



THE SOURCE



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WELL HELLO EVERYONE. I hope all is well in everyone's life and family. We are off to a great start this year. Most Districts have had their first meeting of the year and are planning many great fundraisers for our various charities. Remember why we're here - To support our Veterans, their families and their children. The Detachment of Florida donated approximately 3.8 million dollars last year to various charities. On behalf of the Detachment Officers I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work and dedication.

Time to talk membership. As of writing this, the Detachment is at 26.27%. We are ahead of the October 9th target of 25%. Congratulations! Our next target is 35% on November 14th. Remember that we are going for our 25th consecutive all time high in membership. Southern Area Commander Paul Stawicki is leading the Areas with 34.6% and 9th District Commander Christopher Holden is leading Districts with 43.1%. Way To Go!

On August 22nd, I attended National Convention in Indianapolis. The Detachment of Florida received numerous awards including the Udie S. Grant award from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, the Arthur Houghton award for category 5 and others that will be on display at Fall Conference. Thanks again for all your hard work.

On August 9th I had the honor and privilege of being asked to throw out the first pitch at the American Legion Baseball game by Baseball Chairman Andy Burkett. Afterward he presented me the ball and a challenge coin. Andy has since passed away and will be greatly missed.

I attended the 4th District Meeting on September 7th and the 13th District Meeting on September 8th. Thank you both for inviting me. I know I'm going to sound like a broken record, but if you want a Detachment Officer at your function or event, you have to let us know. The Detachment newsletter, The Source, is here for you. Place your meetings, events and functions in the calendar. Nobody around the state will know about them unless you let them know. There are members who will see your event on the calendar make a road trip for the day. I know that because I have done it.

See most of you in a few weeks at Fall Conference. The Schedule and agenda are published in this edition of The Source.

Thank you for all you do and what you do.

For God and Country,

Tom Klinger, Detachment Commander



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2019-2020 Membership Target Dates:

September 1, 2019	15%	Congratulations! 15.959%
October 9, 2019	25%	
November 14, 2019	35%	
December 11, 2019	45%	
January 15, 2020	60%	
February 12, 2020	75%	
March 11, 2020	80%	Legion Birthday
April 8, 2020	90%	
May 13, 2020	100%	
June 11, 2020	20,500	Commander's Goal Delegate Cut-Off



The 16th Annual Fall Conference will take place on November 1-3, 2019 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. We will have our National Vice Commander Blair Miles (AL) 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, Project Vet Relief and the Florida Children and Youth Fund.

We are diligently working to get this year's Detachment Roster put together. It has been a while since we have had one. We have given each Squadron until September 30, 2019 to submit their officers report so they can be included into the directory. It is our hope that the Detachment Roster will be ready by the Fall Conference to be handed out. We will also make it available electronically after the conference is complete.

The administration of your respective Squadrons is very important. We are responsible to complete all of the reports required of us at various times of the year, in our case, mostly done annually. Now is the time to make sure that you are recording your activities so you can file accurate year end reports. Please pay attention to the deadlines on our reports it is important. I will talk about reporting later in the year, but want to get the conversation started now.

Until next month!!!!

Jim Roberts | Detachment Adjutant





Greetings Detachment of Florida Membership Team,

This year, the Detachment's Membership Theme will be "SPLASH" (Sons Proudly Lending A Supporting Hand).

Get your "SWIMMING POOLS" ready for a Membership Challenge, and together "Proudly Lend a Supporting Hand" to support veteran's needs. The Detachment Commander will be the "HEAD LIFEGUARD". The Detachment Membership Chairman will be the "SWIM COACH". The Detachment Vice Commanders will be the "JR LIFEGUARDS". All District Commanders will be "SWIM INSTRUCTORS". The Squadrons will be "THE MEMBERSHIP POOL".

This year's Detachment Commander's goal for membership is 20,500 members by the delegate cut-off in June 2020. Target dates are included in this Membership section for your Squadrons information. Take it out and post it on your Squadrons bulletin board.

This year's awards for the Legion Family will be called the "THE LIFEGUARD" AWARD! This award is open to every member of The American Legion Family. In order to qualify for this award, you must renew a minimum of four (4) current S.A.L. members and recruit a minimum of four (4) new members.

Our FIRST TARGET DATE of 15% is September 5th, 2019. Congratulations to everyone as we made our first target (15.959%). Commander Klingler's membership target is 20,750 and I know we are going to make this as you guys are the best. Be the "SWIM INSTRUCTORS" and explain the membership procedure and the Detachment's expectations and why. We need to get out of the box and think on new ways to treat our members 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 Klingler's theme is "SPLASH" – (Sons Proudly Lending A Supporting Hand). As we move forward this year let's make a promise to remember these words. We are here to "LEND A SUPPORTING HAND". We do this at every event, every dinner, every parade, every Conference, every Convention, every Squadron meeting. We are always "LENDING A HAND". So, let's make those splashes in our Squadron's, our District's, and our Area's. Let's be the "PROUD SONS" that we are and make the American Legion and the Detachment the best in the Country. We will 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!!!!



