

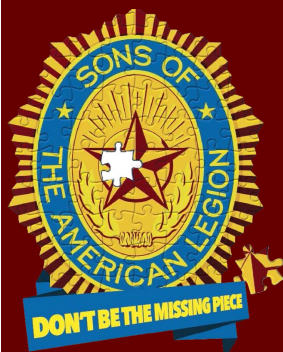
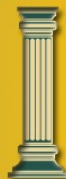
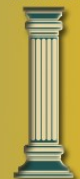


VETERANS

DEFENSE

YOUTH

AMERICANISM



The Source

WOW!

The Detachment of Florida never ceases to amaze me.

First, it was with your generosity to Special Olympics at Convention.

Now, it is your dedication and focus on Membership.

The membership puzzle is starting to take shape. Many of you are doing an amazing job. But there are a few that can do a better job of focusing on the zero squadrons.

JJ and I are not going to let up on this issue. The reason why is, it is an indicator that these squadron need assistance. Please do not hesitate to request help. John Jennings has put together a great team of experienced Sons members including Past Detachment Commander Joe Eckenrode, Past Detachment Commander Mike Dooley and Past Western Area Commander Kent Smith. They are anxious to be of assistance. Please

don't forget that Jimmy Roberts, Ed Sheubrooks and myself will always make ourselves available. Please keep those puzzle pieces coming in.

'Nuff said.

August was a month of many opportunities. August 5th, I had the privilege of installing my good friend, for many years, as Squadron Commander, Sonny Perchetti. His home Post 55 in Clermont burned a few years back. He has managed to not only keep his Squadron together but has been a big contributor to the soon to be rebuilt Post. Great job.

I was invited by Past Detachment Commander Larry Smith 2000-2002 to participate in the installation of officers at Post 64 in Okeechobee on August 8th. We had a great time renewing old friendships and making new acquaintances. Saturday, August 12th, we participated in the installation of officers at Post 242 Union Park, East Orlando. Sunday, August 13th, we

participated in the installation of officers at Post 19 Orlando. I had a great time installing my good friend, Gene Mills, again.

My wife and I had the privilege of representing the Detachment and Auxiliary Department at National Convention, as delegates.

National Convention was amazing. We witnessed the end of Jeff Frain 2016-2017 "Knowledge is Power" term and the installation of Danny Smith 2017-2018 "Following in the Footsteps". We also had the opportunity to see the installation of the first female National Commander, Denise Rohan, for The American Legion. It was great to see her veteran husband, Mike, nominate her for the

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2017-2018 Membership Target Dates:

October 12, 2017	25%	
November 16, 2017	35%	
December 14, 2017	45%	
January 18, 2018	60%	
February 15, 2018	75%	
March 15, 2018	85%	Legion Birthday—100%
April 12, 2018	90%	
May 10, 2018	100%	
June 18, 2018	18,750	Detachment Convention



The 14th Annual Fall Conference will take place on November 2-5, 2017 at the Renaissance Sea World in Orlando. The hotel is located at 6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32821. The group block will run out quickly so please make your reservations as soon as you can to avoid using an overflow hotel. The agenda for the Fall Conference is currently being worked on and will be published once it is completed. Please make your plans to attend. Hopefully, we will have our National Commander Danny Smith at the Conference.

As in the past, we will be collecting for our various Charities, so please bring your donations. This includes Florida Special Olympics, Child Welfare Foundation, NEF, and the Florida Children and Youth Fund.

The Detachment Roster will be ready by the Fall Conference to be handed out. Any not handed out to the Squadrons at the Conference will be mailed to your Squadron.

Now on to our Membership program. This year's Membership theme is "Don't Be The Missing Piece" and as of the August 24th membership report, we still have 60 "GOOSE EGG" Squadrons! This is not good and means there are many missing pieces. If we are to meet our Membership Goals, and our target of 18,750 members we must get the membership into Department Headquarters. This is something that we need to correct and do it quickly. Our goal is to be 10% by September 14, 2017. At the time of press, we are at 3538 members or 19.64%. The Western Area is leading the charge at

25.30%. The Eastern Area is close behind at 22.95%. Did you know that according to our National Constitution and By-laws that your dues are payable on or before October 20th of each year?? That is right folks your dues are due now for the next year. Remember that as the Leaders of your Squadron, your dues as an Officer should be paid by the time you were installed. If this is the case, then we would not have any "GOOSE EGG" Squadrons. It's time to add your piece to the puzzle so your squadron is not one of the missing pieces.

