The American Legion Winter Park Memorial **Post 112 Family**



2023-2024 Officers

Commander James Middlekauff

> **1st Vice** Commander **Billy Dover**

> 2nd Vice Commander OPEN

Adjutant **Bob Colbert**

Finance Officer Bob Colbert

> Sqt. at Arms Ron Gagne

Judge Advocate OPEN

Asst. Judge Adv. **Terry Brown**

Service Officer Jim Middlekauff Ted Costello

> Chaplain Billy Dover

Historian Larry Middour

Sons of the Legion Commander Jim Carten

> Auxiliary President Marge Berrios

Newsletter Editor Nell Colbert

Website https//wpflpost112.org Greetings fellow Legionnaires of Post 112:

COMMANDER'S MINUTE

It's that time again. We are continuing to do our best, despite some circumstances that has held us back. 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 for more members to feel comfortable to actually attend the meeting at the Post since we have made many good changes. The Home Depot has done some "improvements" above and beyond what we have already done to improve the looks. As the note suggests in the newsletter, we have had some type of a light snack for our meeting nights that began in October and will continue with our March meeting. Let us know if this is something that would interest you. We do need a head count so we have enough Page 4 food on hand. Please contact the Adjutant before March 7th if you plan to attend.

As far as future ceremonies/programs, we will be discussing these at the March meeting. Our Four Chaplains ceremony had to be cancelled this year, so we will try again next year. This is a National recognition for the American Legion.

I hope everyone has a Happy Easter and hope to see you all soon.

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 are 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

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

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March.—April. 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

Our membership is moving along slowly. As of this writing, we are at 92 of the 106 that we need for a 100% membership year. Unfortunately, we had a couple of members transfer to another Post and four members pass away that we know of and finally another two members that we have not been able to reach, who may have also passed away. While we may not be able to make 100% in membership, we need to stay above 100 members. If you have not paid your 2024 dues, please go online and pay them, or send a check to the Post for \$38 as soon as you can. If you have a problem and cannot afford to pay your dues, please contact the Adjutant to see if arrangements can be made. We don't want to lose members if possible.

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

MARCH MEETING—NEED YOUR RSVP



Are you planning to attend the March Legion meeting on March 12th?

Since we'll be serving a light dinner before the meeting starts, we need a head count so we know how much food to have on hand to feed everyone.

Please email the Post at flpost112@gmail.com or call/text the Adju-

tant at 407-619-9611 <u>before March 7th</u> to let us know if you will be attending in person.



The American Legion



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Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

Spring is here! With Spring comes several activities that could use your help. There is Memorial Day in May and Fourth of July coming up. There are no plans yet, and any help and/or suggestions would be welcomed. There are more events possible in the Fall.

By the time you see this, our Boys State selections will be completed. The selection for the Boys State was done on Feb 24th and the selection for Girls State, done by our Auxiliary Unit, was done on Feb 25th. The Post is sending four boys, and the Auxiliary is sending two girls and two alternates. See the articles later in this newsletter for pictures of our candidates.

Elections are coming up. Nominations will be accepted at the April meeting and the election held at the May meeting. If you are interested in any position, please let me know before April 1st. The open positions are Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Chaplain, Finance Officer, Historian, and Sgt at Arms. Space permitting, we will have an article about the various positions. Chair positions are filled out by the Commander after his election, but you are encouraged to let him know if you are interested. The chair positions that we have are Children & Youth, School Medals, Oratorical, Boys State and Scouting. These are appointed positions so there is no election needed. If you are interested in any of these positions, contact me for a description.

National has announced dues increase for the 2025 membership year of \$5 per person. We have not heard from the Department as to an increase for them. The Post has absorbed the past increase, but we are not able to absorb this one. The Post will have to increase membership fees to \$45/year to keep up with the increases. BUT here is a savings for YOU! National has allowed those who pay their dues online to pay multiple years at TODAYS rate. You can only do this

online and if you need assistance, please contact me. We can do it at the Post if you do not have access to a computer or do not understand how the renewal works online. If you have already paid for 2024, you can still prepay for 2025 and 2026 online. If you need help, let me know.

Have you wanted to attend the meetings but don't want to drive at night? You know that our meetings are all broadcast over ZOOM. But maybe you don't have a computer or don't feel comfortable trying to access ZOOM on it. You can use your CELL PHONE! Yes, any CELL PHONE can "dial in" to the meeting and participate. All you need to do, when you want to attend the meeting is dial 1-305-224-1968 and when it asks for a meeting ID, enter 862-8807-1778 AND if it asks for a PASSCODE, enter 764023. This can be done from any cell phone. If you call in from a "wire" phone, there will be long distance charges. And if you are using a computer, the shortcut will be sent out the week or weekend before the meeting. Using a computer or smartphone allows you to see everyone who is online except those using a CELL PHONE (no camera). If you need any help or want to test it out, let me know before the meeting time.