(Continued on page 4)

From the Membership Committee Chairman

(Continued from page 3)

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!

Important Items:

- I need 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 (John Jennings – fl.johnjennings@gmail.com).
- ZERO ("0") Squadron's will be addressed very early in the membership year. Commander Klinger and I do not believe in any Squadron not reporting membership and ZERO's are unacceptable to both of us. They should be unacceptable to you, too.

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 on a great year while remembering, "To Work Hard", "Play Hard", and most of all "Have Fun".

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The Detachment Internal Affairs Commission is in place to work with the Administration of the Detachment, Detachment Committee's and Commission to help them supply you (The Squadron) with good information. It is hard to supply you with good information when we do not know how to get in contact with you (The Squadron). Email servers are free communication tools (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc. are example) and each Squadron should have an active email address. Why do I say this, you ask? Snell mail is fast becoming a thing of the past and we need to step into the 21st century.

Each year before Convention a packet is mailed out to each Squadron with various form to be completed and send back to the responsible person for recording. The forms contain a lot of information about the activities of your Squadron. It is important to your Post and your Squadron that these forms be completed and returned by the deadline on the forms. We are working on get some of these forms reworked so that they are fillable and savable so it will be an easier process moving forward. Your Squadron may not need to complete all the forms and that is totally understandable, but you do need to complete the forms that are important to your Squadron.

One of the forms is spelled out below. It is your Squadron Officers report form. This form is used to get your Squadron contact information so important documents can be mailed or emailed to the person within your Squadron that is responsible for gathering communications for the Squadron. WE ARE HAVING A LOT OF TROUBLE IN THIS AREA AND IT NEEDS TO IMPROVE.

At various times throughout the year, Detachment Headquarters requires Squadrons to submit certain information. This information is outlined in our [Squadron Administration Manual](#). SQUADRON OFFICERS REPORT (Page 3)

This report is submitted by the Squadron Adjutant, or other appropriate official, for the purpose of certifying the newly elected Squadron Officers.

The deadline for submitting this report is directly after Squadron elections and prior to the Detachment Convention.

This is the most important report that will be requested by the Detachment. With the submission of the Squadron Officers Report, newly elected Squadron Officers are placed on the Detachment Directory. This Directory is the basis for all mailings from Department. The information is very essential. Complete address and phone number information should be provided.

Other forms of importance are your Detachment & National Squadron Consolidated Report – this report should always be completed and turned into the responsible person by the deadline. These numbers are used by the Detachment to gather information for our yearly accomplishments. The National Consolidated Report form should be identical to the Squadron's and sent to National Headquarters. All Detachment numbers are gathered, and the American Legion uses these numbers during his address to Congress. It is another important form.

This is just a start to the many important forms that the Detachment needs from each Squadron every year. This is very important to us and should be important to you and your Squadron members.

Commissions and Committees Update

Special Olympics – Randy Chilcott, Chairman

Did you know that the Special Olympics were founded by Eunice Kennedy Shiver? The first Special Olympic Games were held at Soldier Field in Chicago and there are currently programs in all 50 states with more than 3.7 million athletes in 229 accredited Special Olympic programs. Additionally, there are more than 170 countries worldwide with seven regional offices around the world, located in China, Egypt, Ireland, Panama, Singapore, South Africa and the United States.

Athletes carry the benefits of the Olympics with them in their lives at home, school, community and jobs. Families are strengthened and community increases the understanding and acceptance and respect of these individuals.

The Special Olympics relies mostly on private resources to meet its annual budget. And for the past 30 years, The Sons of the American Legion has been a proud and valuable supporter of the Special Olympics by hosting a variety of fundraisers. For example, Squadron 117 holds an annual Motorcycle Run the first week in Feb and Post 80 holds a special Olympics Christmas Party.

Cash donations can be made by sending your tax-deductible donation payable to;

Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida Special Olympics

Mail to:

Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida
1912A Lee Road
Orlando, FL 32810

Children & Youth Commission – Tom Soeder

During September 20, 21 & 22 I will be attending the Annual C&Y Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. I will post all the activities upon my return. The Agenda for this conference appears to be extensive.

