



American Veterans Memorial POST #412

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Orlando FL 32832
407-693-1233

www.legionpost412.org
americanlegionlakenona@gmail.com



William Musto, Commander
William Musto, Adjutant

Post meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
JAN 10	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Culver's Lake Nona
JAN 10	Post Fundraiser	5-8 p.m.	Culver's Lake Nona
JAN 12	Lake Nona Veteran's Club	6 p.m.	Crescent Room, VA Hospital
JAN 14	Post 412 Annual Poker Run	9:30 a.m.	East Toho RV Park
JAN 17	*Post General Meeting	7:30 p.m.	TBD/Virtual
JAN 24	Unit 412 General Meeting	7:00 p.m.	TBD

*Meetings to be held virtually will use the ZOOM app. (<https://zoom.us/>)

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

It's the beginning of a new year. Year number five for Post 412. It has been my pleasure to be your commander for all this time. I ask that each of you continue to do what you can to make this the Best Legion Post in Florida.

As we leap into the new year, we have many exciting and new adventures waiting for us. Our number one goal is to work within the communities that we support and do everything for the veterans of those communities that we can. We also need to take care of the families of those veterans and all veterans around us. We will continue the outreach to our active-duty service members and to the schools in our community. With your help, we can let the people of South Orlando know we are here to help them and to support them.

I'm asking each of you to take the time to reflect on why you became a member of the Legion. What can we do to help others? How can we be of service to our community? What can we do to bring awareness of our organization to the people of our community and show them the value of having us around?

For God and Country.

William A. Musto

MEMBERSHIP

Post 412 would like to welcome the following new members to the group:

Craig Leysen, Air Force veteran
Raymond "Pat" Fenell, Navy veteran

We currently have 60 members paid up for the membership year 2023. This is 52% of our goal from National.

We here at Post 412 have always strived to be at 100% by December 31. Unfortunately, this year we did not make this goal. We still have until May 31, 2023 to make goal. Please encourage your friends to renew or join our group.

The Following are Department Membership Goal Dates and our Post targeted membership totals:

Target Date	Member Goal/Actual	Required %/Actual %
Sep 8	57/35	50%/30.4%
Oct 5	63/36	55%/31.3%
DEC 2	74/42	65%/36.5%
Dec 7	86/45	75%/39.1%

Jan 11	92/60	80%/52%
Feb 8	97/	85%/
Mar 8	103/	90%/
Apr 12	109/	95%/
May 10	115/	100%/
May 31	116/	100%+1/

All members need to sign up for a mylegion account by going to www.legion.org and clicking on MYLEGION.ORG. Once you are there, click on REGISTER and fill out the information requested. Please be sure to use the email that you used to sign up with the Legion. Each member must have a specific email for their account. You cannot share emails.

This is a good way to stay connected to the American Legion as well as the Post in general. Once signed up, you will be able to view all your information online, renew your membership, view the Post newsletter, print your membership card, and receive information from National about the goings on of the Legion. Please sign soon.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT POST 412

Attention MARINES!



By now you have probably been inundated with emails and text messages from different Law Firms about the compensation you might be eligible for if you lived or worked at Camp Lejeune, NC prior to 1988. The Law Firm Bergmann & Moore, LLC is working with the American

Legion and its members to help you get the compensation you deserve. Please see the flyers at the end of this newsletter.

- They will do a max of 33 1/3% fee of any recovery made
- The Marine will not incur any out of pocket expenses if no recovery is made
- If it is determined that the Marine is owed compensation, the law firm will discuss with the Marine about taking it or not. Any compensation given will need to be recovered by the government via VA compensations, tax returns, etc. This will be 100% of the compensation.
- Scan the URL code on the flyer and answer a few questions.
- Once that is received an email will be sent to the Marine asking for more information.

- Even if the Marine retained a different lawyer, they can still submit it.

Culver's Fundraiser



The next Dining Fundraiser at the Culver's in Lake Nona will be on January 10, 2023 from 5-8 pm.

