



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA

# THE SOURCE

Here is hoping that everyone had a great Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Now that the holidays are over it is time to get back to Sons business. The mid December membership report was amazing. You guys are doing a great job and we need to keep going. Our membership goal was 45% by December 13th. Each and every District achieved that goal. The Detachment of Florida as of December 14th report was at 60.89%. Great job. Please send in any membership that you have **NOW**. Membership should be very active over the next six weeks or so. Those people that have not renewed as of yet have no further excuse. Please ensure that membership cards are being checked at the Post and at your meetings. Take the time to review your unpaid cards, review them in the order of number of years as a member. Take the time to contact these members; your renewal rate is very important. Our next membership goal is 60% by January 18th. Okay enough about membership from me. Thanks again for all that you do.

Treva and I have had some great opportunities to participate in American Legion activities. December 2nd the Department Commander Steve Shuga, Treva and I participated in the Avalon Park Christmas Parade. The Legionnaires from Post 409 in Avalon Park also participated in the festivities. Commander Shuga's two

grandchildren (Squadron 183 Sons members) also were in the parade with us. One of the Legion Riders named "Eric", made the mistake of standing still too long and Treva decorated him as Rudolf the reindeer, complete with antlers. We had a great time and signed up many new members. [Pictures Below]

December 3rd the American Legion National Vice Commander Bobby Bryant arrived in Florida for his official visit. Treva and I took the opportunity to join Steve and Bobby at Post 347 Lady Lake for the Vice Commander's visit. We then accompanied Steve and Bobby to Post 183 Altamonte Springs for a visit and snacks. Steve and Bobby then continued on for the next couple of days to tour Florida Posts.

The statewide Special Olympics competition was held at Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando on December 8th and 9th. I want to thank all those volunteers that showed up to share in the experience. The pictures of this are worth a thousand words.

December 16th we had the opportunity to attend in the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony sponsored by Post 219 in Fruitland Park. This marked the fourth year in a row that Treva and I have participated. The turn out was amazing!

[Pictures Below]  
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### 2017-2018 Membership Target Dates:

November 16, 2017	35%	48.24% Congratulations!
December 14, 2017	45%	60.89% GREAT JOB!!
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



I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As I prepared this article, I have given much thought about all the things that we have accomplished over the past year. The good work that is done by each of you is amazing and because of this, we effect positive outcomes for so many. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are appreciated by all.

Now with the hustle and bustle of the holidays behind us. It is time to get back at it and see where we are with our programs. As we are "One Family Supporting Four Pillars", let us look at one of the Four Pillars - and in keeping with Commander Wildrick's theme, February is Americanism Month. If you haven't already, start looking at what activities that your Squadron or District can do to support and promote one or more of the many Americanism Programs. There are many programs from Boys State, School Education and Four Chaplains just to name a few. There are many ways we can do this...just use your imagination as see what happens.

Also with the start of the new year, we really need to focus our attention on Membership. Yep...I said it, MEMBERSHIP!!! As of the last report, we still have 10 "Goose Egg" Squadrons in the state. WOW!!! Good news is that we are over the 60% mark as a Detachment. We still have work to do if we are going to meet Commander Wildrick's target. So now that we are past the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, we need to get our renewals in. I have always said that getting new members is easy, its keeping the members we have that is hard. So, let's do what we can to keep moving in the right direction.

Last month, I started the thought process about our year end reports. Yep that's right, our year end is just six months away from now! The deadline is moved to June 1, 2018 with the Con-

vention being moved back. In addition to our Detachment reports, we will also have the National Consolidated Squadron Report form to complete. This, along with all our reports, will be mailed to all Squadrons in April.

Thank you all for what you have done this past year and my best wishes to you and yours for a Happy New Year.

*James Karl Roberts III*





**CONGRATULATION'S!!!** The "PIECES" of the "PUZZLE" are coming into place and the puzzle is starting to take shape. As of the December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 membership report the Detachment stands at 63.94% which is 449 members ahead of this same time last year. We had 100 Squadrons to meet or exceed the 45% target with 19 Squadrons at or over the 100% goal. We have 10 Districts over the 60% target. Congratulations to District 6, 17, 11, 4, and 12 for being over 70% with Districts 8, 16, 15, 5, and 13 for being over the 60% target. Great job by you and your District membership teams. Our National renewal rate at time is 44.49% which means that we have we have RECRUITED 3,515 new members. We need to focus on the 3-R's, RENEW, REIN-STATE, AND RECRUIT as Past Membership Chairman and Detachment Adjutant Roberts stated in his membership memo. Keeping our members is just as important as recruiting new one. We must keep our members to continue to grow.