We have formed a team together to assist Post 1 and the family with the planning of the C&Y Picnic in April 4, 2020. On the team met Sept 14 after District 12 meeting. Present were Tom Soeder, Rocky Cirigliano, Bruce Thurber, Donna Hamilton (Post 1 Commander), Denny Hamilton, Les Martin, Brad Parsons, Riders Director of post 1, Randy Chillcott, George Aichele

Squadron Activities Committee – George Worton

Squadron activities committee promotes sharing activities that help fundraising for squadrons and membership programs to enhance retaining and recruiting new members. We are tasked with reviewing and grading the Squadron Consolidated Report. We currently have 4 members and are looking for some new members to participate contact via email or Fall Convention

Community Affairs Committee – George Aichele

During the year there are many opportunities for the Sons to serve and volunteer within our communities. Many of the things that your squadron already does are services to the community. Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and 4th of July observances are excellent opportunities. But some others are 9/11 observances, Halloween parties, Thanksgiving, etc.

There are many different materials available through America Legion Flag and Emblem. Other ideas can be obtained by visiting the Sons National website and search Snapshots of Service. Remember that community service can encompass a variety of activities, however we should strive to represent the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Remember to keep records and take photographs of your activities as the Detachment has a Community Affairs Scrapbook Contest at the annual Detachment Convention. Rules for this contest can be found in the Administrative manual.

In closing, remember that we as Sons of The American Legion have an obligation to the community, state and nation! Good luck with all of your endeavors and lets' have a GREAT year!

16th Annual Fall Conference Agenda



16th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change without notice

November 1-3, 2019



Friday, November 1, 2019

2:00pm to 4:00pm	Detachment Commission and Committee Meetings	Crystal A/B
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission and Committee Chairmen and Members Required• Open to all Fall Conference Attendees	
4:00pm to 5:00pm	Past Commanders Club	Crystal A/B

Saturday, November 2, 2019

7:30am to 8:00am	Detachment Executive Committee Meeting	Crystal A/B
8:00am to 11:30am	Fall Conference General Session	Crystal A/B
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Business• Detachment Commission and Committee Reports<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Americanism Commission○ Children & Youth Commission<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Special Olympics Committee○ Legislative Commission<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Community Affairs Committee○ Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project: VetRelief Committee○ Internal Affairs Commission<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Commanders Advisory Committee▪ Constitution and By-Laws Committee▪ Convention Committee▪ Finance Committee▪ Squadron Activities Committee▪ Member Training & Development Committee	
11:30am to 1:00pm	Lunch (On Your Own)	
1:00pm to 3:00pm	Fall Conference General Session	Crystal A/B
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detachment Commission and Committee Reports – Continued<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Internal Affairs Commission (Continued)<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Membership Committee○ Public Relations Commission• Awards• Keynote Speaker – Blair Miles (AL), National Vice Commander	
3:00pm to 4:00pm	Detachment Roundtable Session	Crystal A/B
6:00pm to 9:00pm	President & Commanders Banquet	Canaveral Ballroom

Celebration of Life and Post Everlasting

Sunday, October 20 12pm

Pot Luck Buffet - Bring a Dish



The American Legion Family will be celebrating the life of proud Dual Member Andy Burkett who passed on 11 September 2019. Andy was serving as Department of Florida American Legion Baseball Chairman and Commander of Post 323 (Lehigh Acres) at the time of his passing. He had served for many years as an active and vibrant member of Squadron 323 and was a mentor and friend to all who knew him.

The Post/Squadron Everlasting will begin on 20 October 2019 at 12 Noon.



Upcoming Events

SAL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FALL MEETINGS — 11-13 OCTOBER 2019

Location: American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis, IN

CELEBRATION OF LIFE — CHAIRMAN ANDY BURKETT — 20 OCTOBER 2019

Location: American Legion Post 323 1124 Ashlar Avenue, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 12 Noon

DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA, 16TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE — 1-3 November 2019

Location: Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld®, 6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, FL 32821

Editor's Note:

Please submit any and all events being held by your Post, Squadron or Unit to the Detachment of Florida Events Calendar, via the event submission form on the Detachment of Florida website at <https://www.floridasons.org>.

Articles for inclusion in The Source, the Detachment of Florida Newsletter may be emailed to thesource@floridasons.org.





HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Each member has access to many benefits including the National Emergency Fund if a natural disaster should occur. However, your dues have to be current at the National Organization for you to be eligible for this and many other benefits.

Remember, your dues also help support Squadron Programs, the Child Welfare Foundation, National Emergency Fund, Operation Comfort Warriors, Fisher House and many more.

Without your support we cannot continue to support the great programs of the American Legion Family. Please follow up with your Squadron Membership Chairman to pay your dues and ensure they are transmitted for the current year.

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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***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.