Until next month!!!!

James Karl Roberts III



National Convention Update



The sun was shining brightly, and the heat was rising rapidly as the Detachment of Florida arrived at the National Convention in Reno, NV. The Detachment Delegation was comprised of the following members, Detachment Commander Bernie Wildrick, Detachment Adjutant Jim Roberts, Past Detachment Commander Steve Gordon, NEC John Jennings, National Vice Commander Bill Kelly, Detachment Historian Tom Soeder, Detachment Judge Advocate Ed Sheubrooks, 4th District Commander Kevin Porterfield, and 6th District Commander Richard Duncan

On Saturday August 19th, when the National Commissions and Committees were making their reports to the National Convention floor, the Detachment of Florida received a total of two awards were presented to the Detachment. For Child Welfare, we received the award for the most monetary donations to the Child Welfare Foundation in the Southern Region. The Detachment also received the Harold Colmery Award for donating the most money to The American Legion Endowment Fund.

The National Convention concluded on Sunday, August 20th, with the election of Danny Smith, from the Detachment of Nebraska as National Commander for 2017-2018.



The newest National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion is Danny Smith. He is the first-ever S.A.L. National Commander from the Detachment of Nebraska.

Smith is a 44 year continuous member of the Sons. His eligibility is through his father, a Korean War Air Force veteran. His parents were both charter members of their respective American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit. He and his wife, Donna, have been married 42 years. Their children and grandchildren are all American Legion Family members. Danny has worked in the construction industry for over 46 years. He and his family have all served as volunteers at their nearby veterans home and he has been active in several other community organizations, as well.

The new commander hits the ground running, wanting to pull closer together with other branches of The Legion Family tree. "We're all brothers and sisters in this organization," says Smith. "I would really like to see us come together as an organization and work together with those common goals we all share. We can do it." "I've adopted The Legion's Endowment Fund and also the National Emergency Fund as my big programs this year. I know that Sons will continue to support Child Welfare. I don't believe I need to urge them to do that because everyone knows that's our premier program. I just want to take support for additional American Legion projects to the next level, to the level we have done with Child Welfare, and make more of them premier programs within the Sons, as well." "I want every member of the Sons to pause and remember that we're all privileged to be a member because someone served and sacrificed. Veterans are my passion."



We are off and running. The PIECES of the PUZZLE are going into place and some of the pieces are starting to get some color. The Detachment stands at 19.640% as of the August 24th, 2017 membership report with 15 of the 16 Districts and all the Areas above our 10% target goal. Great job by all. We have 53 Squadrons with the big ZERO ("O") and we need to focus on them before they become a problem and see what we can do to help them out. Be the salesman and explain that an earlier payment one time and then it is a yearly payment. Offer them an early bird or something that may interest their membership. We need to get out of the box and think on new ways to getting our members interested in their membership. It is not just a card. It is being a part of the greatest Veteran organization in the world that supports our Veterans, our children, and our communities. Why did they join? They joined to honor someone family member for their service to this great country. Working membership should be fun, so have some fun. I have always said "work hard, play hard", and most of all "have fun". The Detachment of Florida over the past several years has been a pace setter within the National organization and is growing and growing rapidly and it is due to all the hard work that goes on within each Squadron. We would be nothing without the "BLUE" caps and we need to always remember that it all starts "BLUE". So, let's get motivated and have some fun and continue all the great things that The Detachment of Florida does.

Commander Wildrick's theme is **"One Family Supporting the Four Pillars"**. Take some time and reflect on what the Four Pillars are and ask others the same question. You might be surprised with their answers. Also explain the membership theme of **"Don't be the Missing Piece"**. As we all know anything in life works better when all the parts or pieces are in place, so let's put all the pieces of the "PUZZLE" together and have another great year. Our success and/or failure is up to each of us, so let's get to work and support our Commander's goals. The Detachment membership 100% goal is 18,018 and our 23rd consecutive all-time high, remembering that we are nothing without our membership. I know we can do this. Commander Wildrick's membership goal is 18,750 and with all your hard work and support we can meet Commander

Wildrick's goal. **"DON'T BE THE MISSING PIECE"**.

