



The News

American Legion

Post, Unit, Chapter 84

Havana, Florida



American Legion National Headquarters IRS Requirements for Non-profits

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 1, 2013

Quoting directly from the American Legion National Headquarters' website, as of August 6, 2013, "The IRS now requires American Legion posts to maintain dates of service and character of service records for all members. Please review the examination procedures for auditing veterans' organizations by visiting https://www.irs.gov/irm/part4/irm_04-076-026.html. You will have to scroll past the table of contents to reach "Veterans' Organizations 4.76.26.

The penalty for not having the required

proof of eligibility is, apparently, \$1,000 per day.

Note: References to social members do not apply to The American Legion because they are prohibited in our organization."

From Post 84

Normally, most American Legion posts ask for a copy of your DD Form 214, and while Post 84 continues that practice as well, we will assist you in redacting (using "black out" or "white out") your document. Your private information will stay just that. All we need is to verify who

you are, when you served, and that you were honorably discharged. Your document will stay under lock and key, as it must be maintained in case we are ever audited by any upper-level division of the American Legion, or the IRS.

The reason: we must maintain the roll in order to keep our charter and also our 501c3 non-profit status.

Your safety and security, as well as that of your personal information, is of utmost importance to us!

Important Dates and Meeting Reminders:

- Sep 6, Post 84 BBQ Fundraiser
- Sep 12, Riders Meeting
- Sep 19, Post and Unit Meeting

All will be held at VFW Post 3308.

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BBQ Fundraiser Happening September 6

Post 84 has secured time/space from VFW 3308, located at 2769 W. Tennessee St., for September 6, at 6:30p.m. for a pulled-pork BBQ fundraiser! With the pork, baked

beans and coleslaw will also be served. The price is \$7 per plate.

Volunteers are needed to help with this event, with pre-

work beginning on the 5th and also at the event. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Commander Jim Brennan at (850) 212-8677 or email:

al-post84@earthlink.net

Miller's Ale House Bike Night Benefits Post, Unit and Chapter



On July 30, 2013, Miller's Ale House held a "Bike Night" fundraiser for Post, Unit, and Chapter 84. In the photo, shown left, are the respective leaders...left to right: Chapter Director Roger Hays, Unit President Kathee Coughlin, and Post Commander Jim Brennan.

The photo above, Commander Brennan presents President Coughlin with a check from the event. The Chapter received matching funds. Our thanks goes-out to Miller's Ale House for their support!

Welcome New Member - Jack A. Harnett!

Jack Harnett served during the Korean War, in the Air Force and Army. He's originally from Tampa, has a wife and two children, and currently resides in Tallahassee. His family has a long history of serving our country in the military.



He was previously a member of Post 84, when it was in Quincy. The next time you see him, make sure to give him a warm "Hello!"

Thank You!

We want to thank Legionnaire Kelvin Hunter, for the donation of a new copier/printer/fax machine! You're the tops!

Simplified Robert's Rules of Order - How-to Conduct Effective Meetings

Information courtesy of UCCS.edu

· Main ideas:

- Everyone has the right to speak once if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.
- Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times.
- Only urgent matters may interrupt a speaker.
- The [members] discuss only one thing at a time.

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Auxiliary News - Notes from Pres. Coughlin

- Dues are due and notices will soon be sent from National. Pat Brennan is Unit Chair.
- Remember the Post 84 Fundraiser, pulled-pork BBQ on September 6.
- Please try to attend meetings on third Thursdays, at 7:00p.m., at the VFW so we can plan the year's activities and conduct necessary business.
- Think of something that has your heart and prepare a short presentation so we can try to make it into something we can do as a Unit. We also need several chairs to be filled, so this can do double duty for the good of the unit and our veterans.



Unit 84 President Kathee Coughlin.

For Post 84 Family News - Legislative Issues

Written by Pres. Kathee Coughlin

There are areas of concern that need our immediate attention as members of the American Legion Family. Please remember when contacting members of Congress as member of the Legion Family that we "follow the official Legion position". If your personal feelings are different, please contact them using your name and personal information, but not indicating you are a member of the ALA, TAL or SAL.



agreement weakens the country, sends the wrong message to both our friends and enemies abroad, and hurts our troops and their families. It is the responsibility of our nation's leadership to work together to end the mindless and irresponsible process of sequestration, and is unworthy of the sacrifice of our nation's men & women in uniform and their families.

