



# THE SOURCE



Well Hello Everyone. When I wrote last month's article my wife and I were half way through our 14 day quarantine for testing positive for Covid. Well, at the end of the 14 days we tested positive again and did another 14 days. I wouldn't wish catching this thing on anybody. Please listen to the CDC guidelines, wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay 6' apart. We will get back to normal eventually.

Fall Conference has been canceled. They have not stated if it will be rescheduled. This pandemic has changed the way we think and live. Our lives have forever changed. I'm sorry to say I have no big fundraising events or functions to report about. Remember to do your Buddy Checks and work on membership for 2021. We may not set any records in fundraising this year, but we can go for the 26th consecutive all-time high in membership.

Remember not to believe and share everything you see on social media. Doing that causes more problems than anyone can imagine. Something posted wrong can pyramid in to a huge mess. Just because you heard it does not mean it's true. Any information will come from the Department or the Detachment.

For God and Country,  
Tom Klinger  
Detachment Commander



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### 2020-2021 Membership Target Dates:

September 3, 2020	10%	CONGRATULATIONS!
October 8, 2020	25%	
November 12, 2020	35%	
December 3, 2020	45%	
January 14, 2021	60%	
February 4, 2021	75%	
March 4, 2021	80%	
April 14, 2021	90%	
May 6, 2021	100%	
June 16, 2021	20,750	Commander's Goal
Delegate Cut-off		



Gentlemen,

Normally I would start out by saying the Florida Delegation was preparing to head to the annual National Convention. However, with the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Convention has been canceled. In addition, the Fall NEC meeting in Indianapolis has been canceled as well. There will be a virtual NEC meeting held in October with only the National Commander, National Adjutant, and the National Judge Advocate attending this meeting. We are definitely in uncharted waters with this pandemic and the "NEW" normal as it is today.

This leads me to questions that have come up about our 17th Annual Fall Conference. As you've read in the Commander's comments, Fall Conference has been canceled. At present, plans are to reschedule sometime in January if all can be arranged with the hotel. Hopefully by then Covid-19 will be under control. We must put the safety and health of our Members above anything else we do. I know that the Auxiliary is looking to do a "Virtual" Conference. I am not certain if we can accomplish something like this for the Sons. Once I have more information on this situation I will let everyone know.

By now, all Squadrons should have received their membership cards for 2021. Some of the cards were delivered by Department Commander Rick Johnson. The rest were mailed by Department Headquarters. If you still have not yet received them, please contact the Membership staff at Department Headquarters; they can assist you in getting your cards. Please remember in your transmittals that there was a National Per Capita Dues increase. You MUST now submit \$11.00 for each 2021 member transmitted. I have been asked by Department to make this reminder to you, as some are still only sending in \$8.00.

I am going to step up on my "SOAP BOX" for a few issues I have. First off let me state that Assistant Ad-

jutant's Tom Soeder and George Aichele have been tasked to contact the Detachment Officers and Chairmen to have them submit Articles each month for "The Source". It's very disheartening to me to hear from these two gentlemen how discouraged they are from the lack of response from the Detachment Leadership. We talk a BIG GAME on improving Communications within the Detachment at all of our meetings! Well Guess what? The Communication starts at the TOP and you being the TOP in the Detachment need to step up and submit an Article. Please give them the respect you would want and at least reply to them.

Second item, again Tom and George are working on the Detachment Roster. They have been in contact with the Area and District Commanders to get a Squadron Officers Report form from the ones we do not currently have. Maybe you don't understand that this form is needed to verify the Squadron Adjutant to National Headquarters so that they can access MYSAL.Org. Each year, more business is being conducted online. With almost 20,000 members, we are by no means a small Detachment and must get all of our Squadrons used to working with MYSAL.Org. It is the wave of the Future.

Ok, so now I will climb back off the Soap Box. However, I do want to say Thank you to the Officers and Chairmen that are doing what they are supposed to do or doing what is asked of them. You know who you are! Keep up the hard work you doing for this Organization.

That's about all for this Month!

