

American Veterans Memorial POST #412

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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>
MAY 9	Post Executive Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Culver's Lake Nona
MAY 16	*Post General Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Virtual via Zoom
MAY 20	Chapter 412 Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Panera Bread Lake Nona
	AL Post 10 Armed Forces Day	12:00 p.m.	Post 10, Kissimmee
MAY 23	Unit 412 General Meeting	7:00 p.m.	TBD
MAY 27	6 th District Constitutional Convention	10:00 a.m.	Post 35, Mount Dora

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

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

In March I introduced you to the 4 Pillars that guide everything we do here at Post 412. Last month, I brought you Pillar 2: National Security. Now let's look at Pillar 3: Americanism.

Pillar 3: Americanism

The nation's cultural, moral, and patriotic values have been under attack for decades, a disheartening trend that continues today. Prayer has been removed from schools. The U.S. Flag is no longer protected from desecration. The Boy Scouts of America have faced serious legal challenges in some communities they serve. Immigration laws are defied. References to God on U.S. currency, in the Pledge of Allegiance and on public monuments have been challenged by a minority of voices whose vision for America is far different than that of our founding fathers.

The American Legion is an organization dedicated to God and country, with a membership of military veterans who take deep pride in the U.S. Flag and all that it means. Since its inception nearly 100 years ago, the Legion has been a stalwart champion of patriotic values, morals, culture and citizenship. The Legion's pillar of Americanism embodies its devotion to law and

order, the raising of wholesome youth, an educated and law-abiding citizenship, and respectful observance of patriotic holidays and remembrances . The American Legion's priorities for Americanism are:

U.S. Flag protocol

The American Legion educates youths on U.S. Flag etiquette to build patriotism and create respect for the flag. The Legion provides education materials that cover a range of topics such as the proper ways to fold, display and dispose of U.S. Flags.

U.S. Flag Protection

The U.S. Constitution should be amended to add the following: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." The Legion joins all of the states and an overwhelming majority of citizens in declaring that the American flag deserves legal protection from acts of public and intentional acts of physical desecration. In 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court declared flag desecration to be a "right" protected by the First Amendment. The Legion disagreed at the time, and now reaffirms its position that flag desecration is a form of conduct – not speech – that can and should be regulated by law.

All 50 state legislatures have petitioned Congress for a constitutional amendment that would give power to Congress to prohibit such conduct. Such an amendment has passed the House of Representatives six times but has fallen short of the two-thirds majority required to pass the Senate (despite polls showing that about 80 percent of Americans support flag protection). The end of the 111th Congress marked only the second time in more than 16 years when there was no floor vote on a flag protection amendment. As a symbol of our nation, the U.S. Flag belongs to the people, who should be given the power to protect it. The Legion's position on its protection is inviolate.

Illegal Immigration

Illegal immigration stands as one of the most serious problems facing America, with millions of illegal immigrants inside our borders, and billions of dollars spent providing them with social services, education, and jobs. The American Legion supports legal and manageable immigration. The Legion adamantly opposes illegal immigration, any kind of amnesty for those who enter America illegally, and ineffective measures to prevent illegal border crossings - particularly during a time of war against terrorism and drug trafficking.

The Legion's strategy to combat illegal immigration calls for strong border security, including physical barriers and high-tech surveillance methods; the elimination of economic and social-service benefits for illegal immigrants; employer sanctions against those who knowingly hire illegal immigrants; and the enforcement of existing immigration laws. The Legion also supports new laws that deny drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants, establish parameters for deporting non-criminals, and the designation of English as the official language of the United States.

The Legion's position on immigration seeks to eliminate the visa lottery program, create new visa categories for agricultural workers (to replace those working illegally), and authorize the tracking of foreign visitors, including college students, members of the media and the diplomatic corps.

Voter Registration and Participation

The American Legion connects good government with active citizen participation in the electoral process. American Legion posts throughout the country offer their services and facilities to enable voter registration

and promote turnout at the polls. Posts also provide facilities and opportunities for nonpartisan voter-education forums and debates.

It is important to note that, under provisions of its federal charter, the Legion is prohibited from supporting, opposing, or providing aid to any political party, or any candidate for public office.

