




THE SOURCE





Again I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to represent this fantastic Detachment of Florida. We still have some work to do, and I know you guys are up to it. Please "Don't Be The Missing Piece". We make a little difference as an individual; we make a huge difference as Team. We have just under one month until Convention - July 6th, 7th and 8th. I hope to see you all there. District Commanders, now is the time to identify the Squadrons that may need assistance with the year-end reports; please reach out to them to see if they need assistance. The year-end report forms were mailed March 23rd, they need to be in Jim Roberts hands before he leaves for Convention. Reports turned in at Convention will not be considered for awards, In addition, I would like each District and Area Commander to come prepared to any Squadron visits to sign them up to the Detachment's Google Email. The sign up form is on the website at

www.FloridaSons.org.

April 24th: Amigos 2 and 3 headed to District 14 and Post 154 Marathon FL. The Post allowed us to park "Legion Family One" fifth wheel camper on property. Post 154 is the home Post for 14th District Commander "Jimbo" Davison. It was great to catch up with him. He shared his experiences during hurricane IRMA. If you get a

chance at Convention, ask him about his experiences. We continued south to Post 28 Key West. What a beautiful Post, great people and a very informative bartender. We then went into downtown Key West to visit Post 168. The Post is closed and under construction, but typical Madam President went into the building introduced herself to the construction boss and received a personal tour of the building. 

April 27th: We traveled North to Post 43 in Homestead FL. When we arrived we ran into a group of Legion Riders led by Post 110 (Port Charlotte) Commander Mike "Gambler" Raymond. We had a great visit together. We continued North to District 9 Post 31 South Miami FL. We shared a great dinner prepared by the Squadron. After dinner, I got to meet with a great bunch of guys in that Squadron. 

April 28th: Our day started with a visit Post 321 Cooper City. There is a strong Legion Family presence at that Post. We continued on to Post 142 Pompano Beach home Post for 9th District Commander Paul Stawicki. We had another wonderful visit with a great Legion Family. 



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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%	75.69% Congratulations!
February 15, 2018	75%	84.94% GREAT JOB!!
March 15, 2018	85%	91.79% Another Great Job! Happy Birthday American Legion!
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July 6, 2018	18,750	Detachment Convention


Commander Wildrick's Membership Goal: 18,750+


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April 29th: We returned to Post 321 Cooper City to attend a presentation on Veterans benefits and a "how to" class on applying for benefits.

April 30th: We were given a tour of the Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Jr. State Veterans nursing home in Pembroke Pines FL. We brought many treats including cakes and cookies. The ladies sat and played Texas Holdem with the residents. Everyone had a great time. 

We wrapped up our visit to District 9 with a visit to Post 92 Hollywood. They are another great group of guys and a wonderful visit with the Squadron.

We returned home to prepare to attend the 1st annual Children and Youth golf tournament held on May 5th in the Villages. Congratulations to Squadron 347 for all the support they gave to that event. Chairmen Tom Soder and Bruce Carl also poured their hearts and souls into the event. The weather was perfect and the after-party at Post 347 was very well organized. Checks supporting the CWF and Special Olympics were presented at the "Three Amigos" Homecoming. 

I want to personally thank everyone who was able to attend "The Three Amigos" Homecoming. I know it was very difficult to attend with the final date winding up on Memorial weekend. We had a great time. 

May 27th: We headed to District 3 to visit a couple of Posts we had missed earlier in the year. We started with Post 291 Steinhatchee FL. If I was to give an award for best Legion Family and nicest people they would be in the top five. I got the opportunity to sit and visit with the Squadron's Commander Mike and Adjutant. The Post Commander could not say enough great things about the two of them. We included in our visit Post 57 Lake City for Bingo. We then spent Memorial Day at Post 107 Live Oak for their Memorial Day services. It had a great turnout. 