In Honor of Those Who  
Served and Those Still Serving!!!

Ed Sheubrooks, Detachment Adjutant



With all that has been going on over the past months we are continuing to make progress toward our history making opportunity. **CONGRATULATIONS** on reaching our 25th consecutive all-time high in membership. It was a real challenge under the conditions, but we made it. A big THANK YOU goes out to the (PCC) Past Commanders Club and President Steve Gordon for his and the Club's support in helping us reach this history making event. Again, CONGRATULATIONS to everyone on your hard work.

We are having an issue with our per capita payments with membership transmittals. When transmitting membership remember the per capita increase. Our per capita is \$11.00 per member. Six dollars (\$6.00) goes to the Detachment and five dollars (\$5.00) goes to National. The membership transmittal forms are available online, fillable, save-able, and printable. USE THESE FORMS AS THEY HAVE THE CORRECT PER CAPITA DOLLARS ON THEM.

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With the start of our 2020-021 membership campaign our first target of 10% is on September 3rd, 2020. Congratulations on hitting this first target! This year's Administration Manual should have arrived at all Squadrons. It is especially important that we reach these targets listed in the manual. Membership is our life-line. With the start of our new membership year the Detachment is 188 Squadrons strong. We had several new Squadrons and several Squadrons that were reinstated. We have more room for growth within the Detachment. I challenge every District Commander and his staff to reach out to your Legion District Commander and ask about interest from Posts without a Squadron.

I strongly believe that we all can say we need to have better contact information on all our members. Phone numbers, email addresses and up to date mailing addresses are vital pieces of information. COVID-19 showed us why that is important.

We need to continue to always stay focused on our membership. We all need to remember the 3 "R's" (Recruit, Reinstate, & Renew). Always transmit your membership - which brings me to MYSAL.org. If your Squadron is not using MySAL you need to get it set up and get the process started. The National Organization will be going completely electronic before long. We need to be ready for that transition. Get with your Post Officers and get the guidance on getting signed up.

SPLASH II (The Sequel) is underway and we need to get our pools cleaned and treated. District Commanders you must take the lead as a lifeguard and give your Squadrons the needed swimming instructions. Each Squadron, each District, and each Area play a big part to our success with membership. WE MUST COMMUNICATE and COMMUNICATE REGULARLY with each of your Squadrons. Let them know you are available and willing to help. Go to their meetings with positive information, conduct training classes that they may need with MySAL and our Google distribution list. Communication will be an excessively big topic this year. We must make improvements in how we communicate.

Membership reports have started going out as of August 24th, 2020. Commander Klinger and I are looking forward to a GREAT 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP YEAR.

Each Squadron is responsible for their membership. If you need help with anything, please ask. We are an email or phone call away.

**LET'S MAKE A BIG SPLASH!!!!**





Greetings Detachment of Florida,

With our annual Convention cancelled, Post homes opening and closing and reopening, the cancellation of our November Fall Conference, I'm sure we can all agree that we are in different times. Even with all these obstacles we must continue our work. The work is continuing in the background with hopes that the Detachment will be in a much stronger position when things improve.

Post homes are opening back up with defined instruction from the State of Florida. These guidelines must be followed. Masks, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, just to name a few.

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF YOUR POST COMMANDER!**

**Post Commanders have been given direction from the Department of Florida Headquarters.**

On a side note, be aware of your use of social media and pictures. Social media is an issue.

The following list contains issues I believe we are facing and will continue to face into the future. It may not be exhaustive, but these are items we must work at to be successful. As we continue to grow, our needs will be ever changing and we must be prepared for these changes. **Our National Organization is working towards an all-digital future and this may come sooner than later.** We need to prepare now and be ready for the future. Now is the time to get these changes made so we're not surprised when it happens.

