

# The Charles E. Murray American Legion Post 186



# Newsletter

September and October 2011

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Office Phone 352-597-9524

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## COMMANDER

**Frank Babicz**

[americanleg186@bellsouth.net](mailto:americanleg186@bellsouth.net)

**352-596-1015**

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and football season has started ! It used to be that summer was a slow period at Post 186 and, in terms of customers, that trend continued this year. As always, we look forward to our snow birds starting to return to the roost. The only difference this year was that there was plenty of activity outside the post and it's not over yet. Phase One of the foundation repair work was completed. However, due to the increment rainy weather, the job took a little longer than expected. We are sorry for any parking issues as a result of the work. Our contractor commented that our members were very understanding and adjusted to the daily changes he made during the work. His staff enjoyed our hospitality and loved our lunch specials.

The weather conditions also affected the start of the roof repair work as that contractor wanted drier conditions to work on the "flat" surface. As of this writing, we are meeting to discuss a new schedule of events. I ask you to check your emails and postings on the bulletin board as to up to date information. We are still planning to do our best to work around any scheduled events at the Post!

My goal this year is to try to get back to the

basics of helping Veterans or their families. Keep this in mind when thinking of the upcoming holidays and what your Post can do for our veterans. If you have any idea, please contact me or Bruce Carl. It seems the newer ideas do well at the Post, an example, Rays Bus Trips and Amateur Night.

Please watch for announcements concerning the return of the Friday Fish Fry !

For God and Country,  
Frank Babicz

## FIRST VICE COMMANDER

**Troy Cox**

[troycox@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:troycox@tampabay.rr.com)

**352-596-1567**

We are currently at 42 percent or 550 members that have renewed. Keep them coming we appreciate that. There are four ways to pay: Online at National, Credit card, Mail in or Cash at the Post. If you have any questions we are at the Post week days at 2:30 p.m. except Friday when we are there at 1p.m. We currently have 1341 members on our roster and they break down like this. 431 Army, 4 Coast Guard, 95 Marines, 251 Navy, 200 Air force, and 1 Merchant Marine. There are 537 that did not list a Branch of Service. There are 20 with over 50 years in the American Legion, 297 WW11 vets, 375 Korean vets, and 650 Vietnam vets. My last notable new member is Felex Giacomo who is 89 was in the Marines and fought at Guadalcanal.

From time to time I will be passing on some informative data from our data base. One quick notice if you have your 2012 card and get a notice from National saying you owe for 2012 please disregard it.

For God and Country,  
Troy Cox

**POST CHAPLAIN**

**Charles Haig**  
[haigie@aol.com](mailto:haigie@aol.com)  
352-597-1210  
Cell 352-610-2051

**Deceased**

Today has been a sad one we buried one of our own, Sears Merritt at Bushnell. Many thanks to Conrad Vachon, and Charles Teaters for assisting me with this service. Other passing's are Frank Oshinsky, James Williams and Kenny Schroeder.

**Sickcall**

We are having our share of Medical problems. Jimmy Schultz is now at home resting, I Hope. Gordon Watts is at Hartland, and Ernie Fischer is at Heron Point. Ernie is doing very well, he has lost a lot of weight and looks great. Ernest Koche, Hospice at home, we visited him and he is in good spirits, and he said to say hi to all at Post 186. and his wife also, they are a very lovely couple. His wife's name is Cookie.

There is much more to write but I will close for this time. Lets all say a prayer for all of our sick and bereaved members. Thank you and God love you all,

For God and Country,  
Chaplain Charlie Haig

**SECOND VICE COMMANDER**

**Bruce Carl**  
[bruce1955@yahoo.com](mailto:bruce1955@yahoo.com)  
352-666-5496

Only one month of summer left, that means the temperatures will soon be cooling down. It will still remain hot here at the Legion though. Karaoke will continue, and the regular entertainment will be back in full

swing, starting in September. You will need to watch the bulletin boards and the newsletter, as there is a change to the schedule this year. During the past year, karaoke was on Friday night and bands on Saturday. This year there will be alternating nights, with bands on Saturday nights that have a dinner and karaoke on Friday. If there is no Saturday dinner, karaoke will be on Saturday and a band on Friday. I am bringing back our most popular bands, as well as some new ones. Come on down and sing or dance, or just enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie. The dinner prices can't be beat, and you get a generous portion.