As of the May 31st Membership report, the Detachment stands at 103.95% with 18,726 members. All areas are exceeding 100%. All but two Districts have exceeded 100%. I am very sure that the two remaining Districts will exceed 100%. I believe that this is the first time this has happened in a very long time. These results are the rewards of all the hard work eve-



Commander Wildrick's Photo Gallery



Post 168, Downtown Key West—Recovering from Irma Damage



Squadron 31, South Miami



The Three Amigos—Homecoming at Post 347, Lady Lake



Texas Holdem at the Veteran's Nursing Home, Pembroke Pines



Children and Youth Golf Tournament



Squadron 107 Commander Stan

Commander Wildrick's Photo Gallery *(continued)*



District 14 Commander Jimbo



Squadron 180, Plantation with District 9 Commander Paul



At Post 142, Pompano Beach with District 9 Commander Paul



Squadron 291 (Steinhatchee) Commander Mike



Squadron 43 (Homestead) Bulletin Board



Well team, we are in the final stretch of this administrative year. As I indicated last month, I am in my busiest part of the year and it has shown. I am currently going through the reports that you all have been submitting and also putting everything together for the next year. Whew!!! Thank you to all that have submitted your Squadron Year End Reports. These are important to submit to us, so please make sure that you submit them as soon as possible.

I want to thank each of you for all that you are doing to support this year's program. Membership is probably the best I have seen it in a very long time and we did attain 100% and another All-Time-High. Do not sit on your membership just because we are at the end of the year. Please keep sending in those that have signed up.

District Commanders please make sure to schedule your District Constitutional Conferences. As a District Commanders, **YOU ARE REQUIRED** to hold a District Constitutional Conference. This conference is to meet and elect new District Officers for the coming year. We want to go into Convention with a full slate of Elected District Commanders. Please remember that you do not have to hold your Conference in conjunction with The American Legion's. Sometimes there is not enough space or time to fit all meetings into one. I would encourage that you try and hold it at the same time and place if possible.

This will be my last article as your Adjutant for this administrative year and I want to thank Commander Wildrick for appointing me to serve this year. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve all of you this year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention.

In Honor of Those Who Served and Those Still Serving

James Karl Roberts III



Errors, Corrections & Omissions

If you find an error, content which requires a correction or an omission in any article in *The Source*, kindly email thesource@floridasons.org so that we may give proper effect to any such error, correction or omission.

Thanks for being a part of what we do!

-Ray Leventhal, Editor



CONGRATULATION'S TO ALL!!!

The Detachment has made its **eight (9th) consecutive target, OUR 100%**.

As of our May 10th, 2018 membership report the Detachment stands at 102.28% which is 774 members ahead of this same time last year. We had 123 Squadrons to meet or exceed the 100% target goal. We have 13 of 16 Districts that exceeded the 100% target and all but one (1) Area at or above the 100% target with a renewal rate of 83.99%. A "BIG" Congratulations to Districts making or exceeding the 100% target. We have three (3) Districts that are getting so, so very close to the 100%. WHO will be the next 100% District???? The race is on between several Districts...should be interesting. These Districts have 365 members available and that would put us to the top of our 100% target with some food to Commander Wildrick's goal of 18,750.

You guys have now made the first nine (9) target dates. "WHAT A GREAT JOB" by everyone. Again "**WOW**", "**WOW**", and "**WOW**". What a great job that each of the Area and District membership teams are doing. Keep up the great work!!!!!!

WOW!!!!, As of this letter June 7th, 2018 the Detachment stands at 104+% and 18,789 members. Congratulations to Commander Wildrick and another BIG THANK YOU for a great job. This is our tenth (10th) consecutive target and is large. Let's continue to work our 2017-2018 membership and send in the transmittals. 19,000 is within reach by Convention.

I know that everyone is looking forward to me talking about our "0" zero Squadrons. We now have 4 Squadrons with the big ZERO ("O"). 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 these Squadrons, but we will not give

up until we know there is no hope. I know you are working hard on this issue and Commander Wildrick and I thank each of you for your continued hard work.

