

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

2023—2024 Officers

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James Middlekauff

1st Vice
Commander
Billy Dover

2nd Vice
Commander
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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 Legionnaires of Post 112:

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and healthy start to 2024. This past year was much easier than in the past and hope that goes for all. Christmas is a time to spend with family and friends as much as possible, so I hope that was able to happen for everyone. Life is a challenge at times, but we must keep the faith and hope for the best.

As I mentioned in my last note, we will continue with our "blended" meetings and hope more members feel comfortable enough to actually attend the meeting at the Post since we have made many good changes. Home Depot has done some "improvements" above and beyond what we have already done to improve the looks. By the time we have our meeting in January; hopefully all the work will be done, so stop in on a meeting night and see what else has been done. As the note in the newsletter suggests, we had some type of a light meal for our meeting nights that began in October. Let us know if this is something that would interest you.

We had our Annual Christmas Party/Dinner at Perkins again. Always a good night to be together and enjoy some friendship as well as great food. The Post and Auxiliary supported the VA Angel Tree program where we supply items in need for a Veteran family. As always, the Auxiliary ladies step up to assist. Thank You!

As far as future ceremonies/programs are concerned, we will be discussing these at the January meeting. February brings the Four Chaplains ceremony, which is a National recognition for the American Legion.

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
Commander, Post 112

Volume 16, Issue 4

Jan.—Feb. 2024

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 Billy's Korner—Billy Dover

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As of today 16DEC23, we have 85 paid members out of 101 which sets us at 84.16%. Our goal is always to be our 101 plus ONE. 16 members have yet paid and we are requesting you send in your payment of \$38.00 to AMERICAN LEGION POST 112 or you can do it on the American Legion website.

Last month we talked about buddy checks and how suicides increase during this time of the year. People are lonely and need companionship so I am asking you to pick up the phone and call a family member, or friend who is alone and just talk or better yet LISTEN to them.

Invite your neighbors to join us either in person or on a ZOOM call and get involved. As a final note, I want you to keep this number **988** which is the **Suicide HOTLINE**, and **protect yourself and your comrades**.

On a side note, we have a soon-retired Army member who has inquired about the Post and will be living in the apartments behind the Post. I invited him to contact me once he gets out on 22DEC23 and we would love to have him join.

For GOD and COUNTRY,
Billy Dover Jr.,
First Vice Commander, WP Post 112



2024 Legion Dues are now PAST DUE!
Please send your \$38 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!

Four Chaplains Ceremony—Billy Dover



FOUR CHAPLAIN'S SERVICE
FEBRUARY 3, 2024,
1100 HOURS.

We are proud to honor the Four Chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice during WW11.

Please come and join the members of our Legion Family to honor their sacrifice.



Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

Your Legion's Command Staff hope that you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We all wish a prosperous 2024 to everyone!

Last year was a good one. Post improvements include new paneling as well as a new stove, microwave, and refrigerator courtesy of the East Orlando Home Depot and the Commander who negotiated the deal. There was also exterior work done like the removal of the rear door to the storage area and landscaping included in the deal. We have upgraded the security cameras for the Post after a power surge (possibly a lightning strike) that took out the old DVR. We added an "All In One" computer that is used for streaming the meetings and will be replacing the older computer and monitor. We have acquired a "scooter" chair that is available to loan to members in need of one as well as other medical assistance tools. Any member can request the use of these tools.

2023 has been a slow return to normalcy. The Post General Meetings have resumed at the Post "in person" as well as continued online (ZOOM) for those who do not feel comfortable or unable to drive to the Post for the meeting. Those who RSVP that they are coming to the meeting will also get a light dinner. As our kitchen is too small to accommodate serious meal preparation, the meals are brought in, so we need to know how many people will be attending to have enough to serve everyone. Our Son's Squadron also resumed "in person" meetings at the Post with the same caveat for the light dinner (RSVP). We had an "in person" installation of the 2023-2024 Officer in July. Our Boys State Delegates returned to the Post for a visit and reported on their experiences in August. And we ended the year with our Post Family Christmas Dinner at the Perkins Restaurant on University Blvd with 17 members and guests of the Post's Family.

In sadness, we remember those who have gone to the Post Everlasting during the year. Both the Legion and the Auxiliary lost members this past year. Let's take a moment to remember Stacy

Shannon-Klinger (Auxiliary), Samuel E Culver, Leonard F Cole, Thomas Horas and Wille Newsome (all Legion) who passed during 2023. The Legion and Auxiliary held remembrances for them during the year.

