# 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 14, Issue 3

Nov.—Dec. 2021

#### 2021—2022 Officers

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James Middlekauff

1st Vice Commander Stephen Miglionico

> 2nd Vice Commander OPEN

Adjutant Bob Colbert

Finance Officer Bob Colbert

Sgt. at Arms Russell Kraeger

Judge Advocate OPEN

Asst. Judge Adv. Terry Brown

Service Officer
Jim Middlekauff
Ted Costello

Chaplain Billy Dover Historian OPEN

Sons of the Legion Commander Jim Carten

Auxiliary
President
Marge Berrios

Newsletter Editor Nell Colbert

Website http:// www.wpflpost112.org

#### **COMMANDER'S MINUTE**

Greetings fellow Legionnaires of Post 112:

First, I want to Thank the members who showed up at our 9-11 ceremony that we have not seen for a long time, it was great to see and talk to them again. I just hope that we can see more members showing up at the Post in the future. The future is so "up-in-the-air" it seems and puts everyone on edge as to what we feel comfortable doing as well as where we can go safely. So as the year comes to a close, I can only hope everyone can enjoy the next few months celebrating with family and welcome the New Year with hope.

At our October meeting, we discussed the possibility of a Christmas get-together/dinner as we have had in the past. Our reservations have been made—please see the flyer on page 10 on how to RSVP. Space is limited so call soon. Although there are no guarantees, I keep the Post as clean as possible so everyone can feel somewhat comfortable while inside. The Sea Cadets have been using our Post and have had no issues thankfully.

The Annual Veterans Day parade in downtown Orlando is scheduled on November 13<sup>th</sup> and hope the weather cooperates for that, as well as a good turn-out. The Post does not participate in the parade itself, but each in his/her own way can celebrate the service to our country that was given. Perhaps next year we can have a membership party at the Post on Veterans Day or that weekend.

With Thanksgiving coming, we will work with our Awesome Auxiliary to help provide food baskets as we have in the past. We will also participate in the VA's Christmas Tree Angel program again and provide a Veteran and family with Christmas gifts. I'm sure the SONS Squadron 112 will be involved also.

I wish everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas as well as a Happy and safe New Year.

Talk to other Veterans about us, the Legion is going strong. "Anyone who has served honorably in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 is now eligible to join, including Active Duty" so bring them to a meeting and check out our awesome Post.

Until next time, take care and God Bless.

For God and Country, Jim Middlekauff

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

To continue
getting Post 112
family emails, please
send your correct
email address to
Bob Colbert
(bcolbert@usa.net)
ASAP

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# From Stephen's Korner—Stephen Miglionico

Fellow Legionnaires, One of my responsibilities is to ensure that this post get to keep its members and attain 100% renewal. We have 46 members who have not renewed so far for 2022. You should have received your renewal notice by now, take a minute or two and fill it out and mail it back with your dues.

Make yourself proud to be a member of The American Legion.

Respectfully,

Stephen Miglionico
Vice Commander Post 112



2022 Legion Dues are now being accepted!
Please send your \$38 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!

# Buyer Beware—Bob Colbert

Watch out for those "TAX CREDITS" and SALES PRESSURE.

Many of us are retired or on fixed income, so we watch the pennies. And, when someone comes around to sell something like solar panels or replacement windows, they often refer to "TAX CREDITS" to get some of the cost back. But there is a "caveat" that they may not think of, and neither would you, especially if the salesperson has a dynamic personality. There could be a catch! Think about how much you paid in Income Tax last year, or how much you got back. In many cases, if you didn't pay into the IRS the amount of the credit, you can only get back what was paid in. This may or may not apply, but you need to check. AND THE SALESPERSON IS NOT YOUR TAX ATTORNEY!!!! And, neither am I. Every case is different, so you need to check it out! Often the salesperson will tell you that you can make your purchase and send them the "lump sum" of your "tax credit" to offset some of the cost of a loan. If you don't pay this "lump sum" you may have a substantially higher payment to make. PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR THESE ALTERNATIVES and remember "Murphy's Law." Your tax attorney or accountant can tell you what repairs or improvements are eligible for TAX CREDITS, so please check with them.

Salespeople are there for one reason – to make the sale! If it is a major change for your home, get another estimate! If the salesperson says that this is a **LIMITED TIME OFFER**, there is something wrong and you should view this as a possible RED FLAG. If possible, always get at least one other estimate on any major repairs or improvements.

The term "buyer beware" applies more today than ever before. Don't get stung. "Buyers remorse" can have lasting effects.



# Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MERRY CHRISTMAS! I thought that I would get a "head start" on the holidays for you.