You guys have now made the first three (3) target dates. WHAT A GREAT JOB by everyone. With this report we are already over our January target of 60%. Again "WOW". What a great job that each of the Area and District membership teams are doing. Keep up the great work!!!!!!

I know that everyone is looking forward to me talking about our "0" zero Squadrons. We now have 10 Squadrons with the big ZERO ("0"). I understand that a lot of our members are from out of state and will be returning soon and membership will see it when they return. Early bird events are starting to take place and that will also have a positive impact on our membership. I know that I sound like a broken record, but I will continue to address the zero Squadrons because it is very important and is a big indicator to possible issues within the Squadron. We may lose some of these Squadrons, but we will not give up until we know there is no hope.

District and Area Commanders during your travels and your visits be the salesman and explain that an earlier payment one time and then it is a yearly payment. 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, get them involved.

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 in their family 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". 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 (May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017) is 18,018 and will be our 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive all-time high, always 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 been working hard to help when needed. Each of the Membership Committee members have been addressing issues within the Detachment and helping those Districts and Squadrons when ask to help. They are there to help. Let them help you to help us make our goals and make the Detachment of Florida the strongest it can be. Everyone works better as a "TEAM".

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Things that are coming up. Legion College January 11th thru 13th.

The Three Amigos will be visiting the 12th District the week of January 14th concluding with the 2nd Annual Legion Riders Summit on January 19th thru 20th in Cocoa. The week of January 21st the Three Amigos will be visiting the 6th District.



Detachment Commander Bernie Wildrick (183), American Legion National Vice Commander Bobby



Special Olympics Crew (Photo Credit TK Wildrick)



Parade Vehicle



Commander Shuga's Grandchildren



Wreaths Across American—Fruitland Park



Eric (aka "Rudolph")

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Membership Committee Members:

- John Jennings - Chairman
- Kent Smith - #1, #2, #3, #4, & #5
- Michael Dooley - #7, #8, #13, #15, & #16
- John Eckenrode - #6, #9, #11, #12, #14, & #17

We as a Committee are continuing to work aggressively and are here to support you in any possible way. "DO NOT LET MEMBERSHIP BECOME AN ISSUE". BE LOOKING AND TALKING WITH YOUR SQUADRON'S AND LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE HERE FOR SUPPORT. 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!!!!

Our January 18th target date may be the hardest to get to. We will have a 15% increase between December 14th and January 18th. Keep up the work that everyone is doing and we will fly by that target as well.

Thank You again for all the hard work and make sure that the Squadrons get the Thank You as well. They are the ones doing the work.

**So, let's get it started by remembering, "To Work Hard", "Play Hard", "Have Fun" and most of all "Don't Be The Missing Piece"**

2017-2018 Membership Target Dates:

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*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 [florida-sons@gmail.com](mailto:florida-sons@gmail.com).



The Detachment Member Training & Development Committee is announcing to everyone that we are now accepting Legion Family applications for the Florida SAL College, Class of 2018.

This is open to any member of The American Legion Family in good standing and does not cost anything to attend the class. Members wishing to attend must complete a Florida SAL College Application using the link below and submit it for the MT&D Committee to review.

The session is tentatively scheduled for March 24 & 25, 2018 at Department Headquarters in Orlando.

# DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS FEBRUARY 1, 2018!!!

Applicants must apply online at <https://floridasons.org/SALCollegeApplication>.

Please help us to fill the class by getting the word out to your members and encourage them to sign up.



## Endorsements for Office

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It is the policy of the Detachment of Florida that no endorsement be posted prior to the Annual Fall Conference. The Detachment of Florida provides this information for the benefit of our membership. The addition of endorsement information does not indicate support for an individual candidate by the Detachment of Florida.

In order for an endorsement to be posted to the Detachment Newsletter "The Source" or the Detachment Website, an endorsement letter must meet the following requirements.

1. Each endorsement letter must come from a Florida Squadron or Post and must be signed by the Squadron Commander and Squadron Adjutant, or the Post Commander and Post Adjutant or any combination of these.

- The letter must be on Squadron or Post letterhead and include the date that the Squadron or Post made the endorsement and that the membership approved said endorsement.
- This letter should contain information explaining why the individual should be considered for the office he is seeking and a narrative of positions held to show his leadership potential.

2. Endorsements will only be accepted for the elected Detachment Officers, District Commanders as follows:

- Detachment Commander, Detachment Vice Commanders, National Executive Committeeman, National Executive Committeeman Alternate, Detachment Historian, Detachment Chaplain, Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms and the District Commanders

Endorsement letters must be submitted, in writing, to the Detachment Adjutant as follows with the required signatures (in the format listed above).