- Improve communications with our Squadrons and their membership.
  - Squadrons need to develop a communication line to their members with both phone numbers and email contacts.
  - Explain to your membership the need for this information.
  - Explain to your membership the importance and value of using our website ([floridasons.org](http://floridasons.org)).
- Improve communication to our Squadrons.
  - The Detachment should have a valid email address for each of the Squadron Officers.
- Improve communication within the Detachment of Florida.
- Improve communication with Commission/Committee Chairman.
  - Commission/Committee Chairman need to involve the members.
  - Regular communication should be held within the Commission/Committees as to what is going on and get them involved.
  - Promote involvement to all members.
- Improve and expand MT&D training.
  - Improve the education of our Officers, our Chairman, and most importantly our members.
- Improve the use of MySAL by our Squadrons.
  - Gain access to the applications that are online. It must be approved by your Post Officers.
  - To use the MySAL membership portal it is imperative that your Squadron Officer report forms are completed properly and indicate the proper person for processing. If this form is not on file with the National organization, you cannot get access to MySAL. This is a must. Let me repeat that you must complete and transmit the completed Squadron Officer

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Internal Affairs (continued)

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(Continued from page 4)

ers report form to get your temporary log-in information. The Squadron Adjutant will be verified with Department before access is given by National.

- Improve Squadron reporting.
- Forms are available on our [website](#) under the administration tab. They are fillable, you can save them, and you are able to print them.

This just a snapshot of just some of the identified needs that I, as your Internal Affairs Chairman, have identified for improvements for our Detachment.

I will publish this with every Internal Affairs article I submit. Please read and memorize our preamble to our Constitution. Read each line and stop for just a minute and reflect on the words. These words are powerful and should have great meaning to us all. Think about what each line is saying. It is why we do what we do! This would also be a great training opportunity at each Squadron meeting. I keep this in my article because I think it is something very meaningful for you as a member and us a Veteran Organization.

### **PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE, WE MALE DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS OF THE GREAT WARS,**

**ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER AS “SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION” FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism;
- to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars;
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses;
- to make right the master of might;
- to promote peace and good will on earth;
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;
- to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands;
- and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.





Gentlemen,

With the new year progressing under the same conditions as the previous year ended, there are many challenges and obstacles in our path. However, we should not simply give up! There are many ways for the Sons to be helpful in our communities. With schools back in session, whether it be in class or online, there are many students who are in need. The current economic difficulties have hit some of our communities very hard, your Squadron can sponsor a class at a local elementary or middle school and help with needed supplies.

Another area where we can be of help is with local food banks. With the business interruption that our country endured (and may still be enduring in some industries) need has definitely increased. Let's not forget our core mission: our veterans. There are many veterans in local nursing homes or assisted living facilities that need our help. Clothing items such as socks and underwear are always needed. Or, possibly your squadron could "adopt" a local facility and do things for all the residents, not just the veterans. Sometimes, a simple card with kind words can go a long way! I am sure that there are many other things that can be done in our communities to let them know that the Sons of The American Legion is still here for them!

Please stay safe and secure and remember that we do what we do, for God and Country.

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## Detachment of Florida — The Source Spotlight

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*Whenever possible, The Source will feature submissions which speak to the heart of who we are and what we do as Sons of the American Legion. This month's Source Spotlight features a fantastic idea put into motion by Squadron 347. A HUGE Thank You to the members of 347 for going the extra mile and the utmost respect to District 6 Commander and Detachment Squadron Activities Committee Chairman George Worton for submitting this month's 'Source Spotlight'. [Ed]*

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As the posts begin to open, I wanted to share an idea that one Squadron has been using to help their financial situation that seems to be working. The Squadron at 347 is sending in an email for renewals that explains that as the various fundraisers have been curtailed, members could help out with an extra donation to help the Squadron. The letter asks if members could donate \$10 or \$20 to help our efforts.

To date membership has brought in \$4000 BUT the additional funds are over \$2000 to date. That will allow the Squadron to help the Post as well as fund some of the very deserving causes we support. The membership has been very generous, and some have sent an additional \$100 while many have sent \$10 to \$20. During these difficult times this may be the extra help that the SAL and/or the Post needs to keep going!

Thank you!