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 as you continue to do.

"DON'T BE THE MISSING PIECE"

The Membership Committee has been working hard to help when needed. 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".

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

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

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Work Hard”, “Play Hard”, “Have Fun” and most of all “Don’t Be The Missing Piece”



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CHALLENGE: 19,000 — LET’S DO THIS!!

Commander Wildrick’s Membership Goal: 18,750+

The Source Spotlight



We tend to celebrate the great things we do as an organization and to give honorable mention to the people who make it happen. As our membership consists of people who honor the service of those that have and are serving our nation in the armed forces, we sometimes forget that our younger members are eligible for and often sign up for service in the US Military.

This month's *Source Spotlight* is on a young man who became a member of the Sons of the American Legion the day he was born, 18 yrs ago. Jace Alexander Ortman is a member of Squadron 323, Lehigh Acres and has the blood of the US Marines running through him. His grandfather Dan Hall and aunt Deanna Hall, a past Post 323 Commander, also served in the Marines. Following in their footsteps, Jace has stated his intention to join The Few and The Proud when he's eligible.

Has been in the Weddington High School (Matthews, N.C.) MCJROTC for 3 years and currently serves as Operations Officer for the JROTC.

He's the recipient of the Senior Award for MCJROTC and plans on attending University of North Georgia Corp of Cadets program in August.

Jace is a shining example of not only what we do in support of our Military and their families, but represents the future of our Nation. Semper Fi, Cadet. We salute you.

For God and Country,

Steve Gordon
Southwestern Area Commander
Sons of the American Legion



Jace Alexander Ortman
Squadron 323, Lehigh Acres

Editor's Note: If you would like to spotlight an outstanding individual, group, event or program that highlights the Sons of the American Legion and what we stand for, please email text and images to TheSource@floridasons.org

CALL TO CONVENTION

The 46th Annual Convention of the SAL, Detachment of Florida is hereby called for in compliance with Article V, Section 2 of the Detachment Constitution.

PURPOSE: The convention is called for the electing of Officers, receiving reports and for the transaction of such business which may be properly brought before it.

REPRESENTATION: Representation shall be in compliance with the provisions of Article V, Section 4 of the Detachment Constitution and other sections that may be applicable. A registration fee of \$5.00 will be paid to the Detachment Convention Headquarters for each delegate and alternate registered.

IMPORTANT INFO: Voting strength of Squadrons shall be determined by the membership paid into Department Headquarters by the close of business on June 21, 2018. Forms for the certification of delegates and alternates are in the administrative manual. In accordance with Article XI, Section 8 of the Detachment (Department) Constitution that reads as follows: "No Squadron (Post) with past due accounts owing to the Department and unsettled before convening of the Annual Detachment (Department) Convention shall be entitled to seat their Squadron (Post) delegation in that Convention." As a program of The American Legion any Squadron that owes funds to the Department will cause their sponsoring Post to not to be seated during The American Legion convention as well.

ELECTION OF SQUADRON AND DISTRICT OFFICERS

In accordance with the Detachment of Florida Constitution, Article IX District Organization, Section 6 and Article X Squadron Organization, Section 13. All Squadrons and District Officers must be elected annually and certified to the Detachment and Department Adjutants not more than 60 days nor less than 10 days prior to the opening of the Annual Detachment Convention. The election of Squadron and District Officers this year must be held between Monday, May 7, 2018 and Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

DELEGATE CUT-OFF

Delegate cut-off for Squadron voting for the Convention is June 21, 2018 at the close of business at Department Headquarters. A registration fee of \$5.00 per delegate and alternate is hereby established. Squadrons will be allowed to cast votes on registered delegates only. For example, if your squadron has four votes and only registered two, then your Squadron may only cast the two delegate votes that have been registered.



Delegate At-Large votes must be registered in order for those At-Large Delegates to vote. Forms for registration are in your Administrative Manual and on our website at www.floridasons.org. Bring this form with you to the Convention. Make all checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Florida.