Boy Scouts of America

The American Legion vigorously opposes attempts to strip the Boy Scouts of public support, sponsorship and facility space, due to the organization's membership or leadership criteria. The Scouts teach important skills, build character, and provide a healthy and wholesome outlet for young Americans. The organization should not be punished or persecuted for using the term "God" in its oath, or for setting leadership restrictions based on a moral code that the majority of Americans endorse.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by students and teachers in our nation's schools should be a regular part of school activities and events. In support of keeping "under God" in the Pledge, The American Legion affirms that pledging allegiance to the U.S. Flag is the voluntary offering of a patriotic oath to the nation; no one should be denied this opportunity. The removal of these words will set a precedent that questions the propriety of numerous references to a supreme being in historical documents, on currency, and on many government buildings (including the U.S. Supreme Court).

Establishment Clause Lawsuits

The American Legion is dedicated to combating the secular cleansing of our American heritage, performed through lawsuits that attack the Boy Scouts, the public display of the Ten Commandments and other symbols of America's religious history. The authority given by Congress to the courts to impose damages, or attorney fees, in establishment-clause cases is being used by legal activists to compel municipalities, state and federal agencies, and private groups to cast off all religious association.

Often, these proceedings are based on the pursuit of tax-funded attorney fees. The Legion supports legislation to

expressly preclude courts from awarding attorney fees in lawsuits brought to remove or destroy religious symbols.

The Americanism Commission

The American Legion's Americanism Commission is home to numerous programs that provide and foster healthy, wholesome, and educational opportunities for young people, including:

American Legion Baseball

Boys Nation and Boys State

The National High School Oratorical Competition

Junior Law Cadet

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund (for children of servicemembers who have died on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001)

Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship

The "Need a Lift?" college financial aid guide

Flag education

School Medal Awards

Legion Connects Youth to Community, State and Nation
Youth activity programs of The American Legion are designed to stimulate physical, mental and moral growth; cultivate strong character and wholesome ideals with appreciation for our heritage of freedom; and develop a devotion to civic responsibility. Among the Legion's programs for youth are:

High School Oratorical

Students participating in The American Legion's High School Oratorical Scholarship Program gain a deeper knowledge of constitutional principles as they prepare and deliver orations based on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with emphasis upon a citizen's duties and obligations to government. Alumni of this Legion program include television news anchor Lou Dobbs and talk-show host Alan Keyes, a former presidential candidate who was the Legion's national oratorical champion and - in the same year - president of the Legion's Boys Nation.

Junior Law Cadet

American Legion Junior Law Cadet is a participative law enforcement vocational learning program that exposes high school students to realistic and demanding training, patterned after authentic recruit training.

Boys State and Boys Nation.

Thousands of young men learn the function and powers of government through American Legion Boys State, as they set up and operate their own "governments," fashioned after municipal, county and state structures. Boys State alumni include state legislators, governors, members of Congress, a former vice president and president of the United States, and an associate justice currently sitting on the U.S. Supreme Court. An extension of the Boys State experience is The American Legion Boys Nation.

Two outstanding delegates from each Boys State program are selected to represent their state at American Legion Boys Nation, where the young men establish a Boys Nation Senate based upon rules of the U.S. Senate.

Several departments of The American Legion also sponsor County Government Days. For 68 years, the Legion in Nebraska has sponsored such a day across the state, helping high school juniors observe firsthand the workings of local government. Approximately 5,000 students from more than 60 counties participate each year. A partnership with the U.S. Army National Guard in Nebraska helps the Legion cover costs. The American Legion in Kansas sponsors a County Government Day program similar to Boys State, except the government students in each participating high school file for office, campaign and vote in a primary and general election within their school. Students have the opportunity to visit their local courthouse and spend a day learning about duties and responsibilities of county officials. Speakers are heard, and a mock trial is usually observed. The program enjoys cooperation from school and county officials.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship

After researching dozens of veterans organizations, Samsung Group, a worldwide leader in electronics, chose The American Legion in 1995 to administer an endowed scholarship fund of \$5 million. The endowment was established to show appreciation to U.S. veterans who came to the aid of South Korea during its struggle against Communist forces in the Korean War. The scholarship is for undergraduate study only and may be used for tuition, books, fees, and room and board. Seven to 10 students are chosen each year for the 20,000 scholarships, which are awarded to direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans.