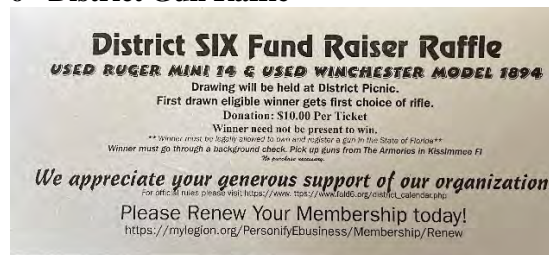
These fundraiser events will take place Quarterly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Upcoming dates are: 04/11/23, 07/11/23, and 10/10/23. Please come out and support you post building fund. You must mention POST412 when you order.

Post 412 Annual Poker Run



On January 14, 2023, Post 412 will be holding its annual Building Fund Poker Run. Start and End point is East Toho RV Resort. Come on out and join us. Motorcycles and Cars are welcome.

6th District Gun Raffle



The 6th District is having a Gun Raffle to help pay for Boy's and Girl's State transportation. Two rifles will be raffled off. Tickets are \$10 each and we have 16 to sell. Drawing will be at the 6th District picnic. Call Commander Musto to purchase your ticket. (407) 325-2205.

Calling All Members



We need your help. Are you a business owner? Do you own property in the South Orlando Area? Do you have access to a suitable location for us to hold our General Meetings? If so, please let us know. This location would be a space suitable for holding up to 40 people. We would like everyone to contact anyone who might have such a place and get them in contact with the Commander, 1st Vice Commander, or Adjutant. Please consider helping us out.

Local Girl Scout needs Our Help



One of our Junior Auxiliary members, **Carolina Rodriguez**, is also a member of a local Cadet Girl Scout Troop here in **GIRL SCOUTS** Lake Nona. She is currently working on her Girl Scout Silver Award. Her project is to design and

build Flag Retirement Boxes and place them throughout the community and to bring awareness to Flag Etiquette. Post 412 will then retire the discarded flags in the proper manner. She needs veterans who are willing and able to help her as she completes her mission. If you are willing and able to help, please let the Commander know as soon as possible by calling (407) 325-2205.

January 15 – James Clayton
 January 16 – Jason Kendall
 January 27 – Gaylon Barcom
 January 31 – Daniel Murry

If your birthday is not listed that is because I do not have it.

UNIT AND CHAPTER NEWS



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 412 will holding its monthly meeting on January 24th. All current Auxiliary members are asked to renew their membership as soon as possible.

We Need Members! Consider asking your spouse (male or female), mother, daughter, granddaughter, or sister to join this group. Please contact Chris Musto, Auxiliary President, at 407-222-9499 for more information and to sign-up.

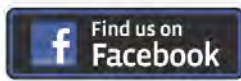


American Legion Riders Chapter 412 is looking for members to join our group. Initial registration is \$50 (this purchases the Patches and first year membership) then membership is \$15 annually after

that. Lifetime membership is available for \$150. If you rider a motorcycle and are interested in being a member of the Riders, please contact the Commander or 1st Vice Commander for more information. Visit us on Facebook [@LegionRiders412](#) There are some flyers attached for upcoming rides and events sponsored by different Chapters within the District. Please check them out.



Please check out our website: www.legionpost412.org for all the information about our post. Visit us on Facebook [@AmericanLegionPost412](#) and the 6th District Florida [@6thDistFl](#)



TAPS

David Gathier. Reported in December.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2 – Gilbert Cortes
 January 4 – Alexandra Tanner
 January 5 – Mark Leitz
 January 14 – David Lester