Remember, our By-Laws allow for "remote attendance" for all members and the ZOOM system allows us to verify who is attending and voting even online.

And speaking of By-Laws, our Constitution and By-Laws need to be reviewed and if necessary, updated. Does anyone want to help with this project? It is tedious work but maybe we can try to make it fun. Let's talk about it.

I hope to see you at the meetings or at least on ZOOM. Remember, your voice and vote count!



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





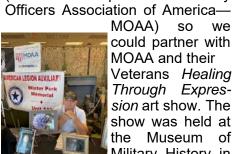
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Our Happenin' Auxiliary—Nell Colbert

First, we want to welcome our newest member, Brynlee Skye, born on February 23rd. Her proud parents are SAL and Auxiliary members, Russell and Victoria Colbert. Brynlee joins big sister, Braelyn, and big brother, Landon, who are also members of our Legion family.

With Brynlee's new membership, our Unit is now at 100% of our goal! If you have a friend who is eligible to join our Auxiliary, please share our Zoom link with them so they can see what we're all about.

And, another AMERICAN first for our LEGION Unit-we suc-AUXILIARY FOUNDATION cessfully applied for a National Auxiliary Foundation grant (with lots of help from the Military



MOAA) so we could partner with MOAA and their Veterans Healing Through Expression art show. The show was held at the Museum of Military History in **Kissimmee** on



February 11th and was а great success. Durthe ing appreciation

luncheon.

we were able to present the check we received from the National Foundation for \$2500 to MOAA to help them fund the art supplies needed for the art show.

Our February meeting was held inperson and on Zoom and those attending at the Post enjoyed subs from Firehouse before our meeting began. During the meeting, we judged our Americanism Essay contest entries received from our elementary schools. We also elected our nominating committee who was charged with developing a slate of officers for our 2024-2025 program year. If you would like to serve as an officer, please contact wpfl.ala112@gmail.com to let us know in which office you might like to serve. The nominating committee will meet after the March meeting (on Zoom) and the slate will be presented at our April meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the April meeting after which nominations are closed. Voting will take place at our May meeting, currently scheduled to be both in-person at the Post and on Zoom. Installation is targeted for our July meeting.

By the time you read this, our Girls State candidates will have been interviewed and our delegates and alternates selected. We had eight candidates: 2 from Haggerty, 3 from Trinity Prep, 2 from Winter



Park High School, and one who came from Winter Garden.

Looking forward to later this spring, it's almost time to begin presenting Scholastic Achievement Awards to our 5th grade students at the eight elementary schools we support. Because all the graduation ceremonies are held within the last few days of the school year at the exact same times and we have schools in both Orange and Seminole Counties, we will need extra help to make sure our schools are all covered. If you would like to help make these presentations, please let Nell know. There is a script already prepared and the schools always try to put us first on their programs so we can scoot out to cover the next school that day.



Poppies are also coming in May. If you would like to help with Poppy booth. а please contact Marge as she will be setting the schedule.

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

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 VA Health Chat app enables you to easily chat with VA staff online to ask questions about your health concerns. You can use <u>VA Health</u> <u>Chat</u> to receive medical advice for non-life-threatening injuries or illnesses, schedule VA appointments, refill VA prescriptions, and more.

We are excited to announce that a new Admin/ Scheduling channel is now available on VA Health Chat in your VISN. This channel will enable you to ask administrative questions, schedule appointments, and more, and receive responses from VA staff in minutes. In addition to the new Admin/Scheduling channel, you will continue to have access to the Nursing, Pharmacy, Urgent Care, Whole Health, and Women's Health channels.

You can chat with VA staff in most participating locations Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time, excluding federal holidays. In some locations, staff are available 24/7.

To access the app, visit the VA Health Chat

page or sign in to My HealtheVet. A blue VA Health Chat message box will appear in the lower right corner of the My HealtheVet page if the app is available to you. For security reasons, you'll need to sign in to the app with VAsupported credentials. You may use your <u>My</u> <u>HealtheVet Premium</u>, <u>DS Logon Level 2</u> (Premium), ID.me, or <u>Login.gov</u> account.

The American Legion is calling on members of the American Legion Family to <u>contact their</u> <u>members of Congress</u> and urge support for H.R. 3651, bipartisan legislation designed to allow surviving spouses of military servicemembers to retain survivor benefits should they remarry.

The extension of the COVID-19 Refund Modification program enables veterans to obtain zerointerest, 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 encouraged visit the are to department's housing assistance website or call 877-827-3702.

The Defense **POW/MIA** Accounting Agency has announced 4 new burial updates: Marine Corps -1 Battle of Tarawa, Army – 3 Omaha Beach.