Due to the inability to find a good band, I am sad to say there will be no formal New Year's Eve party this year. Unfortunately, trying to book a good band 6 months ahead of time is not feasible. Most of them are booked a year ahead of time, and some are booked for 4-5 years at the same place. On a brighter note, I am starting to look into a band for next New Year's Eve. I wanted to make sure everyone knew this ahead of time, so you can make plans for this upcoming New Years. We are still looking at various options for this year. Any ideas, give me call !

Our recent amateur night was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated, and all those who came out to enjoy the fun. The post was full and a great many laughs were had by all. I will definitely make sure to have another one, as that was the general consensus when I questioned the audience.

Please make sure you take advantage of all the resources available to keep up with the current events going on here at the post. I do have a few ideas in the works, and they may be added after this newsletter is printed. There are times when things change, so check the bulletin boards and the Commander's E-mail for any updates or changes. As always, I am here to serve you, the members.

If you have any complaints, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to E-mail or call me, or talk to me at the post. I am always open to ideas on how to get more people to come out and enjoy the fellowship here.

For God and Country,  
Bruce Carl

## FISH FRY

To all the participants of the Legion's 3rd Week of the month fish fry: I would like to thank anyone who participated with us on the 3rd week of every month for the last 6 years. Without your help, it would not have been the success it was. I especially would like to thank my regulars : Al Egeler, Ron Durham, Norman Jefferies, Bob Conaway, and Pat Magee. Also, I would like to thank Betty Corbin and Gloria Murray for volunteering to take the orders for our fish fry and also to Bill and Paula Molnar for all their help.

Thank you to all of you who have supported us each month. Please continue to support the fish fry when it returns in the fall !

Gary Dewey and Crew



### COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

**Jimmy Schultz**  
[jschultz6@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jschultz6@tampabay.rr.com)  
352-686-0454

Here's hoping that you are all having a good summer despite the showers and the crazy heat we are experiencing. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the Color Guard was honored to lead the parade in High-Point and subsequently present the colors outside the Club House, The rest of the month as well as August has been slow and we look towards September and on for ceremonies to increase.

To date we have the following ceremonies scheduled for the month of September:

- 09/07/11, 08:30 am, opening day for the West Hernando Athletic Club Seniors (WHACS) Softball League at Veterans Park on Spring Hill Drive.
- 09/11/11, 10:00 am, ceremony at 10:00 am, Post 186.

It is always an honor and a privilege to represent the Charles E. Murray American Legion Post 186 at these ceremonies and others that we do in the community.

Thank you for your support.

For God and Country,  
Jimmy Schultz

### VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

**Manas Miller**  
[usmcbigm1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:usmcbigm1@tampabay.rr.com)  
352-797-9523

We are changing the office hours for assistance in handling your claims. Instead of waiting in the Post for you to come in – we will now go to calling for an appointment. That way, I will be better able to serve you at a time you are available ! Please contact me at 352-797-9523. I will come to the Post to assist you in any way I can.

Did you know ?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has recently acknowledged that service connection for hearing loss is NOT predicated on the service member having a significant hearing loss upon separating from the military. The VA concedes that hearing loss, which develops long after service, may have been caused by acoustic nerve trauma experienced while performing specific duties in the military. The VA requires 3 items: 1 – Documented significant hearing loss from audiologist, 2 – Statement from veteran concerning their job in military and how it produced the trauma (combat, artillery, submariner etc) and 3 – Statement from ENT doctor which supports claim. If you feel you qualify, or have questions, contact me and I will assist you!

For God and Country  
Manas Miller

**Canteen News**  
**Canteen Manager**  
**Anna Pellegrini**  
**(352)597-9995**

[canteen186@bellsouth.net](mailto:canteen186@bellsouth.net)

Well time flies, it's August already. It won't be long now and we will be back into fall and our snowbirds will be flying back for the season!

We are busy planning our programs for the year – so please watch the calendars for upcoming events! In July we took a bus to the Rays game it was “American Legion Day with the Rays” and this year they played my home team “RED SOX”-and of course we won!!!! FUN was had by all- I would like to take this time to thank my many helpers- John Rak, Steve Small, Gail Cleaves, Joanne (our Bartender on board), Quak for all his peanuts and all our members and guest who went!