1. While Congress is in recess until September, the sequester still prohibits our troops from fulfilling their mission. Over the upcoming 10 years, it would require the Pentagon to cut \$500 billion, on TOP of the previously agreed-upon reduction of \$487 billion. Without an agreement, October 1 will see the next round of cuts. President Obama has indicated he will notify Congress that his administration will again exempt military personnel accounts (pay earned by currently-serving troops) from any fiscal 2014 sequestration, just as he did this fiscal year. Nevertheless, this just means that other necessary parts of the defense budget will be placed under even more strain.

A related matter surfaced on the National Commander's visit the 69th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy on June

3. Due to budget cuts, NO U. S. Military units were sent to Normandy this year, not even a fly-over or a small honor guard to carry our flag. Please encourage Congress to make sure sufficient funding is in the 2014 budget to make sure that the U.S. is not embarrassed again!

ACTION NEEDED: Pass a budget that repeals devastating budget cuts before they devastate America's future ability to defend itself. Partisan failure to reach a budget

2. The issue of Military Sexual Assault has become a crisis. The National Executive Committee of The American Legion (TAL) passed a resolution (on May 9, 2012) to the Secretary of Defense that a survey of 34,000 troops released on April 22, 2013, indicates that about one in five women service members have been victims of unwanted sexual contact by another service member. Most of these assaults go unreported because the victims fear retaliation and/or a negative impact on their careers. Charges have been made by many that the court-martial powers have been used for corrupt purposes that protect the guilty and provide leniency when none is deserved. Therefore, the American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that will amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) to require convening authorities (or persons acting in such capacity), when taking action other than approving a sentence, to prepare a written justification of such action, which shall be made part of the court martial record; and that Congress pass legislation that will prohibit convening authorities from dismissing or setting aside a finding of guilty, or reducing a finding of guilt to a lesser offense. Furthermore, the Joint Chiefs of Staff need to dismantle any military culture that condones, tolerates or otherwise allows sexual assault among service members as an acceptable form of behavior.

ACTION NEEDED: Tell Congress members that this legislation is needed.

Simplified Robert's Rules of Order - How-to Conduct Effective Meetings

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How to do things:

1. You want to bring up a new idea before the group.

After recognition by the [president], present your motion. A second is required for the motion to go to the floor for debate, or consideration.

2. You want a motion just introduced by another person to be killed.

Without recognition from the [president] simply state "I object to consideration." This must be done before any debate. This motion requires no second, is not debatable and requires a 2/3 vote.

3. You want to change some of the wording in a motion under debate.

After recognition by the [president], move to amend by

1. adding words,
2. striking words or
3. striking and inserting words.

4. You like the idea of a motion under debate, but you need to reword it beyond simple word changes.

Move to substitute your motion for the original motion. If it is seconded, debate will continue on both motions and eventually the body will vote on which motion they prefer.

5. You want more study and/or investigation given to the idea under debate.

Move to refer to a committee. Try to be specific as to the charge to the committee.

6. You want more time personally to study the proposal under debate.

Move to postpone to a definite time or date.

7. You are tired of the current debate.

Move to limit debate to a set period of time or to a set number of speakers. Requires a 2/3 vote.

8. You have heard enough debate.

Move to close the debate. Requires a 2/3 vote.

Or move to previous question. This cuts off debate and brings the assembly to a vote on the pending question only. Requires a 2/3 vote.

9. You want to postpone a motion until some later time.

Move to table the motion. The motion may be taken from the table after 1 item of business has been conducted. If the motion is not taken from the table by the end of the next meeting, it is dead. To kill a motion at the time it is tabled requires a 2/3 vote. A majority is required to table a motion without killing it.

10. You want to take a short break.

Move to recess for a set period of time.

11. You want to end the meeting.

Move to adjourn.

12. You are unsure that the [president] has announced the results of a vote correctly.

Without being recognized, call for a "division of the house." At this point a standing vote will be taken.

13. You are confused about a procedure being used and want clarification.

Without recognition, call for "Point of Information" or "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry." The [president] will ask you to state your question and will attempt to clarify the situation.

14. You have changed your mind about something that was voted on earlier in the meeting for which you were on the winning side.

Move to reconsider. If the majority agrees, the motion comes back on the floor as though the vote had not occurred.

15. You want to change an action voted on at an earlier meeting.

Move to rescind. If previous written notice is given, a simple majority is required. If no notice is given, as 2/3 vote is required.