With that in mind, we want to invite you all to the returning Post Family Christmas Dinner and Party. We will again be holding it at Perkins Restaurant, 6425 University Blvd, Winter Park (Corner of University and Forsyth Rd), starting at 6 PM on December 3, 2021. We are counting on a lower COVID hazard by then. We will be meeting in the "Library" and ordering off the menu. Tell the host or hostess that you are with the American Legion party, and you will be directed to the far-right side of the restaurant and through the doors on your left. So that we can get a proper count, please call or text 407-619-9611 with your name and your number in party email or FLPost112@gmail.com with the information. Calls will be returned if requested. For social distancing, space is limited, so please RSVP early. Cut off is November 30th, pending space availability.

As the Commander noted, we are holding the meetings as "Hybrid" which means that we open the Post for anyone who wishes to come PLUS we have it on ZOOM. We will be experimenting with getting the meeting streamed on Facebook as well, but it will not be interactive. More information will be sent out via EMAIL when we have that ready. Since you would have to have internet to access either ZOOM or Facebook, we will not be sending this out via US Postal service.

Birthdays – We publish a list of member's birthdays as well as congratulate them at the meetings. There is a catch – If we don't have your birthday, we can't mention it. Don't worry, we NEVER mention the year. If you have not seen your name in the proper newsletter (the list is there), then we don't have it on file. We want to congratulate everyone on their given day, so don't be left out. You can TEXT or call your date of birth to 321-300-6765 or email it to

<u>FLPost112@gmail.com</u> but be sure to give your name with the date of birth.

WEB site changes – If you haven't looked at it, we have overhauled the WEB page and made some significant changes. We are not finished, so more is coming. But the calendar is better and will show ALL of the activities at the Post as well as District and Department events. This newsletter as well as previous newsletters are also posted there back for at least five years. More newsletters will be added back to June of 2007 as time permits. A listing of the current officers for the Post Family is there and we will be developing a page for the Son's Squadron. The Auxiliary already has its own WEB page at <a href="https://amlegionaux112fl.com/">https://amlegionaux112fl.com/</a>.

**Mylegion.org** – Here is a place where you can update your address, phone number, email address and other pertinent information regarding your membership at the National Headquarters. You can also view a copy of the Post's current newsletter if you wish. AND you can pay your dues online. Postage keeps going up and it promises to get even higher, so here is a savings to you. Making certain that National has your correct address is important as the Post draws that information for things that the Post sends out. If mail is returned to National Headquarters, your membership could be in jeopardy, especially if you are a "Paid Up For Life" (PUFL) member. National sends out the membership cards for all PUFL members and any that are returned they change undeliverable, and the Post's do not receive their portion of the "dues" that would be sent out.

As things get back to "normal" we hope to resume activities at the Post, so stay tuned or check the WEB page. It is updated as new information comes in. With the newsletter being every other month, the WEB page is your best source.

See you next issue or at the meetings.

# The American Legion



#### 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.





www.communimatics.com



# Our Happenin' Auxiliary—Nell Colbert



Our membership drive for 2022 is going strong. Our goal for 2022

is 24 members and as of this writing, we have 20 paid members. We need to recruit two new members and we have a couple of members who have not yet renewed for 2022. Please check the list below and if your name is NOT listed, please send in your check for \$36 ASAP. You can mail your check to our mailing address: PO Box 2246 Goldenrod, FL 32733-2246

Or you can pay online at the national website: Members.legion-aux.org

Members paid as of 16October2021:

Marge Berrios Theresa Berrios Brenda brown Sharon Brown Aurora Colbert Braelyn Colbert Nell Colbert Victoria Colbert Christine Costello

Mary Doyle Lisa Gagne

Staci Shannon-Klinger

Sharon Leimer

Lucille Loveitt

Deborah Mays Aunita Padgett

JoAnne Russell

Deborah Shannon

Madelda Thompson

Please remember that our eligi-

bility requirements have changed—the male spouses of female Veterans are now able to join the Auxiliary as long as their living spouse is a Legion member. Also, Veterans can join the Legion if they served at any time after the beginning of World War II. If you know of community members who are eligible for the Auxiliary, please invite them to one of our meetings and encourage them to ioin.

We have also kicked off our fall programs and will be soon providing Thanksgiving nonperishable food items for our Thanksgiving Eastbrook Elementary food pantry project. Shopping will take place in early November and the goodies will be delivered to the school by mid-November.

Our second fall project is our Christmas food baskets for Veteran families in need. We will again deliver our baskets to the VA at Lake Baldwin so they can be given out as part of the Legion's Angel tree project.

We recently learned that the annual Veterans Day program at Eastbrook will be coming back this year. Watch your email for details as we get them. We always have so much fun greeting the Veterans and their families as we distribute American flags and promote our Legion family programs.