The Membership Committee has work to complete this year. Each of the Membership Committee members have been assigned different Districts to watch and make any needed contacts to help with possible issues with our Squadrons. Below are the Committee members, they will be in contact and they will be asking questions about your Squadrons. They will be there to help. Let them help you to help us make our goals and make the Detachment of Florida the strongest it can be.

Membership Committee Members:

John Jennings - Chairman
Kent Smith
Michael Dooley
John Eckenrode

We as a Committee are going to be aggressive this year in membership and are here to support in any possible way. **DO NOT LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP BECOME AN ISSUE. BE LOOKING AND TALKING WITH YOUR SQUADRON'S AND GET IT UNDER CONTROL BEFORE IT BECOMES AN ISSUE.** As I have stated before "Any Squadron having membership issues is a clear sign that a problem or problems are going on". Stay on top of it!!!!

Area and District Commander's, get to know your Legion counterpart. Have you made that contact? They can help you. Remember that we are a program of The American Legion and they do what us to be successful in what we do. They will help you in a time of need.

Important Items:

I still have not received many names for membership chairmen for your District. If you are not or will not be appointing a chairman, let me know who your membership point of contact is so I can pass it on to the Committee members for their use. – Please email me that contact information.

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(Commander's Message, continued from page 1)

office. She then appointed him as her aide. If that wasn't enough, we had the opportunity to be in the audience for the address by a Past Secretary of Defense, the current Secretary of Veterans Affairs and a 27-minute speech by the President of the United States, Donald Trump. For those of you who are interested, the President's speech is available on You Tube.



Pictured from left to right. Tom Soeder, Detachment Historian; Bill Kelly, National Vice Commander; Ed Sheubrooks, National Asst. Adjutant; Danny Smith, newly installed Sons National Commander; John Jennings, National Executive Committeeman; Bernie Wil-drick, Detachment Commander 2017-2018; Richard Duncan, 6th District Commander; Jimmy Roberts, Past National Commander; Steve Gordon, Detachment Commander 2016-2017 and Kevin Porterfield, 4th District Commander.

In closing we as a Detachment are at 22.33%! Thank You and keep up the great work!

Update!! Detachment membership as of 9-28-2017 is at 27.98%. Great job.

Hope everyone has weathered the storm by now. It really does remind us what is really important in life. I had the privilege of joining Department of Florida Commander Steve Shuga and Department Disaster Relief Chairman Bill Hoppner on a mission to the Florida Keys to provide and unload very needed supplies for our Legion family. The reception we received was amazing.

We utilized Post 43 in Homestead as a temporary warehouse.

Then we joined up with an eighteen wheeler that was sent from the Department of Maine and proceeded to Post 154 in Marathon. After unloading about two thirds of the trailer there we then continued south to mile marker fifteen and completed unloading. It was a great opportunity to help people who were really in need.

The Department of Florida Legion Family making a difference.





Hello, Sons! It is my pleasure to once again be serving as the Detachment Public Relations Commission Chairman for the 2017-2018 service year.

At this year's Detachment Convention, we launched the new Detachment of Florida website. You can find it at www.floridasons.org. Our website is a valuable tool that has been designed to make information, reports, forms, and other information more readily available to the user.

Ease of use was the main goal behind the website remodel. When you first visit the site, you will notice quick access buttons on the right side of the screen. In this area there are quick links to the Detachment and National Membership reports, "The Source" newsletter, the Detachment calendar, Squadron Locator, and more.

The **ADMINISTRATION** menu will also be very handy to you. You should have noticed by now that, in an effort to save cost of printing, the Detachment did not send out printed copies of the Administrative Manual. You can download this manual in PDF form from the website. You will also find access to forms, the Detachment Constitution, and Detachment By-Laws here.

Also, at the bottom of the homepage, there is a sign-up for the Detachment mailing list. I encourage each of you reading this to sign up for the mailing list, if you haven't done so already. We use the Detachment Mailing List to share vital information which needs to reach all members at the Squadron Level.