1. Endorsement letters can be sent via the US Postal Service to the Detachment Adjutant Jim Roberts - 1112 South Magnolia Drive - Apt S106, Tallahassee, FL 32301.
2. Endorsement letters can be scanned and sent by e-mail to the Detachment at [florida-sons@legionmail.org](mailto:florida-sons@legionmail.org). Scanned documents are required to be in an Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) and must have all of the original signatures as required and be of good quality.



## Detachment Officer Endorsements

Detachment Commander	<u>Tom Klinger (7, Clearwater)</u>
<b>Office of Detachment Vice Commander</b>	
Western Area	
Northern Area	
Eastern Area	<u>Rocco Cirigliano (81, Melbourne)</u>
Central Area	
Southwestern Area	
Southern Area	
National Executive Committeeman	<u>John Jennings (71, Lake Wales)</u>
National Executive Committeeman Alternate	
Detachment Chaplain	
Detachment Historian	
Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms	

## District Commander Endorsements

District 1	
District 2	
District 3	
District 4	
District 5	
District 6	
District 7	
District 8	
District 9	
District 10	
District 11	
District 12	<u>Randy Chilcott (117, Palm Bay)</u>
District 13	
District 14	
District 15	
District 16	
District 17	

## Upcoming Events

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### January 18, 2018—2nd Annual Post 323 / VFW Post 4174 Golf Tournament

Veterans Helping Veterans

Cost is \$40/player and fee includes Green Fees, Cart, and Lunch at majestic after the tournament.

There will be contests for Longest Drive | Hole-in-one | Closest to the Pin | Putting

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information, contact [American Legion Post 323](#) at (239) 369-3178 or [VFW 4174](#) at (239) 369-5100

All proceeds benefit American Legion & VFW Charities

Hotel Accommodations

Microtel Inn & Suites

1320 Business Way

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

(239) 369-2121

Mention American Legion/VFW Golf

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### February 10, 2018—Southwestern Area Ball

This year's ball will be held at American Legion Post 110 in Port Charlotte. Tickets are \$30/person. Dress is semi-formal (suit or sport jacket with a tie). Dinner will be your choice of Prime Rib of Baked Stuffed Scrod. All meals will be served with Baked Potato, Vegetable Medley, Salad, and a roll. Dinner tickets will be picked up at the door.

Entertainment provided by 'Bouncer Entertainment'.

Reservation Cut-Off date is January 9, 2018

Cocktail Hour: 5pm – 6pm

Dinner: 6pm

Entertainment: 5pm – 10pm

Hotel Accommodations:

Microtel Inn & Suites

4056 Tamiami Trail

Port Charlotte, FL

Make Checks Payable to:

Dennis Boland

314 Lake Ave

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

(239) 641-1224

Room with two Queen Size Beds: \$124

Suite with 1 Queen Size Bed: \$149

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### March 3, 2018—Sons of the American Legion Squadron 240 Golf Tournament to benefit Pensacola Special Olympics!

Oscola Golf Course

300 Tonawanda Drive

Pensacola, FL 32506

4 Person Scramble

\$50 / Player (discounts for early sign-up!)

Includes 18 holes of golf w/cart, Door Prizes, Awards & Lunch at Post 240

Hole Sponsorship Opportunities Are Available for Individuals, Organizations & Businesses

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MARCH 1, 2018

For more information, contact John Edens, Tournament Director

H (850) 492-7082 | M (229) 444-3534

Email: [commander@americanlegion420.org](mailto:commander@americanlegion420.org)

## Having an Event? Let the Detachment of Florida Help!

### Attention all Sons of the American Legion

If your Squadron, Post Family, District or Area are having an event, we can help get the word out.

If you are interested in getting your event published and promoted using:

- The Detachment of Florida's Website ([floridasons.org](http://floridasons.org))
- The Detachment of Florida's Facebook page ([facebook.com/pg/FloridaSAL](https://facebook.com/pg/FloridaSAL))
- The Detachment of Florida's Newsletter, The Source

### There's only one thing you have to do: Let Us Know!

Visit the Detachment of Florida's online events calendar at

<https://floridasons.org/detachment-events-calendar/>, and click the button labeled 'Click Here To Submit Your Event'.

#### **Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida**

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(407) 295-2631

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1112 S. Magnolia Dr. - Apt S106  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Detachment E-mail: [floridasons@legionmail.org](mailto:floridasons@legionmail.org)  
Internet: [www.floridasons.org](http://www.floridasons.org)

***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.floridasons.org](http://www.floridasons.org)

Or e-mail us at [floridasons@legionmail.org](mailto:floridasons@legionmail.org)

Scan the QR Code below to  
visit our website



[www.facebook.com/FI](http://www.facebook.com/FI)

## 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](mailto:TheSource@floridasons.org).