AT ORLANDO LUTHERAN TOWERS

We're here to help you get every benefit you deserve. Veterans join us now to get SPECIAL INCENTIVES!

Imagine having everything you need under one roof and all in the comfort of your private apartment home. All your needs tended to 24 hours a day. Our team working together and providing professional care with a personal touch.

At Windsor Place at Orlando Lutheran Towers, our beautiful Assisted Living, enjoy private apartment homes. Your benefits include assistance with care needs, meals, medications, doctor appointments and a wide array of daily activities both on and off campus.Come join us and become part of our amazing family.



404 MariposaSt. Orlando, FL 32801



407-425-1033



Son's of the of the Legion: Jim Carten

SONS OF THE

Membership is off to a great start so thank you to all who have renewed in a timely fashion. We need to keep pushing to reach 100% and hopefully get a some new member to join our

ranks.

Are you familiar with the "Four Pillars Challenge"? Taking part in this challenge is truly doing exactly what we should all be doing, supporting the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Just a dollar a member based on 2023 ending membership to Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) your department's Boys State program (Americanism) and have or support a blood drive for National Security. Let's do it together and raise money and awareness of our programs of The American Legion Family. It's time we all "Step Up to The Challenge" to support The American Legion.

The Chaplain's Prayers : Billy Dover

Our sincerest condolences go out to Chaplain Dover on the recent loss of his beloved wife.

Here's a Chaplain's Prayer that ran previously:

William Arthur Ward wrote: **THE SIX ETHICS OF LIFE** in which I wanted to see How the Bible related to these six. We first must know the definition of ethics: <u>moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity</u>. There are many verses in the Bible that deal with these keywords, and I have chosen the ones which meant the most to me.

Before you PRAY---BELIEVE

EXODUS 4:1 But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe in me or listen to me? What if they say, The Lord never appeared to you. Vs 5 Perform this sign, "the Lord told him. Then they will Believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors -the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacobreally has appeared to you.

Before you SPEAK --- LISTEN

Psalms: 17:6 I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray

Before you SPEND --- EARN

Proverbs 21:20 The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get. Proverbs 3:4 Then you will find favor with both GOD and people, and you will earn a good reputation.

Before you WRITE – THINK

1 Samuel 12:24 But be sure to fear the LORD and faithfully serve him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you. Daniel 5:24 So GOD sent this hand HIS hand to write this message

Before you QUIT --- TRY

Proverbs 23:4 Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit. Psalms 25:3 No one who trust in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.

Before you DIE ---- LIVE

Psalms 89:48 No one can live forever; all will die. No one can escape the poser of the grave. Psalms 91:1 Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Let us pray: Dear Lord we want the thank you for each member of the American Legion and especially Post 112. As we sit and read this article my prayer is that it reaches each of us to show the moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity. Just as in the US Navy Honor, Courage and Commitment must be based on moral principles. Dear Lord please protect our Nation, our Leaders, our Legion, and our families along with the first responders. This we ask in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, AMEN.

Fage 8



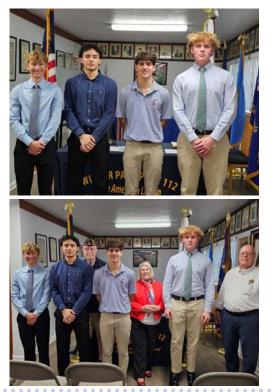
Boys State—Bob Colbert

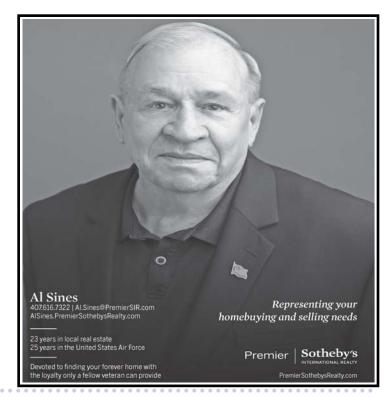
It's that time of year! We have polled the schools (Winter Park High School, Lake Howell High School and Trinity Preparatory School) and they have provided some candidates for our interview process. We have paid for our four candidates and that would also allow for four alternates. The names of the four candidates and alternates will be sent to the Department. Alternates to the Department of Florida so that any Post that was not able to fill their quota can contact one of our alternates to attend Boys State. In the past, all of our candidates and alternates that wanted to attend have been able to attend.

We held our candidate interviews on Saturday, February 25th and we selected quality candidates again this year.

As you know, Boys State is a program of the American Legion where students between their Junior and Senior year of high school spend one week in Tallahassee acting as State and Local Government officials. They assume the duties of the positions that they are elected to in a "fictitious" state for the week, using the facilities of State Capitol, House and Senate chambers State Supreme Court chambers and other facilities within the State Capitol complex as needed and available. They will be learning local government operations from the city, county and state levels throughout the week. Two candidates will be chosen from all of the attendees to go on to a similar event at Boys Nation in Washington, DC. Usually, they are welcomed by the actual Governor at the beginning of the week. Each candidate is asked to write a "bill" on something that is a concern of his and present it through the legislature. Bills that are passed through for the youth governor to sign are often passed on the State Legislature for consideration at the next session.