<i>American Legion Post 412 Officers 22-23</i>	
<i>William A. Musto</i>	<i>Commander</i>
<i>Ralph Sanchez</i>	<i>1st Vice Commander</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>2nd Vice Commander</i>
<i>William A. Musto</i>	<i>Adjutant*</i>
<i>Claudia Tanner</i>	<i>Finance Officer</i>
<i>William Kilmer</i>	<i>Chaplain</i>
<i>Steven Starry</i>	<i>Sgt-at-Arms</i>
<i>James Licata</i>	<i>Service Officer*</i>
<i>Terie Garcia-Amill</i>	<i>Judge Advocate*</i>
<i>Luis Albarracin</i>	<i>Historian</i>
<i>Jorge Berrios</i>	<i>Public Relations*</i>
<i>Mike Hendrix</i>	<i>Executive Committee</i>
<i>Gaylon Barcom</i>	<i>Executive Committee</i>
<i>Paul Oettinger</i>	<i>Executive Committee</i>
<i>*=Appointed by commander</i>	

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Basic Training



The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online. The Course is arranged into 5 major topic areas and 1 concluding section. Each section will present information about the topic via text, images, and video. Visit: <https://www.legion.org/alei> and sign up to take the course.

Department of Florida Training

The Department of Florida has training videos available to all members on topics such as MyLegion, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Training Webinars. Visit <https://www.floridalegion.org/resources/training-videos/> to take any of these training opportunities.

If you have anything you want posted in this newsletter, please let the Commander know by the

15th of the month. The Post Newsletter is published the last week of each month and distributed through email, posted to the MyLegion page for our Post, and posted on the Post Website www.legionpost412.org Any member who has a MyLegion.org account is able to access the newsletter from the MyLegion.org site.

American Veterans Memorial Post 412 is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit Veteran's Service Organization (VSO). All donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS code. Please consider donating to help support your American Legion Post.

DONATE
While You
DINE

Give LOCAL
FOOD. FAMILY. FUTURE.
Culver's

Come Support the American Legion Post 412!
Dine in or go through the Drive Thru and mention the American Legion Post.
Tuesday January 10, 2023 5pm-8pm

Culver's

Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:
Culver's of Lake Nona
1197B Narcoossee Rd, Orlando, FL, 34769
(407) 420-7140

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Lentils are not a health food. Learn more here: bit.ly/2019

JANUARY 14, 2023
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 412 4TH
ANNUAL SCRAMBLE
POKER RUN

4th Annual Legion Post 412 Poker Run
Come out and join American Legion Post 412 as we raise money for the Post Building Fund. First vehicle out at 10:30am. Prize for Best hand \$100 and Worst hand \$25. Raffles, 50/50, Give Aways, Door Prizes... Plenty of food, fun, and friends. After Party Begins when the people come back. Bikes and Cars welcome!

Registration 9:30am
First Vehicle out 10:30 am
All Vehicles back by 2 pm

Each Person: \$15
Extra Hand: \$5

Start/Stop Point:
East Toho RV Resort
3706 Big Bass Rd, Kissimmee, FL
34744 (ACROSS FROM TOHO HIGH
SCHOOL ON BOGGY CREEK Rd.)

Stops:
#1 American Legion Post 10
205 Lakeview Dr, Kissimmee
34741
#2 Jerry's Pub
2825 S Orange Ave, Orlando
32809
#3 American Legion Post 206
529 Fairlane Ave, Orlando 32809

AMERICAN LEGION POST 412
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Saturday January 14, 2023

Q: I have a family member who died at CL. Can I file on their behalf?

A: Yes, survivors and loved ones may also bring suit.

Q: What are attorney fees and costs related to a CLJA claim?

A: We are in support of action by Congress or the Court to reduce the rate that can be charged by any firm, we believe Veterans shouldn't be charged unreasonable legal fees – especially ones with added "costs" that can easily amount to over 50% of a Veteran's award. Our legal fee is therefore 33 1/3%. Not only is this fee well below the going rate, but we will charge no costs on top of that fee.

Q: when did I need to have been at Camp Lejeune?

A: August 1, 1953 - December 31, 1987

Q: Who can I contact?

A: Liz Hartman at lhartman@vetlawyers.com, 252-497-7255

Q: where can I learn more?