Lastly, I would like each of you to review your information on the Squadron Locator. Please verify that your meeting times, physical and mailing address (if different from your physical address), and other information is correct. Please send any needed corrections to me at CMRappFloridaSAL@gmail.com. Please indicate Squadron Information Change in the subject line of your email.

Thank you for all you do for our American Legion Family. I look forward to working with you again this year.



(Membership Chairman's Message—Continued from page 4)

ZERO ("0") Squadron's will be addressed very early in the membership year. Commander Wildrick and myself do not believe in any Squadron not reporting membership and ZERO's are unacceptable to both of us.

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February 15, 2018	75%	
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April 12, 2018	90%	
May 10, 2018	100%	
June 18, 2018	18,750	Detachment Convention

With all the above said, I really believe in each Officer we have this year. We can and I am sure we will meet and exceed all our goal's this year.

So, let's get it started by remembering, "To Work Hard", "Play Hard", and most of all "Have Fun".

**TOGETHER
WE CAN
AND WILL
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**





Vice Commander North
Brian Carter
detvcnorth@legionmail.org

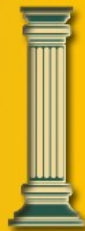
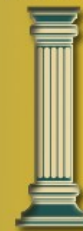


VETERANS

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Greetings from your Northern Area Commander,

I would like to start by thanking all the districts from the Northern Area for having the trust in me to lead you. I look forward to serving you, our detachment and our Veteran's. With installations behind us and leadership in place it's time to work our programs and serve our hero's. Let us complete our goals and complete the puzzle to our 23rd all-time high, but before we can do this we must work on our zero squadrons. All squadron officers should have a paid and submitted 2018 membership card by now. This is important for you to show your squadron leadership and for you to lead by example.

Don't be the missing piece to our puzzle of a 100% Detachment. Officers you are the edge pieces keeping your squadron together. Membership represents the big picture. As your members pay their dues you add another piece to the puzzle. Let us not leave them in the box. Once a week send in your puzzle pieces to detachment regardless of the number. Our membership goals will come quick and often so let's get to work and "DON'T BE THE MISSING PIECE".

I would like to thank the 5th and 17th district squadrons for your hospitality while I attended some of your installations in July. My wife and I had a wonderful time and we look forward to future visits soon. If there are any events you would like me to attend please e-mail me so that I may set my schedule accordingly.

On August 6th PDC Joe Eckenrode with Squadron and Unit 120 members Ronnie Blake, Janie Rock and Loretta Stimpson we delivered and mobile wheelchair donated by the DAV of Daytona to a worthy and deserving Veteran. Squadron 120 donated new batteries to keep him going in his new journey. Our Veteran named Danny was beside himself when he could now take himself to the store or just go for a ride and not have to depend on others for a lift. With a smile and a tear in his eye, that was all the thanks we needed.

Aug 19th, I stopped into Fisher House to add squadron 120's bricks to the walk of courage. While we were there my wife and I got to tour a wonderful place to comfort our hero's family and keep them close to their loved ones during their stay at the VA

hospital.

From there we stopped into Post 16 for some great BBQ and Post 137 for some good times and great music. Thank you Commander Jack Fino and Commander Hank Morris and their membership for a wonderful day.

Finally let us "Never Forget" 9/11. Just as December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor Day – defined a generation, September 11 has indelibly shaped who we are, how we live our daily lives and what we believe in. Let us continue to pray for those families who lost a loved one and support our first responders who keep our communities safe. May 9/11 be etched in our hearts and in our souls as we continue to move forward in the pursuit of happiness, and defense of liberty for all.

Proudly Serving our Veteran's
Northern Area Vice Commander
Brian Carter





The
SEARCH
is on



The Detachment of Florida is seeking applicants for the position of Detachment Assistant Adjutant

As many of you know, we made mention during the Convention that this will be Tim Bell's last year serving as a Detachment Assistant Adjutant. While we wish him the best, we must begin the process of searching for his replacement.

The Detachment Assistant Adjutants have many responsibilities in supporting the Detachment Adjutant and the Detachment of Florida. Much of the work done by these gentlemen usually go on behind the scenes and are only really out front during meetings. The Detachment Adjutant along with the Assistant Adjutants are charged with the effective administration of the Detachment. This includes compiling reports each year, working with the Detachment Commander and the Executive Committee to conduct business between meetings of the Detachment, management of convention registration, putting together the Detachment Newsletter, handling the correspondence for the Detachment and other administrative duties as required.