· You may INTERRUPT a speaker for these reasons only:

- to get information about business - **point of information**
- to get information about rules - **parliamentary inquiry**
- if you can't hear, safety reasons, comfort, etc. - **question of privilege**
- if you see a breach of the rules - **point of order**
- if you disagree with the [president's] ruling - **appeal**

· You may influence WHAT the [members] discuss:

- if you would like to discuss something - **motion**
- if you would like to change a motion under discussion - **amend**

· You may influence HOW and WHEN the [members] discuss a motion:

- if you want to limit debate on something - **limit debate**
- if you want a committee to evaluate the topic and report back - **commit**
- if you want to discuss the topic at another time - **postpone or lay it on the table**
- if you think people are ready to vote - **previous question**

Legion Rider News

Who We Are and What We Do

The American Legion Riders (ALR) is a nationally-recognized program of the American Legion. The American Legion Riders Chapter 84 is a program of Post 84, Havana.

In short, the purpose of the ALR, on a national level, is to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as a family oriented motorcycling activity for members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxil-

iary, and The Sons of The American Legion.

Furthermore, the ALR promotes motorcycle safety programs and provides a social atmosphere for members who share the same interest. We participates in parades and other ceremonies which are in keeping with the aims and purposes of The American Legion; organizes and participate in charity events helping our veterans, their families, and the local community; and use our as-

sociation to promote and support the programs of The American Legion. The membership of Chapter 84 strives to meet these tenants.



Chapter 84 Director Roger "LB" Hays.

Notes for The Riders

Written by Director Roger "LB" Hays

Our Chapter is growing. I would like to take this time to recognize out newest members: Ed & Vivian Brown, Shannon Harp, and Doug Janecek. Welcome aboard.

As the current Chapter Director I have a few goals.

I would like to see membership grow. I encourage all members to be on the lookout for qualified new members and invite them to a meeting. I would also like to increase event and meeting participation. **Remember, this is your Chapter and your input and participation can make it a success.** I would also ask the



membership to send me the details of any veteran or motorcycle events that you are aware of. I will send this info out to the membership via e-mail, bring it up at our meetings and post it on the Chapter Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/legion.havana>.

I would also like to see our presence know in the local community. I encourage members to wear ALR vest, shirts, hats, etc. when attending local events.

If someone has questions about the ALR answer them the best you can, if they want more info give them the Chapter e-mail address ALRCHATER84@EARTHLINK.NET.

Lastly, as I said before, this is your Chapter. If you have suggestions on how to make the Chapter better, or have ideas of things we can do as a group, bring those

ideas to a meeting or send them to me.

Remember, Chapter meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at VFW Post 3308, 2769 W. Tennessee St, Tallahassee.

Current Officers:
 Director: Roger "LB" Hays
 Asst. Director: Jim Brennan
 Treasurer: Vivian Brown
 Adjutant: Ray Lewis
 Sgt-At-Arms: Wayne Parmer
 Chaplin: Joe Parmer
 Ride Captain: Don Reeder
 Membership Chairman: Jim Brennan

American Legion Post 84 - Havana, FL

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[Www.americanlegionpost84.com](http://www.americanlegionpost84.com)*



Meet Your Editor

My name is Melissa Sleeman, and I've been a member of Post 84 since its inception in Havana; however, due to an old military injury, I haven't been able to participate as much as I would like.

I served in the Air Force from 1990 to 2000 and was stationed in Texas, Germany, and Nebraska. My career field was "medical administration" but my job covered more than that, as so often as it happens in the military.

My journalism profession started when I was a pre-teen and my mom worked for a local newspa-

per. She trained me to write wedding announcements. In the military, I progressed into writing newsletters for my commander.

In 2007, I enrolled at Tallahassee Community College. I served as a writer, plus as layout and design editor for the College's newspaper. I won second-in-state for in-depth reporting and layout & design. This competition was among the 26 community colleges in Florida.

If you have an item of interest or article you'd like to submit to the newsletter, please send it to:

About Us

Our Post is based on the belief that our Veterans and their family's needs are of the utmost importance to us. Our Post membership is committed to addressing those needs.

We welcome the opportunity to meet you at our monthly membership meeting which is held every 3rd Thursday, at VFW Post 3308, at 7p.m.

HISTORY

The Post was chartered in 1938, in Quincy, Florida. It was named after John H Shaw. It thrived until Sept. 2009 when the charter was turned into the Department of The American Legion of Florida. In January 2010 the Post was revived with new membership and was moved to Havana, Florida. The Post started with 10 members and a number of members from the original roster. It has since grown to 47 active members in the first 12 months and also has organized an Legion Riders Chapter 84 and the Auxiliary Unit 84.

al-post84@earthlink.net

Please include in the subject line:
NEWSLETTER.

**Deadlines for all articles/
items is the 15th of every
month.** If there are any corrections or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