The Department of FL Fall Con-

ference is coming 11/5—11/6 at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea World resort. The conference is open to all Auxiliary members and there are lots of classes to help us learn more about the Auxiliary and how to carry out our duties.

As you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter, the Post is planning to hold its annual Christmas party at Perkins on December 3rd beginning at 6pm. The FUN, but OPTIONAL gift exchange will also be returning. Space will be limited as we practice social distancing in the banquet room so please follow the instructions in the flyer on page 10 and be sure to RSVP as quickly as possible.



We welcome all Veteran spouses along with the mothers, sisters, grandmothers and granddaughters of Veterans 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

https://www.facebook.com/ALA112FL or our website at:

www.AmLegionAux112FL.com



#### Notes from Our Service Officer

Service Officer Notes: October 2021

The Department of Veterans Affairs will resume over-payment notifications for new benefit debts and the debts deferred from April 6, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. VA suspended debt collection April 6, 2020 and will restart debt collection Oct. 1, 2021, however, VA will not deduct debts from benefits payments until January 2022. Debt notification letters sent to affected Veterans and beneficiaries will include options to request debt relief for those who continue to need financial relief from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

VA #FightFlu Initiative: VA has expanded flu vaccine availability to more than 70,000 innetwork community providers.

TRICARE Pharmacy Copayments to Increase in 2022

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery (Up to a 90-day supply)

Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$10 to \$12

Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$29 to \$34

Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$60 to \$68

#### TRICARE retail network pharmacies (Up to a 30-day supply)

Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$13 to \$14

Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$33 to \$38

Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$60 to \$68

The Defense Department is asking as many as a half-million ID card holders to go online now and make appointments to renew their IDs — many of which are past the expiration dates printed on them. DOD extended the expiration dates electronically to account for the challenges of renewing them in a COVID-19 environ-

ment. Last year when it became apparent that COVID-19 was going to dramatically affect the ability of individuals to congregate or wait in line at ID card offices, the Defense Department electronically extended the expiration dates for many ID cards for several months to allow cardholders a greater amount of time to get those cards renewed. The extensions primarily benefited the dependents of active-duty service members. Reserve and National Guard service members and their dependents, as well as retirees and their dependents. Currently, there's a backlog of more than a half-million people who have ID cards that are past the expiration dates printed on them. The cards of retirees and their dependents can be used until Jan. 31, 2022.

Cost of Living: Veterans may be in line for a big cost-of-living boost in their benefits payouts starting in December thanks to legislation finalized by Congress on 20 SEP. The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of Living Adjustment Act passed unanimously in the House on Monday and without objection in the Senate earlier in the summer.

VA Blue Water Claims Update 87: VA OIG Reports Many 'Inaccurate Decisions' A sampling of thousands of VA claims filed primarily by veterans who served in the waters off Vietnam showed about 46% were inaccurate, resulting in over- or underpayments to a group familiarly known as Blue Water Navy veterans. Of the 4,600-claim sample highlighted in a 43page report by the VA's Office of Inspector General 2,100 veterans "had inaccurate decisions," the report states. This resulted in \$25.2 million in overpayments and \$12 million in underpayments. The bulk of the errors - 95% -"involved [Veterans Benefits Administration] employees not following general rating policies, such as inaccurately assigning retroactive effective dates for evaluations." Servicemembers aboard vessels operating as far as 12 nautical Continued on Page 7 miles from the

# The American Legion



#### Notes from Our Service Officer\_cont'd From Page 6

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Vietnam coast, as well as those who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides and may be eligible for benefits connected to conditions related to that exposure. VA officials also said staffers underwent additional training on the claims process. Veterans with improperly processed claims will receive notification from the VA. Underpaid veterans can expect a letter stating they'll receive retroactive payments via the same method they receive their regular VA compensation. Overpaid veterans will get a letter explaining the error and giving them 60 days to reach out to the VA's Debt Management Center to arrange a repayment plan.

the center doesn't hear from the veteran in 60 days, it will send a letter notifying the veteran of plans to recoup the funds.

VA Claims Backlog Update 169: Expected to Grow In Coming Months Veterans Affairs officials don't know how bad the backlog of veteran disability claims will get this fall, but they know it's getting worse. The backlog ..defined as the number of first-time disability and pension claims that have been awaiting decisions for more than four months — topped 215,000 this week, up 16 percent since July and nearly triple what it was in early 2020 before the coronavirus pandemic in America. In a press conference with reporters on 15 SEP, VA Secretary Denis McDonough acknowledged that the problem

is going to get worse before it gets better. "We anticipate the backlog to further increase this fall as we process claims for new presumptive conditions from the Vietnam and Gulf wars," he said. "We're in the field fulfilling those claims now. but we want to keep warning our veterans about what to expect, so they see what's coming in the same way that we do."