Junior Shooting Sports

The American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Program provides gun safety and marksmanship training for young people. It is recognized as one of the premier programs in the country, with one of its alumni - Launi Meili - becoming the 1992 Olympic Gold Medalist in Women's Shooting.

American Legion Baseball

Each year, nearly 90,000 athletes participate in American Legion Baseball, the nation's oldest and most-respected amateur baseball program. Legion posts sponsor teams in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, giving young men wholesome, healthy activity and lessons in sportsmanship, loyalty, respect for rules and fair play. Many of the greatest names in the sport spent their teenage summers in American Legion Baseball uniforms. Hall of Famers such as Dave Winfield, Rollie Fingers, Reggie Jackson and Yogi Berra still speak of the influence Legion ball has had on their lives and careers. To date, 59 major league players and one umpire who played Legion ball have been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. Berra, the legendary New York Yankees catcher, also served as a gunner's mate in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Although Berra played on teams with Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, Roger Maris and other legendary players, he said, "The most fun I ever had playing baseball was when I played American Legion Baseball."

For God and Country.

William A. Musto

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 83 members paid up for the membership year 2023. This is 72% of our goal from National.

Post 412 would like to welcome the following Transfer members to the Post:

James Axelson, an Air Force Veteran.

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%
Nov 2	74/42	65%/36.5%
Dec 7	86/45	75%/39.1%
Jan 11	92/60	80%/52%
Feb 8	97/75	85%/65%
Mar 8	103/75	90%/65%
Apr 12	109/80	95%/69%
May 10	115/83	100%/72%
May 31	116/	100%+1/

All members need to sign up for a mylegion account by going to

<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Register-Customer>

and filling 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 up soon.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT POST 412

Post Officer Elections for 2023-2024

Congratulations to the Post Officers selected for the 2023-2024 Legion Year. All current Officers are retaining their positions per the motion at April's General Meeting.

Culver's Fundraiser



The next Dining Fundraiser at Culver's in Lake Nona will be on July 11, 2023, from 5-8 pm. These fundraiser events will take place Quarterly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Upcoming dates are: 07/11/23 and 10/10/23. Please come out and support your post building fund. You must mention POST412 when you order. See attached flyer.

Department Annual Convention



The Department will be hosting its 104th statewide convention June 15-18, 2023, at the Hilton Orlando in Lake Buena Vista, 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Approximately 3,000 American Legion members will be in attendance to include spouses and family members. There is something for everyone to be enjoyed at this large event, from vendors, banquets, activities, classes and more. This is a great time for posts to gather and exchange ideas and reunite as a family.

The Department convention also conducts its annual business during this event, electing new leadership, celebrating successes, and recognizing outstanding individuals and posts.

Please review this year's tentative convention agenda to see all the exciting events planned and unique learning opportunities offered by going to <https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/department-convention/welcome/>

National Convention



The 104th National Convention will take place in Charlotte, NC, August 25 - 31, 2023.

The American Legion's largest annual meeting is the national convention. Each of the Legion's 55 departments – the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and Philippines – is entitled to a minimum of five voting delegates to the national convention. A department is granted one extra delegate, a member in good standing, for each 1,000 members (or major fraction thereof) 30 days before the convention. The five annually elected vice commanders round out the group of delegates present. The national convention delegates alone have the authority to approve changes to the Legion's constitution and bylaws. The group is also responsible for passing programs that determine the course of the Legion, setting membership dues for the upcoming year, and electing a national commander and five national vice commanders to serve until the next convention.

Department Fall Conference



Please join us for Fall Conference November 17-19, 2023, at the Caribe Royale Orlando, 8101 World Center Drive Orlando, Florida 32821

Fall Conferences are a great experience for first time attendees as well as seasoned officers. It is the Department's goal to make Conference a successful and enjoyable experience for all. Fall conference has been designed to serve as an all-inclusive training opportunity through dynamic lecture series and distinguished guest speakers.

Each year the Fall Conference is geared toward the needs of our members and officers. We look forward to your participation and insight into making each aspect of conference a value for you and the members of local posts you are representing.

6th District Constitutional Convention



The Department of Florida 6th District will be holding it's Constitutional Convention on May 27th at Post 35 in Mount Dora. The meeting will begin at 1000 hrs. We will be selecting a new District Commander and Vice

Commanders for the 2023-2024 Legion Year. Any member in good standing is welcome to attend. Post 412 has two votes this year.