I hope that we are all looking forward to 2024! The Post is planning a Four Chaplain's Ceremony on February 3rd (the date of the sinking of the Dorchester), Boys State Selection on February 24th, Memorial Day in May and other functions. We need your ideas for other functions and help in pulling them off! This is your Post, and it can't function without you.

Now let's talk about Membership terms and renewal. Your 2023 card has expired by the time that you read this note. Your 2024 membership card was effective as soon as you received it and expires on 12/31/2024. The membership year is the same as the calendar year. The renewal campaign starts in July to allow everyone plenty of time to renew prior to the next calendar year. And, starting this year, you can renew ONLINE for up to THREE YEARS! Why do this? There is talk about dues increase for the 2025 membership year. You can renew now, at the current rate, for 2024, 2025 and 2026 and postpone your increase! This applies only to ONLINE renewal! (Sorry, no mail-in or checks). Just as a note, there was dues increase a few years ago, but your Post absorbed it. The Post gave up \$2/member for the last dues increase so as not to impact on you, the membership. Out of your current dues (\$38) the Post receives \$9 per member. We know that National will be increasing their costs by \$5 per member but we don't know what the increase will be for the Department as it has not advised us. We will send out more information as we receive it.

With that, I want to again wish you a Happy New Year and hope that all goes well.



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:

- 1/4 page - \$ 15.00 (3 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l)
- 1/2 page - \$ 25.00 (7 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l or 3 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)
- Full page - \$ 40.00 (7 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)


Copy MUST be emailed to the editor as a jpg or PDF file and payment MUST be mailed to Post 112 at PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733-0910

and received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

COPY DEADLINES:

- Jan-Feb issue—10December
- 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 321.303.7445 or email necolbert@usa.net



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Our Bell Ringing Auxiliary—Nell Colbert



Yes—for the 2023-2024 program year, Florida Auxiliary Units are bell ringers in honor of our Department President, Dee Bell, who's theme is "Bells in Service." We are still your Happenin' Auxiliary but we are ringing our bells in service to Veterans, Children and Youth, and our community!

There has been a lot going on since the last newsletter and there will be lots to do over the next couple of months. In early November we shopped for and delivered non-perishable items for the families at Eastbrook Elementary who participate in their weekend backpack food pantry program. We also shopped for our Christmas food



baskets that are given to the Lake Baldwin VAMC. We had a display table from which we gave out Poppies and small American flags to those veterans who attended Eastbrook's Veterans Day breakfast and program. After the program, we delivered the food for the backpack project. We also delivered our annual check to the teacher who uses Scholastic Books for her students so those young readers can begin or add to their own libraries at home. Our



that student to keep. At the end of the month, we assisted our Post with the

gift provides each student in the class one book per month for the entire school year for



shopping for their Giving Tree family after which we delivered our baskets to the VAMC.

What a Busy month!!

We wrapped up the year by attending the Legion Family Holiday party in early December.

At our November meeting, we held our annual planning session where we outlined our activities for 2024. Please see our meeting minutes for details.

One of the things we decided to do is to hold one meeting per quarter in-person at the Post. These meetings will also be available on Zoom for our out of the area members. Our first in-person meeting will be our February meeting where we will be judging our Americanism Essay Contest entries. **Since we will be serving**

a light dinner, you must RSVP to Nell at: wpfl.ala112@gmail.com or call her at 321-303-7445 to let her know so we will have enough food on hand to serve everyone.

We are also recruiting candidates for our Girls State interviews that will be held at the Post on February 25th. Watch you email for more details.

Coming on January 20th is the 6th District ABC School—this is for all members and is a great way to learn more about the Auxiliary. The school will be held at Post 219 in Fruitland Park. A flyer will be emailed to all members with the registration information. Lunch will be served.

And last but not least, please welcome our newest member, Maria Santiago who lives in NJ. With maria's membership, we are at 92.31% of our goal of 26 members. **Please remember—if you have not sent in your check for \$45 for your 2024 dues, your membership has EXPIRED!**

Happy New Year!!

