the House bill states that a new fee on some VA loans would raise about \$1.1 billion over 10 years to cover costs, per Military Times, but Wilkie's letter puts the cost at more than \$5.5 billion. That legislation would cover more than 90,000 sea service members.

Continued on Page 7

Have YOU Paid Your 2019 Dues Yet?
Please send your \$38 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!



Notes from Our Service Officer—cont'd from Page 6

Continued from Page 6

Those of us who use the VA health care system. The process can be downright confusing and frustrating. In an effort to streamline and improve access to health care, veteran organizations, Congress, VA, and the White House, rallied behind the <u>VA MISSION Act</u> to get the bill signed into law, making it easier for veterans to get care when and where they need it-whether within the walls of the VA health system or in their community.

VA is in the beginning stages of rolling out <u>information to veterans</u> on how they can access community care, as well as a <u>newsletter</u> providers and others can subscribe to in order to stay current on the new VA community care program as it is implemented.

VA has until June 2019 to fully implement the new program and consolidate all seven VA community care programs, including the current Choice Program, into one simple and easy to access program.

Top 10 Disabilities Claimed By Veterans

- 1. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- 2. Sleep Apnea
- 3. Diabetes Type II
- 4. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- 5. Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- 6. Tinnitus
- 7. Peripheral Neuropathy
- 8. Depression
- 9. Anxiety
- 10. Various Skin Disorders

Some reasons for not claiming benefits.

I don't trust the Government, I didn't know I was eligible, I am not eligible (Honorably discharged veterans are 100% eligible for benefits if they meet the criteria), I don't want to go through the red tape, I make too much money (A veterans' disability is independent from their income from other sources, and is not a factor to determine eligibility), I can't prove my health problems are related to my time in the military (Finding a good VSO is very important in securing disability compensation for a service-connected condition. The VSO will help you connect the dots. Some VSOs are very innovative in helping veterans find the appropriate proof needed for their claims).

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced 7 new identifications, 5 Army soldiers from Korea and China, 2 Navy from USS Oklahoma.





Son's of the of the Legion: Jim Carten

In case you haven't noticed, there's been a bit of construction going on around our Squadron home. From the end of September through mid-October, the roadway to the Post has been completely torn up for the installation of the infrastructure for the homes of our 300 newest neighbors. The good news is that the roadway is passable now and we are able to resume our legendary pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 27. Come on over and come hungry.

The SAL Fall Conference is almost here! Friday and Saturday, November 2 & 3 we shall gather at the Renaissance Sea World Resort with several hundred of our closest Legion family members to review our work and refine our plan for the next 9 months. We would love for you to join the 112 family for this awesome event.

Finally, since I'm a procrastinator, here is a picture from the Installation Ceremony in July. Our Adjutant is camera shy.

See you soon...

For God and Country, Jim Carten 1st Vice Commander, Squadron 112





Eastbrook Food Pantry



This year our Auxiliary Unit has been asked to support the Eastbrook Elementary school's food pantry by supplying food items for Thanksgiving dinner. The school has 70-75 families that it provides food to each Friday. We need items like candied yams, bagged marshmallows, brown sugar, canned vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie filling, cranberry sauce, and any other goodies that you enjoy on your Thanksgiving table. Please drop off your donations at the next Post meeting on 11/13 and the Auxiliary will deliver them to the school.



Gift Card Scams

Be On The Lookout With Holiday Season Coming

Being told that your credit or debit card is being declined at a restaurant, in a busy checkout line, or at your favorite online retailer can be an unsettling or even scary experience. At Fraud.org, we're hearing from consumers that this awkward situation is also increasingly happening with gift cards. We've seen a spike in news reports about gift card scams, and we're warning consumers to be on the lookout, particularly with the busy holiday shopping season on the horizon.

How the Scam Works:

- A typical scam scenario begins with a consumer receiving a gift card as a present from a friend, colleague, or loved one. When the recipient goes to use the card they assume is loaded with funds, the card gets declined.
- Unbeknownst to the gifter or the card recipient, before the card's purchase, a scammer had taken the card off the rack at a retail location, copied down the card number, scratched off and recorded the security codes on the back of the card, and once the card was activated, drained its funds via online purchases. In some cases, the criminals go so far as to even replace the security strip on the card to hide their tracks. Software makes checking card balances online easy for scammers, so they know when the card is activated and ready to use. The card's true owner is left with a worthless piece of plastic.
- Unfortunately, this form of fraud can be compounded when the retailer who sells the card refuses to make
 the victims whole. Some merchants have been known to deny consumers refunds even if the customer is able
 to provide the receipt and proof of activation for the gift card.