George Worton

District 6 Commander

410-382-0473

TOGETHER  
WE CAN  
AND WILL  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE







Greetings from the Eastern Area. I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy. It is my pleasure to serve again as Eastern Area Vice Commander and I would like to take this time to thank all of you for your continued hard work during these exceedingly difficult times.

The 12th District has been conducting installations on a request basis. If you have not been installed please contact your District Commanders, Chris Hamrick, or Randy Chilcott. The 12th District will also hold its District Meeting on September 19, 2020 at Post 189 Sebastian, 9:00am. In addition, the 12th will hold its District Picnic on September 26th, 2020, at Wickham Park, Melbourne, FL.

Post 81, Melbourne will host a grand reopening after remodeling, in September; check the [12th District Sons website](#) for details.

Installations in District 6 will also be on a request basis, contact George Worton, District Commander. The 6th District will hold its District Meeting on September 12, 2020 at Post 63, Winter Garden, 9:00am. There will also be a membership training session following. Also, at Post 63 on September 12 there will be a 100th Anniversary Celebration, 12:30-4:00pm.

Please check with the respective District Officers or Posts to see if there has been any change to the schedule.

I would like to give a shout out to Post 189, Sebastian, especially to 189 Historian and Public Affairs Officer George Von Kantor, and his wife Christine, a member of Auxiliary Unit 189 and past Unit Treasurer for their Operation Welcome Home Initiative. The program is designed to welcome home post 9/11 veterans with special incentives from local businesses, and to grow membership. American Legion Posts wishing to start a similar program can message Von Kantor via [Post 189's Facebook page](#).

Hoping this pandemic passes quickly and as our Posts open, remember to be safe and carry on the great spirit of the Sons of the American Legion.

Rocky Cirigliano,  
Vice Commander East  
Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida





Hello my fellow blue caps,

I hope that this finds everyone and their families safe and well. Please follow the guidelines of the CDC and your local government so that we may continue our mission as Sons of the American Legion in a safe and productive way.

**EMAIL** is something most all of us have in our daily lives, whether for work or at home, most of us have one. Now more than ever we need all squadrons to compile an email list of all your members to keep in contact with them. **COMMUNICATION** and keeping up to date on the latest information is the main key to our success. As we travel thru our daily routines and in these times of uncertainty we need to stay connected and help our Legion families and their communities in any way possible. To be a success we must work together as one; remember there is no rank among us.

Squadrons work closely with your post families and stay in **Communication** with the leadership, asking what you can do to make your post a better place.

District officers: you are the eyes and ears of this Detachment. Visit or call your Squadrons, join their meetings to see what they need. Some have new officers and may need guidance and direction. Contact your Area Commanders and together present a workshop on the administrative needs of the Squadrons such as MYSAL and the CSR forms for the end of year reports. We **MUST** keep in Communication to assure our squadrons we are here for them.

Membership will be harder this year with the pandemic and uncertainty. Some may choose to stay away from our Posts for their health and their family's health. We must use the tools we have available such as email, phone calls, social media, and yes even snail mail to reach out to those members. You need to let your members know that the leadership of your Squadron cares about your member's health and well-being with buddy checks. We want them to renew and retain their membership so they may benefit from the programs we have to offer them. We want them to show their support to their community, State, and Nation as Sons members. Let them know you need their help with our charities through fundraising and dinners. Our goal is always a 100% membership and the care of our Veterans. With **Communication** and hard work we will once again swim to the top lending a supporting hand to those Veterans and their communities.

At this time as our Posts are reopening slowly and with safe practices, please help by doing your part washing your hands with soap for 20 seconds, sanitizing often, and most importantly if you don't feel good or you are sick please stay home. If we can do this our Posts can remain open safely, so that we can continue and achieve our goals for many years to come.

God bless our Veterans.

God bless The United State of America.

Brian Carter, Vice Commander North  
Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Florida







Hello All! I hope you are all doing well and your Posts are beginning to reopen.

The pandemic and all of the craziness that's associated with it have really put a crimp on the way we do things as an organization to raise money for our programs. While we are currently not allowed to have the big events we normally do, there are still many other ways that we can raise money. One thing I know about the Sons, is that we typically think "outside of the box" when it comes to our fundraising techniques.

