

Highlights of meetings from Oct. 7 and 14

We have had a busy few weeks leading up to last Saturday's big Honor Flight and thanks again to all who participated.

Most of the past two meetings have been detailing plans for the flight and sorting "mail call."

Here are some other highlights from recent weeks and some important dates:

NEXT FLIGHTS: April 2 and May 7.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Wednesday, Nov. 4.

MOST CRITICAL VOLUNTEER NEED: We all look forward to flight days, either going as guardians or working at the airport. But where we can all help most is spreading the word to World War II veterans. We need a good recruiting drive to fill our two spring flights. You might not know any veterans yourself, but if you enthusiastically tell enough friends about Honor Flight, soon a friend of a friend will hear about it and know a WWII veteran eager to go. Don't be shy in telling about Honor Flight. Most are respectful and eager to learn about what we all do.

IMMEDIATE VOLUNTEER NEEDS: We have been invited to participate in a few Veterans Day-related events. Please email Tom Christensen -- tchristensen720@aol.com -- if you can help:

Saturday, Oct. 24: FUNDRAISER FOR LOCAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

Time: Noon-5 p.m.

Where: Chester's Harley Davidson, 201 International Parkway, Sunrise.

Volunteers: Need two to represent Honor Flight.

Information: 954-414-4135

Tuesday, Nov. 10: NORTH BROWARD PREP SCHOOL-- Student assemblies through the day with veterans speaking about Honor Flight.

Where: North Broward Prep, 7600 Lyons Rd., just north of Hillsborough Blvd., Coconut Creek.

Time: 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Volunteers: Need 6-8 volunteers to introduce and drive veterans to/from school at various times.

Tuesday, Nov. 10: BENEFIT FOOTBALL GAME -- Wounded Warrior Amputees vs. Miami's NFL alumni. Invited players include former Dolphins Ricky Williams, Mercury Morris and Kim Bokamper.

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Where: Flanagan High School, 12800 Taft St., Pembroke Pines.

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Admission for those going as fans: \$10 for adults; free for military, students, children.

Volunteers: Three or four needed to distribute brochures and veterans registration forms at Honor Flight table. Event benefits Wounded Warriors Program.

Information: 703-923-3000

Wednesday, Nov. 11: VETERANS DAY SERVICE

Time: Arrival and setup by 10:30 p.m., service at 11 a.m., and expected to last about an hour.

Where: Fred Hunter's Hollywood Memorial Gardens, 6301 Taft St., Hollywood.

Volunteers: Karin Edelstein will be speaking on behalf of Honor Flight as part of the program. We need two or three volunteers at our table and in the crowd to distribute brochures and veterans' registration forms.

Information: 954-989-1550.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO TAKE A VETERAN TO WASHINGTON?: Treasurer Jed Wolcott reported Oct. 14 that on our three 2015 flights we took 203 veterans to see their memorials. Jed said the total costs of the flights resulted in an average expense of \$781 per veteran. The \$400 guardian fee reduces the average to \$381 per veteran that we must raise through donations and fundraisers. Fortunately, Jed said we have had a "strong year in cash flow" and will finish 2015 in good financial position for our 2016 flights. He congratulated all those involved in fundraising.

BROWARD SCHOOLS: Broward students have been our most valuable donors the past two years. Schools are beginning their fundraising again in November. If you would like to assist in presentations, please contact Mike Miskew -- mikemiskew@gmail.com.

FUTURE FUNDRAISERS: Stan Bostic announced that he is working on plans for a golf tournament and gala event in 2016.

-- Tom Christensen, volunteer coordinator