A: For more information please visit : www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/AL or by calling 800-898-9450



**Meet Liz Hartman,
Bergmann & Moore's
Camp Lejeune Spokesperson**

Elizabeth Hartman served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an Arabic linguist, formally trained in Modern Standard Arabic.

She previously worked as a financial advisor for Edward Jones and as a grants specialist for the U.S. Department of State, overseeing international programming in the Middle East and North Africa.

Elizabeth graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs. She earned her Master's degree in International Affairs from Penn State University.

Liz Hartman at
lhartman@vetlawyers.com
252-497-7255

www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/AL



**The Camp Lejeune Justice Act
Evaluating and Understanding the
benefits with answers to
Frequently Asked Questions**



B&M BERGMANN & MOORE, LLC

A national law firm managed by former VA attorneys serving The American Legion and its members with Education, Training and Litigation since August 2017

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**The Camp Lejeune Justice Act –
ensuring you understand the "offset"**

The U.S. Government has recently confirmed the troubling news about toxins at Camp Lejeune, confirming what many have suspected for decades. The Camp Lejeune Justice Act applies to military personnel, their families, and civilians who were exposed to the toxic water supply for at least 30 days between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. Exposure to the toxic water at Camp Lejeune has caused multiple forms of cancer, neurological disorders, miscarriage, and death, among other injuries. Since the passage of the PACT Act in August, mass-tort firms all over the country have been saturating the airwaves with advertising offering speedy settlements with no strings attached.

The American Legion and Bergmann & Moore have worked together for nearly six years to provide effective legal representation for veterans (at no cost) who have VA disability benefits claims pending in federal court. Since 2017, Bergmann & Moore has successfully represented over 4,500 Legionnaires and their families in their disability appeal claims.

Recently, The American Legion and B&M expanded their long-standing association to include the historic Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

Although the Camp Lejeune Justice Act potentially offers significant benefits to veterans and their families, these benefits need to be carefully evaluated by a firm that understands VA disability benefits, as the law contains an offset.

We are not a mass tort firm. We are VA disability benefits attorneys who have represented Veterans, widows, and families for 19 years. In addition to litigation, we also provide national training for The American Legion's Veteran Service Officers. Bergmann & Moore is managed by former VA attorneys who know the VA disability system well and have achieved success in federal court for over 12,000 Veterans and their families related to VA disability benefits.

Bergmann & Moore is working with The American Legion to ensure Veterans and their families understand the offset and will work to ensure a CLJA benefit is not accepted before the claimant understands whether (and to what degree) VA disability benefits or care may be affected.



**Frequently asked questions about
Bergmann & Moore and the service project:**

Q: Is Bergmann and Moore accredited by VA?

A: Yes. Bergmann and Moore is managed by former VA attorneys who are accredited by VA.

Q: Will VA benefits I have received reduce an award under the Camp Lejeune Act?

A: The language of the CLJA indicates that there will be some sort of offset. It's unclear at this time what that offset will be, however. It appears very likely that an award received under the CLJA will be reduced by the amount of VA disability benefits received pursuant to presumptions of in-service chemical exposure at Camp Lejeune. The extent to which this will happen is unknown, however.

Q: Will an award made under the Camp Lejeune Act reduce my monthly VA benefits payments?

A: The short answer is that no one knows right now. This is our greatest worry, however – in fact it's why Bergmann & Moore decided we had to be involved in this litigation.

Q: What will Bergmann & Moore do to help prevent my VA and other benefits from being reduced by an award made under the Camp Lejeune Act?

A: Although the offset rules aren't even known yet, we're already working with a national firm to create an algorithm to give our clients notice about potential reductions in other benefits they receive. We will also use our experience in VA disability benefits law (we have been devoted to representing Veterans and their families for over 20 years) to make sure our clients know of any risks to their current or future VA disability benefits that could occur.

Q: Can I file a VA claim and a (CLJA) tort case?

A: Yes. Bergmann & Moore encourages veterans to file both. To file a VA claim please reach out to your American Legion representative.