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 at: <https://www.facebook.com/ALA112FL> or our website at: www.AmLegionAux112FL.com



Notes from Our Service Officer

Holiday Rush Prescription Deliveries: The Department of Veterans Affairs wants veterans to know it intends for mail order prescriptions to be delivered in a timely manner throughout the holidays. VA works with the U.S. Postal Service to prioritize deliveries to veterans. However, if a veteran experiences an issue, pharmacies at VA medical centers can fill prescriptions. Staying in contact with your doctor and local VA health team is important for handling any gaps in medical needs.

A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to “assist” or “consult” veterans and survivors with filing their VA benefits claims. This practice is illegal! In fact, none of these private companies is better than the others. They are all operating illegally. Claim Sharks are not VA-accredited, meaning they are not required to adhere to professional and ethical standards, so their advice can be misleading or even fraudulent.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced a suspension of foreclosures on VA-backed loans, extending pandemic protections for veterans facing mortgage payment difficulties. The VA plans to contact mortgage services to pause VA foreclosures and extend the COVID-19 Refund Modification program until May 31, 2024, ensuring veterans can remain in their homes.

This decision follows a November 11 report by National Public Radio revealing the risk of veterans losing homes after the VA ended the Partial Claim Payment program. Veterans using the mortgage forbearance program during the pandemic faced bills for missed payments, risking large sums or refinancing at higher rates. Approximately 6,000 VA homeowners are in foreclosure, and another 34,000 are delinquent. The VA calls for mortgage services to pause foreclosures and collaborates on workable home retention solutions for veterans.

The extension of the COVID-19 Refund Modification program enables veterans to obtain zero-interest, deferred-payment loans from the VA, covering missed payments and modifying existing VA-guaranteed loans for an affordable monthly payment structure. The VA is establishing a VA Servicing Purchase program to purchase defaulted VA loans, modify them, and include them in the VA's direct loan portfolio. Veterans struggling with mortgage payments are encouraged to visit the department's [housing assistance website](#) or call 877-827-3702.

The Defense **POW/MIA** Accounting Agency has not announced any new identifications or burial updates this past week.

Oratorical Contest—Billy Dover

Since 1938, the contest has developed knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students.

I had hoped we would have an Oratorical Contest this year but due to a lack of response from the high school students it has been canceled. If any member finds a student who wants to take the challenge of Oratorical Contest we will reschedule.

FOR GOD and COUNTRY
Billy Dover, Jr. Oratorical Contest Chair





Does your loved one have a hard time asking for help or admitting that they sometimes feel lonely at home?

If they've been independent their whole life, telling their family they need help can be a difficult conversation to have. Be supportive and allow them to express their concerns. Caregivers also find it hard to admit they're getting tired. Remember that one person can't do it alone. Without some extra support, you may get burnt out. Admitting you need help doesn't mean you're not providing excellent care. To provide the best care, you also need to look after your own health and well-being.



It's always a good idea to know what services are available before you need them. If you're an older adult, or a caregiver, the best time to consider adult day services is now.

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Boy's State—Bob Colbert

It's that time of year! The Post has committed to send four youth to the 2024 Florida Boys State in June of 2024. Once again, we will be approaching Winter Park High School, Lake Howell High School and even reaching out to one or two different schools. I won't mention which ones until they commit to sending candidates in fairness to the schools and the potential candidates.

Now, with that said, let me tell you a little about Boys State. This American Legion activity has been around for a long time! The American Legion Department of Florida has made arrangements with the State of Florida AND the Florida State University for the candidates to come to Tallahassee for a week and act as

if they were the State Government. They will have several days of classes and then take up positions in all levels of state and local government. The event can handle over 450 youth that will be competing for various state and local government positions from Mayor to Governor and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. They will be presenting proposed "laws" to their "legislature" and having to defend the proposed laws. This by itself is exciting but the fact is that any of their "laws" that get passed and signed by their Governor will actually be submitted to the REAL legislature and his-

torically, several of these have actually become law.

If you happen to have a Junior at a school that I did not mention above, who might like to try out, have the student contact me by email at FLPost112@gmail.com and be sure to put "BOYS STATE" in the subject line. Be sure to include your student's contact information, school that the student attends, and confirm that the student will be available during the week of June 16-22, 2024, to participate.

I didn't forget the Girls! There is a parallel activity for the Junior girls! Check the Auxiliary's article in this newsletter for more information. Their week is just as much fun and has similar activities. (See Page 5)



The Chaplain's Prayers : Billy Dover



I want to wish everyone and Happy New Year 2024.