I will start the Casino Bus trips again in August- August trip is booked for Aug. 17, 2011 –the Cost is \$15.00 per person, you will receive \$25.00 in free play, a \$5.00 meal voucher at casino and transportation. Tickets are available at the Canteen.

For God and Country,  
Anna Pellegrini



**ALR**  
**Director**  
**Steve Tyler**  
**potwarp@hotmail.com**

Greetings all! This may actually be one of my shortest newsletters to date. With the hot and rainy weather and many members traveling over the summer months we have not had many organized rides, but hopefully as fall and better weather approach that will change.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> we held our annual membership drive pizza party. The event was well attended and many members renewed their membership.

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, along with the other Post

officers, our newly elected officers were sworn in at the formal installation ceremony. This was a wonderful event to be a part of, and the buffet after was superb. The cake was especially beautiful, decorated with the emblems of the Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, and ALR. Oh, it was pretty tasty too!

On Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, Steve Small, Anne Pellegrini, and myself attended the Department of Florida Annual Convention at the Caribe Royal resort in Orlando (a very nice locale if you are visiting the area). In addition to attending the general session, we joined other Florida ALR chapters for a special meeting. We received updates on Riders activities at the state and national level.

I am proud to share the following information with you. The ALR is the fastest growing organization within the American Legion, and we are doing great things. Here are some facts: The riders were founded in Garden City Michigan in 1993. Since that time we have grown to 1000 chapters with 106,000 members nationally. The Riders participate in many events at the local, state, and national level, including Rolling Thunder in Washington, D.C. The riders raise money for VA hospitals, women, children, and youth centers, and numerous local charities. A post in Kansas founded the Patriot Guard Riders; well know for attending the funerals of fallen soldiers to protect grieving family members from the actions of protesters.

One of the Rider's biggest events is the Annual Legacy Run. Thousands of members ride from National Headquarters in Indianapolis to the annual convention city, this year in Minneapolis. The riders present donations at the convention to the Legacy Scholarship fund. To date, we have raised over two million dollars for this fund that provides scholarships for the children of service members who have died since 09/11.

At the state level, we have 74 chapters with 3256 members. Last year we rode 787,000 miles, served over 80,000 volunteer hours, and donated \$340,000 to 30 different organizations and programs.

I wanted to give you this information to show you that like our brothers and sisters in the SAL and Auxiliary, we are here to do good works in support of the Legion and its many programs. We aren't just a bunch of guys and gals who ride motorcycles and wear funny vests with lots of patches and pins. We are your fellow members and are here to support our Post and all its works. As a pin on my vest says: "Serving and Riding".

If you haven't noticed, our new shelter has been installed in the "Hog Pen". This permanent aluminum structure should provide protection from the elements for years to come. We are in the process of repairing the picnic tables, and adding some shelves to the vertical supports for use as a place to set your drink or rest your elbows. We hope all the legion members will take advantage and enjoy the full use of the shelter for meetings, cookouts, or just getting some fresh air.

As always, I invite you to join us if you ride, and if you don't, hop on for a spin if you'd like to experience the joy of two-wheel travel. Please watch out for motorcycles whenever and wherever you travel. See you at the Post!

For God and Country,  
Steve Tyler



SAL  
COMMANDER  
Keith Hines

In order to better align our meeting time with the other units at the Post, the SAL will meet at 7 p.m. every third Thursday of the month. I am looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Coming up on Labor Day, September 5th is our SAL Annual Pig Roast between 1 and 3 p.m. For a mere \$8.00 donation you will receive a complete pig roast dinner with all the

trimmings. In addition, THE SHOE will be providing entertainment from 2 to 5 p.m.

For God and Country,  
Keith Hines



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
Claudia Fischer  
352-686-9247  
[ceejay523f@yahoo.com](mailto:ceejay523f@yahoo.com)

The coming months will be very busy for the Auxiliary. Our Girls State Program will be honoring our attendees on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the annual Boys and Girls State Dinner.

Save the Dates: Auxiliary meetings-Sept. 8 and Oct. 13-7:00 p.m.  
Aux. Dinner-Wed.-Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>- Pot Luck  
15<sup>th</sup> District Meeting-Sept. 10, 2011 at Post 152  
15<sup>th</sup> District Workshop-Sept. 17, 2011 at Post 248.