46th Annual Detachment Convention Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change without notice

July 5 - 8, 2018

Thursday, July 5, 2018

1:00pm to 4:00pm Delegate Registration – Outside Meeting Hall – Crystal J1 / J2

Friday, July 6, 2018

8:00am to 12:00pm Delegate Registration – Outside of Meeting Hall – Crystal J1 / J2
12:30pm to 1:15pm Pre-Convention Detachment Executive Committee Meeting – Crystal J1 / J2
1:00pm to 4:00pm Delegate Registration – Outside Meeting Hall – Crystal J1 / J2
1:30pm to 4:00pm Detachment Convention Opening Session – Crystal J1 / J2
Detachment Officers Reports
Guest Speakers
Convention Commission and Committee Meetings

4:00pm to 5:00pm SAL Past Commander's Club Meeting – Crystal J1 / J2

Saturday, July 7, 2018

7:30am to 12:00pm Delegate Registration – Outside Convention Meeting Hall – Crystal J1 / J2
8:00am to 12:00pm Detachment Convention General Session – Crystal J1 / J2
Memorial Service
General Business
Commission and Committee Reports

12:00pm to 1:15pm Recess for Lunch (On Your Own)
1:15pm to 3:00pm Detachment Convention General Session – Crystal J1 / J2
Completion of Commission and Committee Reports
Keynote Speaker
Area Cautuses
Election of Detachment Officers
Retirement of District Commanders and District Vice Commanders
Installation:
Detachment Officers
District Commanders
District Vice Commanders

3:00pm to 3:30pm Post-Convention Detachment Executive Committee – Crystal J1 / J2
3:30pm to 4:30pm Ambassador's Course – Crystal J1
(All Detachment Officers, Commission & Committee Chairmen)

3:30pm to 5:00pm District Commander's Training – Crystal J2
(All District Commanders and Vice Commanders)

Sunday, July 8, 2018

8:00am to 9:00am Joint Religious Service

Endorsements for Office

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. 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>
Office of Detachment Vice Commander	
Western Area	
Northern Area	<u>Brian Carter (120, Holly Hill)</u>
Eastern Area	<u>Rocco Cirigliano (81, Melbourne)</u>
Central Area	<u>Gerard Sambets (275, Dunedin)</u>
Southwestern Area	<u>Christian M. Rapp (323, Lehigh Acres)</u>
Southern Area	
National Executive Committeeman	<u>John Jennings (71, Lake Wales)</u>
National Executive Committeeman Alternate	<u>William D. (Bill) Kelly Jr. (137, Jacksonville)</u>
Detachment Chaplain	<u>Randy Collingsworth (7, Clearwater)</u>
Detachment Historian	<u>Paul Micieli (305, St. Pete Beach)</u>
Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms	<u>George Steger (238, Safety Harbor)</u>

District Commander Endorsements

District 1	
District 2	<u>Kent Smith (82, Lanark Village)</u>
District 3	
District 4	
District 5	
District 6	<u>Richard Duncan (347, Lady Lake)</u>
District 7	
District 8	<u>Ernest Sheffield (266, Sarasota)</u>
District 9	
District 10	
District 11	
District 12	<u>Randy Chilcott (117, Palm Bay)</u>
District 13	<u>Thomas 'Tom' Burns (323, Lehigh Acres)</u>
District 14	
District 15	
District 16	<u>Richard J Cummings (238, Safety Harbor)</u>
District 17	<u>Bryan Barcomb (270, Port Orange)</u>

Upcoming Events

09 June 2018—District 2 Constitutional Conference — 15:00 - 16:30

Post 100, Mariana, FL
3627 Highway 90
Marianna, FL 32446
(850) 482-3744

05 July 2018 - 08 July 2018 — 46th Annual Detachment of Florida Convention

Orlando World Center Marriott
8701 World Center Dr, Orlando, FL 32821
United States