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. She has gotten authorization from Orlando Parks and Recreation to place a box at Veteran's Park in Lake Nona. 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.

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.

UNIT AND CHAPTER NEWS



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 412 will holding its monthly meeting on May 23rd. 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.

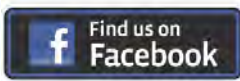


American Legion Riders Chapter 412 will be having a meeting on Saturday, May 20th. 9 a.m. at Panera Bread on Narcoossee Rd. in Lake Nona. We will be discussing rider's business at this important meeting. Please plan to attend. We will be riding over to Post 10 for their Armed Forces Day Celebration.

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

None for April.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- May 6 – John Nevarez
- May 9 – Carroll Beckett
- May 12 – Jimmie Martin
- Reinaldo Rodriguez

- May 17 – Jose Feliciano
- May 21 – Rafael Quijano
- Darwin Rivera

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

<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>Paul Oettinger</i>	<i>Executive Committee</i>
<i>Open</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.

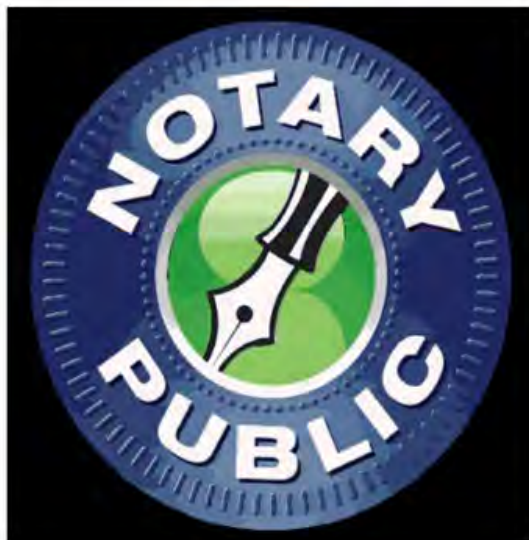
If you have anything you want posted in this newsletter, please let the Commander know by the 15th of the month. The Post Newsletter is published the last week of each month and distributed through email, posted to the MyLegion page for

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.



Free Notary Services to any Veteran.



First, Contact Bill Musto @ 407-325-2205 or by email at billmusto@msn.com to set up an appointment.

Second, Bring your papers to be notarized, your ID, and any witnesses you may need to the agreed upon location.

Third, Service is free to ANY veteran.

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
July 11, 2023 5pm-8pm

Come on in to your local Culver's restaurant:

Culver's of Lake Nona
11976 Narcoossee Rd, Orlando, FL, 34769
(407) 420-7140

Culver's

CULVERS.COM
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Limited time offer. Subject to Culver's Restaurant, LLC

PROJECT: VETRELIEF

A PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

- ★ **Veteran, Active Duty Military, or Immediate Family Member** (spouse, legal guardian, or child)
- ★ **Accepted Type of Discharge:** Honorable or General Under Honorable Conditions
- ★ **Must be a Florida Resident for 120 days**
- ★ **Show sustainability** - must have worked within the last 90 days, have some other source of income, or have excellent prospects of a job within 30 days
- ★ **Provided for necessities** - shelter, food, utilities, and some emergency transportation and/or critical medical expenses within the family
- ★ **Application / Interview does NOT guarantee funding**
- ★ **Awarded on a case by case basis**
- ★ **Funded one time annually**

For more information on PROJECT: VetRelief:
WWW.PROJECTVETRELIEF.ORG

AMERICAN LEGION POST 10 CHAPTER 10 RIDERS / RIDE IN

205 LAKEVIEW DR, KISSIMMEE FL 34741

Saturday, May 20
10am-4pm

Live Music
ARMED FORCES DAY
Food
Vendors & Raffles
Static Display

DISTRICT 6 RIDE

SATURDAY, 6 MAY

Register 9am
KSU 10am
\$15 Fee Includes Patch

The Plan:
Starting Post 242 (D6)
Stop: Post 359 (D12)
Stop: Post 22 (D12)
Stop: Post 117 (D12)
Ending Post 10 (D6)

\$15 Registration