How to Spot this Scam:

While detecting this scam can be very challenging, there are several steps you can take to proactively protect yourself and your gift recipient:

- Look for gift cards with substantial packaging. Gift cards that do not have security packaging which prevents access to the actual gift cards are easy targets for scammers. Savvy consumers should avoid purchasing these cards at all costs.
- Carefully inspect its security packaging. If there are any signs tearing or peeling or if it is not in mint condition, do not purchase it.
- If you must purchase a gift card without security packaging, carefully inspect the foil tape over the PIN. Tape that is crooked, too large, or that appears to have been reapplied are all giveaways that the card may have already been compromised.
- Consider only buying gift cards online. While gift cards that have secure packaging are better than those without, purchasing a card online reduces the chance that a card has been compromised, since scammers are unlikely to have had access to the card as they would in a public store. If you are looking for more security, take the time to order a gift card from your chosen merchant's official website.
- Keep your receipt, and give it to the gift card recipient. Providing a receipt for the gift card gives the recipient some negotiation power if the gift card has been compromised, since it will show that it was properly loaded at one time.

Spotting a compromised gift card can be tricky. If you spot someone copying down numbers at store, report them to security immediately. Similarly, if you purchase a gift card that has been compromised and does not work, you can file a complaint at Fraud.org via their secure online complaint form. Your complaint will be shared with their network of law enforcement and consumer protection agency partners who can put fraudsters behind bars. [Source: Fraud!Org | October 1, 2018 ++]



Boys State—Ted Costello

2019 Florida Boys State will take place, June 16 - June 22, 2019. Registration fees for the Boys State Delegates to Department Headquarters is \$450.00 per delegate (no increase) and due January 8, 2019. I want to have the selection of delegates and alternates on Tuesday February 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM. We need to decide if we are going to ask for one or two more delegates. We should be

able to make that decision at our next Executive Board Meeting. Post members please mark your calendars so that we have a large turnout to select our Post delegates for the 2019 Boys State session. Thanks for your support.

Ted Costello, Post 112 Boys State Chairman





Veterans Day Program

Each year Eastbrook Elementary School celebrates Veterans Day with a special program honoring our Veterans. The program includes selections from the schools' chorus as well as the chorus from Lake Howell High School and Lake Howell's NJROTC drill teams. The school also provides a continental breakfast for all Veterans. This year's program will be held on Friday, November 9th, beginning at 10am.

Our Auxiliary has been invited to participate in the program on 11/9. We will have a booth to distribute Poppies and mini-flags to the families attending. We will also be holding a membership drive, talking about the Auxiliary and its benefits for military families. The Legion and the SAL are also invited to participate in the membership drive booth. The more people we can help learn about the American Legion family, the more our Legion family will grow.



Happy Birthday to YOU!

Happy Birthday to YOU! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday dear ____ Happy Birthday to YOU!

November

11/16	Middour, Larry
11/21	Hosein, Sham
11/25	Incao, Dominick
11/26	Day, Robert
11/27	Saul, David
11/29	Shannon, Dyke
11/30	Brooks, Christian
11/30	Shaver, Jan

December

12/07	Gagne, Ronald
12/07	Sanabrina, Ambrosio
12/09	Berrios, Marge
12/11	Bettis, Earl
12/12	Long, Donald, Sr.
12/16	Colado, Guy
12/16	Lord, John
12/17	Buhrow, Clifford
12/19	Carten, James, III
12/30	Berrios, Theresa
12/30	DiMario, Joseph

12/05 Coleman, Robert







Merry
Christmas
and
Happy
New Year

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CALENDAR

November **December** 2-3 Legion Fall Conference Executive Board - 7 PM Son's Meeting - 6 PM **Daylight Savings** 4 11 General Meeting - 7 PM Executive Board - 7 PM 6 14 Post Christmas Party -Son's Meeting - 6 PM 13 General Meeting - 7 PM 15 Fleet Reserve Meeting -17 Fleet Reserve Meeting -18 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM 20 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 22 THANKSGIVING DAY 29 Son's Pancake Breakfast Son's Pancake Breakfast 24 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 28 Post WORK DAY -

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

OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

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