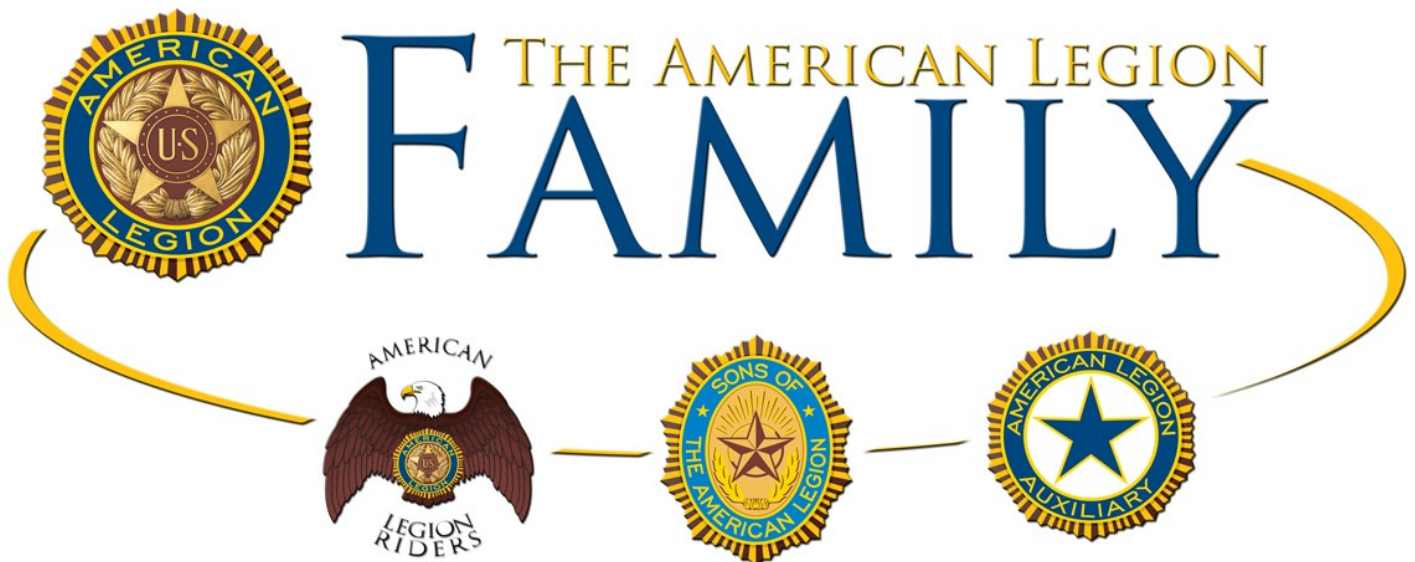
Detachment of Florida Member Training Survey

The purpose of this survey is to help the Detachment Member Training & Development Committee to identify some of the training need that members of the Sons of The American Legion may have. We have developed several trainings already and we are looking to improve on what we currently have. This survey will also help us to possibly identify opportunities to develop new courses to deliver to our membership.

Please take the opportunity to complete this survey and give the committee some feedback on how we can provide training opportunities to our membership.

During this survey we ask that you do not use any Squadron identifiers. We also ask that you not reference specific members or other local problems in your comments. It is OK to provide feedback based on your experiences, but please do not air out dirty laundry. This survey will be published at some point and it can't be edited.

To complete the survey please visit this link – [Click Here to take Survey](#). If you have trouble clicking on the link, just copy & past this link into your browser window - <https://goo.gl/forms/>



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)
- The Detachment of Florida's Facebook page (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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PO Box 547859
Orlando, FL 32854
(407) 295-2631

Detachment Adjutant James Roberts III
1112 S. Magnolia Dr. - Apt S106
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Detachment E-mail: floridasons@legionmail.org
Internet: 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

Or e-mail us at floridasons@legionmail.org

Scan the QR Code below to
visit our website



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.