Please understand that this position is an appointed position subject to the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee. However, there is a process of selection that will occur by committee to receive documentation, conduct interviews and present a candidate or candidates to the Detachment Commander and the Detachment Executive Committee for approval and appointment.

The ideal candidate will be willing to serve in an administrative position within the Detachment. These positions are considered staff positions, which means that the Adjutant Team remain above board in matters pertaining to organization. The Assistant Adjutants are not members of the Executive Committee and they do not carry a vote. Because the Assistant Adjutants position can be a multi-year appointment, it is important that a candidate not be seeking a higher office within the Detachment of Florida. Seeking a higher office could take away from the responsibilities of the incumbent and cause the Detachment to search for another person to fill a vacancy.

In order to be considered for this position the member must be a member of the Sons of The American Legion, in good standing and be a member of a Squadron within the Detachment of Florida. The Detachment is seeking an individual with good, administrative, leadership, and customer service skills. The member should also be proficient with the use of Microsoft Office Products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc.) Additionally, the candidate must be flexible as things change often and must be quick to adapt.

If you are interested, please complete an application and submit with an organizational resume to floridasons@gmail.com.

We will take applications and resumes through October 26, 2017...Again, if you are interested please submit no later than October 26, 2017 to floridasons@gmail.com.

14th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change without notice

November 3-5, 2017

Friday, November 3, 2017

3:00pm **Hotel Check In**

Saturday, November 4, 2017

- 7:30am to 8:00am** **Detachment Executive Committee Meeting**
- Detachment Officers, District Commanders & Vice Commanders and Detachment Chairmen Required
- 8:00am to 9:00am** **Detachment Commission and Committee Meetings**
- Commission and Committee Chairmen and Members Required
 - Open to all Fall Conference Attendees
- 9:00am to 11:30am** **Fall Conference General Session**
- General Business
 - Detachment Commission and Committee Reports
- 11:30am to 1:00pm** **Lunch (On Your Own)**
- 1:00pm to 2:30pm** **Fall Conference General Session**
- Detachment Commission and Committee Reports
 - Awards
 - Keynote Speaker – To Be Determined
- 2:30pm to 3:00pm** **S.A.L. Past Commanders Club Meeting**
- 3:00pm to 4:00pm** **Sons of The American Legion Roundtable Workshop**
- This session is meant to be a roundtable work session that will give an opportunity for the attendees to meet with and ask questions of the Detachment Leadership. This is not a training session.

Sunday, November 5, 2017

8:00am to 9:00am **Joint Religious Service – Crystal C**



Upcoming Events

Join Squadron 138 for our 16th Annual Fishing Tournament benefiting Veteran's and Children's charities.

The tournament will start at 6:00am with the final weigh-in at 4:00pm. Cash Prizes and trophies will be awarded at 5pm at American Legion Post 138.

Cost is \$45 for adults \$15 for Children 12 & under
Family Price: \$60 (1 Adult with 2 Children)

Call Larry Arnold, S.A.L. Commander at (813) 748-2431 or Larry Maynard at (813) 293-2167 for more information.



Date	Event	Host	Contact
November 18, 2017	Memorial Golf Tournament	Squadron 312, Oneco	Mitch Reinhardt 941-254-4534 Richie Raimbeau 941-737-0068 Kevin Yow 941- 993-6710

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida

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Tallahassee, FL 32301

Detachment E-mail: floridasons@legionmail.org
Internet: www.floridalegion.org/sons

***In Honor of Those Who Serve and
Those Who Served***

The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 180 Squadrons and over 17,000 members this year donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and hours to the many programs of The American Legion Family.

For More Information about the Florida Sons of The American Legion, visit us on the Internet at:

www.floridalegion.org/sons

Or e-mail us at floridasons@legionmail.org

Scan the QR Code below to
visit our website



Source Articles

We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and or meetings!!!! This is your newsletter.

Please send all articles to the Detachment by the 23rd of every month. Articles can be e-mailed to TheSource@floridasons.org.



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