For God and Country,  
Claudia Fischer

AUXILIARY FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
FIRST VICE & MEMBERSHIP  
Margaret Hernandez  
(H): 688-0818 (C): 650-6036

Dear fellow members, I have the 2012 membership cards, and when you receive your renewal notice, please mail your renewal to me at the Post or leave it at the canteen. I will be at the Post every Tuesday from 1-5 p.m.

For God and Country,  
Margaret Hernandez



**Auxiliary Chaplain  
Cheryle LeBaron  
352-200-9597**

If you know of anyone who is ill, please call, me.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love and forgiveness. Thank You for our young people, our families, our jobs and our service men and women. We ask that You guide our young people, as they are our future leaders. Please be with our service men and women and keep them in Your care. We ask that You be with our service men and women who have returned home and help them as they try to put their lives back to normal. In your name we pray. Amen

Deceased: No one Thank God.

For God and Country,  
Cheryle LeBaron

**Auxiliary VA & R  
Joanne Holobinka, Chairm  
[JHolobinka@aim.com](mailto:JHolobinka@aim.com)  
352-686-0364**

VA & R's focus this year is infirm veterans in Hernando County. We are planning on visiting veterans in Assisted Living Facilities, homes and Nursing Homes to thank them for their service in proximity of their birthdays. There are ways you can assist even if you do not drive, go out at night or visit nursing homes. If you are able to donate 1/2 hour or more a month ( 1 month or more) - in your home-on your schedule, you can be an active part of this endeavor.

There is an envelope on the Auxiliary Bulletin Board in the Post marked VA & R Request Slips. There are blank slips to be filled out by you, if you think someone would like a visit (Information needed is also on the envelope in case all the slips have been taken). We are hoping not to miss anyone, especially in ALF's and Nursing Homes. After you complete the slip, just turn it into the canteen.

In October, there will be a luncheon and White Elephant Sale on the 27th from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. Fran Finlay has graciously accepted the challenge of chairing this function.

For tickets and information on this event, she can be contacted at 352-686-1820.

With the ongoing process of collecting names and visits started, we are looking forward to Veterans Day. On Veterans Day during the annual post picnic we will be having a silent/basket auction. Directly following the picnic, the auction will commence. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions and want to be part of this enlightening experience, I look forward to hearing from you.

For God and Country  
Joanne

### **FISH FRY SURVEY**

**How often do you attend the fish fry ? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do you find our prices reasonable? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do you find our menu complete? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Is the appearance/presentation of the food acceptable? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Is speed of service an important criteria for coming to Fish Fry? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Is there a great difference in the food week to week? \_\_\_\_\_**

**What changes would you like to see us make or are you happy with the way things are ? \_\_\_\_\_**

**PLEASE MAIL OR RETURN  
THIS TO THE CANTEEN  
Thank You - Commander**

# September

2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Reduced drink prices all day SUNDAY & All NFL Games				1 Legion Meeting 7 PM	2 Nikki Moore Band 7 PM	3 Karaoke Mr. Lynn 7-11 PM
Steak Shoot every Saturday at 1 PM						
Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> -- Auxiliary Basket of Cheer Drawing						
4 Wings 12-4	5 LABOR DAY SAL PIG ROAST 1-3 PM The Shoe 2- 5 PM	6 Lounge Games 6 PM Kitchen Open 4-6 PM	7 Karaoke Shoe 7 PM  Darts 8 PM	8 Auxiliary Meeting 7 PM	9 Karaoke Shoe 7-11 PM	10 WAC 10 AM POW-MIA Ceremony 5 PM Dinner 6 PM MGL 7 PM
11 9-11 Ceremony 10 AM	12 Pool 8 PM	13 Lounge Games 6 PM Kitchen Open 4-6 PM	14 Aux Dinner 6 PM Karaoke Shoe 7PM	15 SAL Meeting 7:30 PM	16 Bill Castner 7 PM	17 Karaoke Shoe 7-11PM
18 Abate 10 AM  Wings 12-4	19 Pool 8 PM	20 Lounge Games 6 PM Kitchen Open 4-6 PM	21 Karaoke Shoe 7 PM  Darts 8 PM	22 AL Riders Meeting 7 PM	23 Karaoke Mr. Lynn 7-11 PM	24 Boys & Girls State Ceremony 5 PM Dinner 6 PM The Keynotes 7 PM
25 Wings 12-4	26 Pool 8 PM	27 Lounge Games 6 PM Kitchen Open 4-6 PM	28 Karaoke Shoe 7 PM Darts 8 PM	29	30 Blues & Co. 7 PM	
<b>SAL PIG ROAST LABOR DAY, MON SEP 5TH 1 TO 3 PM DONATION \$8.00</b> <b>SAT, SEP 10 AUXILIARY POW-MIA Ceremony 5 PM Dinner 6 PM</b> <b>SAT SEP 24TH BOYS &amp; GIRLS STATE CEREMONY &amp; DINNER 5 &amp; 6 PM</b>						