The unity of the American Legion with its members and organization is more important today than ever before. This is expressed even in **Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!** The American Legion has implemented Buddy Checks so each member has been in contact during the year. When we fellowship with one another it builds our relationships because each individual is

unique and a gift from God. We should seek unity as a group to complete the task (four pillars) of the American Legion. This includes fellowship with the Legion Family members and assisting each other with our events.

As we start this NEW YEAR let's work together and remember how important it was for David when he wrote the Psalms. Fellowship with each other and with God is important for our well-being both physically and mentally.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, we wish to thank you

for your goodness and blessings for each member and their families during 2024. Unity is a priority for each of us to work for the glory of God and our Legion Members. Heal our Nation so that we can continue to protect others. Teach us to find opportunities to support each other and to serve our active duty members both at home and abroad. Protect our service personnel and first responders as well as their families. This we ask in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

For God and Country,
Billy Dover Jr., Chaplain



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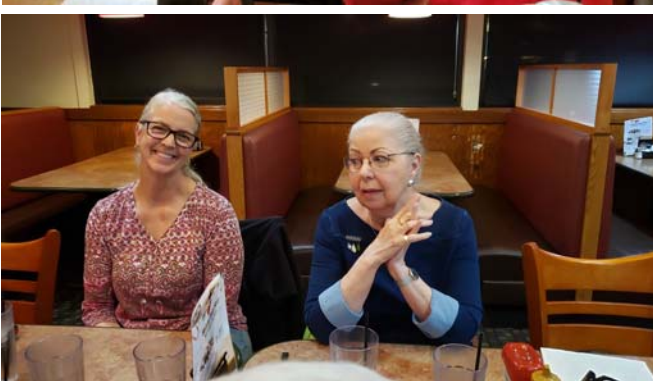
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Legion Family Holiday Party Fun



Denny's Restaurant—December 8, 2023



Happy Birthday to YOU!

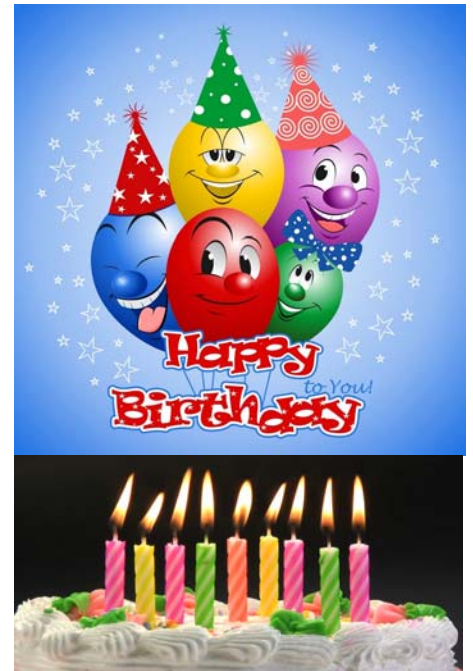
*Happy Birthday to YOU!
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday dear _____.
Happy Birthday to YOU!*

January, 2024

- 2 Smith, Rhonda M
- 12 Loveitt, Lucille
- 12 Smith, Stephen A
- 15 Brasher, Lawrence A
- 15 Colbert, Braelyn A
- 17 Roberts, Wayne D
- 21 Travers, Charles
- 25 Colbert, Russell C
- 27 Paquin, Joseph E

February, 2024

- 6 Flanagan, Donald E
- 7 Ackley, Wayne S
- 8 Dearden, Miles C
- 8 Posada, Eduardo
- 9 Brown, Brenda A
- 10 Colbert, Robert C
- 12 Warren-Tormey, Coleen
- 17 Colbert, Victoria L
- 18 Sines, Irvin A
- 21 Gagne, Lisa
- 24 Anderson, Charles N



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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

JAN Event

- 1 Happy New Year
- 8 S A L Meeting - 7 PM - Post & ZOOM
- 9 General Meeting 7 PM - Post & ZOOM
- 16 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only

FEB

- 3 Four Chaplains Ceremony - 11 AM
- 5 S A L Meeting - 7 PM - Post & ZOOM
- 12 General Meeting - 7 PM - Post & ZOOM
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Newsletter Articles due
- 19 President's Day
- 20 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM - **IN Person & ZOOM**
- 24 Boys State Selection 2 PM - Post
- 25 Girls State Selection 2 PM - Post

OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

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