The Defense **POW/MIA** Accounting Agency announced six burial updates and four new identifications:

3 Navy: USS Oklahoma, 3 Army: Germany, ID's: 2 Army, 2 Navy.

Merry Gkristmas!

# Have YOU Paid Your 2021 Dues Yet? There is STILL TIME Don't let your Legion Membership Lapse! Please send your \$76 check to PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733 And Pay for 2021 and 2022!



## Son's of the of the Legion: Jim Carten

Now that the seasons have changed, it is now time to turn our attention to the upcoming Fall Conference. This year it will be held November 5-7 at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea World. This year's conference will be different as the Detachment will be offering several training classes on Friday afternoon. No matter your position in the Squadron, we can all benefit from a little extra train-

ing. Saturday is a full day of meeting and reports celebrating the great work that all the Squadrons have done. It can sometimes be a long day but very satisfying hearing about all our good deeds.

Sadly, I want to share with you the news that 6th District Vice Commander, Fred Tartaglia, from Squadron 183 entered Squadron Everlasting in September. Fred was a fixture on the music scene in central Florida for decades. Anyone who knew him enjoyed his wit and his laughter. Fare thee well, Fred...

I hope to see you at the Fall Conference.

For God and Country

Jim Carten Squadron Commander.

# The Chaplain's Prayers: Billy Dover

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. "(Psalm 46:10)

So, who is in control of your life, you, or God? There is a battle every day and every moment because we want to be in control. We place ourselves in stressful situations because we want to be in control and follow our own rules, whereas God tells us to slow down and know that God will open and close doors for you.

Many of us place our fears out of the stress we have been placed under like finance, or relationships, but just as the Psalm's we need to be STILL and know that God is in control.

I challenge you this week because we do not know what has instore for us, let all your trials and tribulations be under God's control. God never told us to give up or stop trying but instead pray and give thanks even in times of trouble. Have you noticed that when you tried to fix a situation, the harder you try the worst it gets?

Stop being the victim or trying to control all things, instead pray and give the situation to God. God will give his power through the Holy Spirit to help us in all situations. The benefit is live a life of peace no matter what the situation.

PRAYER IS THIS SONG

"Trust and Obey" was written by John H. Sammis in 1887,

1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way!

While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain: Trust and obey, for

there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2 Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay; not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

3 But we never can prove the delights of his love until all on the altar we lay; for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

4 Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends, we will go; never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Strive at Fern Park is proud to be a Veteran owned & operated senior living community! Offering homelike assisted living and memory care services, our goal is to provide extraordinary care and superior service.

Call today to schedule your tour of our brand new commuity!



Veterans receive 5% discount on monthly rent.



7255 Strive Place Fern Park, FL 32730

# LEGION FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD 6PM -

# PERKINS RESTAURANT 6425 UNIVERSITY BLVD SPACE IS LIMITED CALL OR TEXT 407-619-9611 OR EMAIL FLPOST112@GMAIL.COM TO RSVP WITH HEAD COUNT



OPTIONAL GIFT EXCHANGE

**\$15 LIMIT** 

If you would like to participate, please bring a non-gender specific gift valued at \$15





# Happy Birthday to YOU!

Happy Birthday to YOU!
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday dear \_\_\_\_
Happy Birthday to YOU!

#### **November**

- 1 Martin, Amy
- 2 Kuhn, Scott C
- 4 Camerer, Christopher D
- 12 Brizendine, Linda J
- 16 Doyle, Mary
- 16 Middour, Larry T
- 19 Shannon, Dyke E
- 26 Day, Robert J
- 27 Saul, David
- 30 Brooks, Christian J

#### <u>December</u>

- 7 Gagne, Ronald S
- 7 Sanabria, Ambrosio
- 8 Brown, Sharon
- 9 Berrios, Marge
- 11 Bettis, Earl W
- 12 Long, Donald E Sr
- 16 Lord, John S
- 19 Carten, James E III
- 30 Berrios, Theresa
- 30 DiMario, Joseph A Sr











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.



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www.wpflpost112.org

#### **CALENDAR**

#### **November**

- 2 Son's Squadron Meeting ZOOM 7 PM
- 9 Post General Meeting HYBRID 7 PM
- 16 Auxiliary Unit Meeting ZOOM/FB 7 PM
- 25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING

#### December

- 3 Post Christmas Party 6 PM @ Perkins
- 7 Son's Squadron Meeting ZOOM 7 PM
- 14 Post General Meeting HYBRID 7 PM
- 15 Newsletter Articles due
- 21 Auxiliary Unit Meeting ZOOM/FB 7 PM
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

#### OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

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