# October

2011

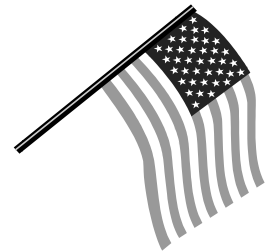
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Reduced drink prices all day Sunday &amp; ALL NFL Games</b> <b>AUXILIARY WEDNESDAY DINNERS WED SEP 14TH &amp; OCT 19 AT 6 PM</b> <b>THE SHOE AT 7 PM</b> <b>Steak Shoot every Saturday at 1 PM</b>						1 Karaoke Mr. Lynn 7-11 PM
2 Wings 12-4	3 Pool 8 PM	4 Lounge Games 6 PM Kitchen Open 4-6 PM	5 Karaoke Shoe 7-11PM  Darts 8 PM	6 Legion Meeting 7 PM	7 Fish Fry 5-7 PM Karaoke Shoe 7-11 PM	8 WAC 10 AM ALR Dinner 6 PM Bill "E" 7 PM
9 Wings 12-4	10 Pool 8 PM	11 Lounge Games 6 PM Kitchen Open 4-6 PM	12 Karaoke Shoe 7-11 PM  Darts 8 PM	13 Auxiliary Meeting 7 PM	14 Fish Fry 5-7 PM The Dukes 7 PM	15 Karaoke Shoe 7-11 PM
16 Abate 10 AM  Wings 12-4	17 Pool 8 PM	18 Lounge Games 6 PM Kitchen Open 4-6 PM	19 AUX Dinner 6 PM Karaoke Shoe 7-11 PM	20 SAL Meeting 7:30 PM	21 Fish Fry 5-7 PM  Bendy's	22 Karaoke Mr. Lynn 7-11 PM
23 Wings 12-4	24 Pool 8 PM	25 Lounge Games 6 PM Kitchen Open 4-6 PM	26 Karaoke Shoe 7-11 PM  Darts 8 PM	27 AL Riders 7 PM	28 Fish Fry 5-7 PM Karaoke Shoe 7-11	29 AUX Halloween Party 6 PM The Belairs 7 PM
30 Wings 12-4	31 Pool 8 PM	<b>SAT OCT 8TH ALR DINNER 6 PM &amp; BILL "E" 7 PM</b>  <b>SAT OCT 29 AUX HALLOWEEN PARTY 6 PM</b> <b>THE BELAIRS 7 PM</b>				

The Charles E. Murray  
American Legion Post 186  
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Non Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
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PERMIT NO. 6118  
TAMPA, FL

Mailing Address  
Street Number and Name  
City, State 98765-4321

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



- Sept. 5----Sal Pig Roast 1-3 \$8.00
- Sept. 10--POW/MIA Ceremony 5 PM Rst. Beef Dinner \$7.00 music @ 7 PM
- Sept. 11--9/11 Ceremony 10 AM
- Sept. 14--Auxiliary Pot Luck Dinner 6 PM \$5.00
- Sept. 24--Boys & Girls State Rst. Chicken Dinner 6 PM \$7.00 music @ 7 PM
- Oct. 8----ALR Chicken Marsala Dinner 6 PM \$8.00 music @ 7 PM
- Oct. 19--New Members Meat loaf Dinner 6 PM \$6.00
- Oct. 27--Aux. Luncheon and White Elephant Sale \$5.00 12 - 2 PM
- Oct. 31--Aux. Witches Brew 6 PM \$5.00 music @ 7 PM