Our Boys State Delegates for 2024 and our selection team:





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The American Legion



Duties of Officers

We are coming up on our election of officers! The election will be held in May with the final nominations closing in April. The nominating committee will present its candidates and then open the floor to other nominations. This is the time for anyone else who would like to run for office. The installation of Officers will be held at the July meeting.

So, are you interested in running for office? The positions and a summary of their duties are:

Commander – Presides at the meetings and represents the Post at District meetings and other Post, District and Department functions. The Commander is also responsible for insuring that there are chairs for the committees and programs that the Post has chosen to follow are populated.

1st Vice Commander – Our First Vice Commander is responsible for presiding over the meetings in the absence of the Commander. He or she is also the "DeFacto" Membership Chair. The First Vice also researches and coordinates the guest speakers at the meetings with the Commander. The 1st Vice also would be the key person in arranging for the members who do not come to the Post very often are checked on by phone or in person.

2nd Vice Commander – Our Second Vice Commander is responsible for the physical Post. The 2nd Vice works with the Commander to maintain the property and make recommendations for changes or improvements and works closely with the Adjutant to coordinate activities at the Post. If there is a cost involved outside of the budget, the Second Vice presents the item to the Post's Executive Board. Additional volunteers may be recruited to assist in any of the projects needed to maintain or improve the Post.

Chaplain – The Chaplain is responsible for the opening and closing prayers at all formal meetings. He or she is also expected to check on and, when possible, visit those members who have fallen ill. The Chaplain is also expected to take the lead (chair) in the annual Four Chaplains Ceremony and "Post Everlasting" ceremonies that the Post performs twice a year. In the event of the passing of a member, the Chaplain would be expected to assist the family with the military or VA portions of the arrangements where possible or necessary.

Finance Officer – The Finance Officer is responsible for all deposits and withdrawals involving the Post's Finances. The Finance Officer prepares a monthly financial report to be presented to the General Membership at the monthly meetings and is also responsible for making sure that all the State and Federal requirements are met, including filing the IRS Form 990 and the State Corporation renewal as well as any State Sales Taxes that need to be filed. The Treasurer should be familiar with QuickBooks as that is the current bookkeeping system in use.

Historian – This person should be able to attend most of the Post's functions and meetings and take pictures of significant events. The Historian also maintains the annual "Scrap Book." The Historian can work with the newsletter editor in exchanging photos and stories.

Sergeant At Arms – The Sergeant at Arms ensures that members sign in for meetings and that they are current members of the Post. Members with expired membership cards may be excluded from voting at the meeting. The Sergeant At Arms also handles the POW/MIA empty chair ceremony and leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Happy Birthday to YOU!

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

<u>MARCH</u>

- 3 DiMarino, Anthony
- 3 Miles, Milton D
- 6 Sears, Perry W
- 9 Brown, Richard C
- 10 Rosa, Juan M
- 12 Padgett, Aunita E
- 14 Dover, Billy G Jr
- 14 Dover, Billy G Jr
- 14 Thompson, Madelda
- 16 Coleman, Charles Jr

- Braga, Cirilo B
- 25 Nazario, Rafael
- 26 Carden, James W Jr

<u>APRIL</u>

18

- 1 Leonard, George W III
- 5 Squire, Billy L Sr
- 6 Holcomb, Gregory A
- 6 Rosado, Antonio
- 7 Agosto, Epifanio
- 10 Shoff, Sherwood A
- 17 Hanna, Leo C
- 24 Kelly, Patrick J







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

19 Primary Election Day 19 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM - ZOOM only Adjutant: Bob Colbert 24 Boys State Selection - 2 PM at Post 407-619-9611-bcolbert@usa.net 25 Girls State Selection - 2 PM at Post Finance Officer: Bob Colbert 407-619-9611-bcolbert@usa.net April Event Chaplain: Billy Dover SAL Meeting - 7 PM at Post 1 407-383-9455-bgdjr@hotmail.com 9 General Meeting - 7 PM at Post Sqt. At Arms: Ron Gagne 15 TAX DAY 407-657-7569-RonGagne@embargmail.com 16 Auxiliary Meeting - 7 PM on ZOOM only Historian: Larry Middour

The American Legion

CALENDAR

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

SAL Meeting - 7 PM at Post 12 General Meeting - 7 PM at Post

March Event

4

Commander: Jim Middlekauff 407-977-0521-racenut478@aol.com

Vice Commander: Billy Dover 407-383-9455-bgdir@hotmail.com

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