I know of some Posts/Squadrons that are having virtual raffles, others are explaining on their membership mail outs about how the COVID situation has hurt their normal fundraising activities and are asking for donations. Whatever it is you are doing to raise money; the Detachment would like to know about it!

**My goal as the PR Chairman is to help EVERY Squadron in our amazing Detachment to be as successful as possible.**

Please use our website to submit your events, it doesn't matter if they're virtual or physical. The URL is:

<https://floridasons.org/event-submission-form/>

Also, meetings are allowed as long as we follow the proper guidelines to keep everyone in attendance safe. If your Districts are planning their District Meetings, please use the above link to submit your District Meeting Schedules. If you would like Commander Klinger to attend, he requires a personal invite. Please [email him](#) an invitation if you would like him to attend.

Until next time, stay safe, stay healthy and keep the Detachment informed of your events.

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp  
Public Relations Chairman  
Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Flori-

da





Hello Sons! I hope this message continues to find you all safe and healthy. It has been an interesting year so far and I hope you all have been able to find a way to keep you programs going. Whatever you are doing to raise money, please make sure you are following the guidelines set forth by our leadership to do so. If you are able to have events, please contact me via phone or email and let me know. Not only will I help get your event out to the District/Area, but I will attend if possible. If you would like me to attend a meeting at your Squadron, please reach out to me as well.

While we won't have our first official membership report for another couple of weeks, I have spoken to a few Commanders and am assured that the District is off to a great start on membership. Some Squadrons have done mailings to let their members know that the 2021 cards are in. There are several Squadrons in the District that are over their 1st two goals already. Please keep up the outstanding work! Don't forget your Buddy Checks – using the Buddy Check system is not only a good way to keep your membership informed about squadron activities and let the member know you care about them, but it can be a great way to get an early renewal.

Due to safety concerns related to the pandemic, District Leadership has decided to postpone our District Picnic that was rescheduled for September 12 at Post 110 in Port Charlotte. We have been talking about possibly rescheduling the event for later in the year when it will be safer to do so.

Our District Meeting, however, has not been canceled. We will still be holding our first District Meeting on Sunday, September 13 at Post 110 in Beautiful Uptown Port Charlotte. The times are as follows:

**Riders: 10 am**

**Sons: 11 am**

**Lunch: 12 pm**

**Legion/Auxiliary: 1 pm**

We will be following Social Distancing guidelines to keep you safe. If you feel like wearing a mask, please do so. If you have been considering a place on the District Staff, please be in attendance. There is always room for you!

Stay Safe, stay healthy, and I hope to see you on the 13th!

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp  
13th District Commander  
Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



The central area is alive and well. I wanted to say that all District Commanders and assistants should be contacting their Squadron Commanders about membership. At the very least the Executive Board's memberships should be paid, (at 11.00 per officer) so there isn't an issue with ZERO squadrons on membership reports.

There is a change of Leadership in the 7th District, Doug Ernst has decided to resign his position as Commander. We wish him well and thank him for his service, he did a great job as Commander.

At this time Rick Bridges (3, Bartow), a past District 7 Commander is a candidate to fill this position. I wish him well in this position and thank him for stepping up.

Finally and with a lot of sadness, our Friend Michael (DOC) Bowen is moving out of state to Indiana with his family. Doc was past 16th District Commander, past Detachment of Florida Sargent at Arms, and Squadron 119 Commander (HOME OF THE BEST WINGS). He has served the Detachment and District well and will be sorely missed.

Sincerely,  
Gerard Sambets, Central Area Vice Commander

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### From the Children and Youth Chairman, Tom Soeder

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Department of Florida Children and Youth Chairman, Les Martin, has scheduled the Children and Your Picnic for April 3, 2021 at American Legion Post 1, Titusville, FL. Please join us for this fun event!







## 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.

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

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### 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'.

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

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*The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 185 Squadrons and nearly 20,000 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



## 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).