



VOLUNTEER  
EDUCATE  
TRAIN  
SUPPORT

# GERARD SAMBETS

★ DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★  
COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Thank you to all that attended the convention and all who contributed to the success of the celebration of our 50th year. Also, a BIG thank you to the 50th-anniversary committee for putting on a great event. I applaud Brian Carter for his success and commitment to veterans. We all scored for our veterans under his leadership.

With that said, I have some big shoes to fill, but I am up to the challenges ahead. My project for the coming year is Veterans First, using the V.E.T.S. acronym Volunteer, Educate, Train, and Support. (V.E.T.S. 1st) We will all help those vets that need our support.

The charity I have chosen to support this year is [U.S.A. Patriots](#). A softball team of amputee veterans who share their camaraderie thru softball and educating children who are also amputees.

Their upcoming event in July is a kids camp, taking place July 11th - 16th at City Park (R.O.C. Park), Madeira Beach. On Saturday the 16th, the kids will play a game at 4 pm followed by the veterans playing a game. Please come out and support them if you can. Should be a fun event.

#### Now on to membership:

Please continue to send in membership. Be creative with your Squadron with collecting your 2023 dues and keeping track of them somehow on the old cards until we receive the newly printed ones. Make sure you are communicating to the Post what you decide to do, so everyone is aware of members that are paid up. The Detachment is working closely with the Department of Florida to get this situation corrected. Please be as patient as possible; it is not the fault of the Detachment or Department of Florida.

Hopefully, all of you are working on the "To Do List". There is not much time to get this done. District Commanders it is on you to get ALL squadrons in compliance and Vice Com-

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#### 2022-2023 Membership Target Dates:

September 1, 2022	10%
October 6, 2022	25%
November 10, 2022	35%
December 1, 2022	45%
January 12, 2023	60%
February 9, 2023	75%
March 9, 2023 *	85%
April 13, 2023	90%
May 4, 2023	100%
June 1, 2023 **	21,350 Commander's Goal

\* Legion Birthday

\*\* Delegate Cut-Off

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## Commander's Message (continued)

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manders to follow up. You can communicate through me at [commander@floridasons.org](mailto:commander@floridasons.org) or Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Rocco 'Rocky' Cirigliano at [ia@floridasons.org](mailto:ia@floridasons.org).

Moving forward we will complete our installations and start a new year at our Squadrons. For all of the outgoing Commanders, please keep mentoring the members that have stepped up to make our Squadrons successful this year. Continue to use The Source and send in event info so I can come and support your efforts in your community.

We didn't bring this up at the convention, but the S.A.L. is also supporting Legion Baseball again. The American Legion and Sons of the American Legion are trying to get those Legion/Sons team sponsorship back up again for the American Legion baseball program. In the Central area, we went from 6 teams to 8 and looking to double that this year and next. Contact Terry Philips at 904-535-4114 about how your Squadron can get involved in forming a team in your area or supporting an existing team.

I would be neglecting my duties if I did not acknowledge Ed Sheubrooks for his dedication and years of service to the S.A.L. in the position of Adjutant and with that said, we welcome Christian Rapp to the position.

"Veterans First"





It is my pleasure to be serving the Detachment of Florida as your newly appointed Adjutant. Thank you to my mentors Ed Sheubrooks and Jim Roberts for your years of service as Adjutants. I have some big shoes to fill.

Our 50th Annual Detachment Convention is now behind us. It was very well attended with 61 Squadrons registered. We had approximately 24 first time attendees which was fantastic to see. We had **\$1,429,648.00** donated to Veteran's and Children's charities from both the Convention floor and amounts donated at local levels throughout the year. Total **reported** manpower hours were 358,109. When you multiply these hours by the standard rate of \$29.95, this equals a value of **\$10,725,354!** Just imagine what these figures would be if we had 100% reporting. The percentage of our 189 Squadrons that submitted their reports was just around 20%. **I challenge every Area Vice Commander and District Commander to increase the number of Squadrons reporting by our 51st Convention next year.** I know that 100% reporting is wishful thinking, but we can definitely do better than 20%!

We finished our year by achieving our **27th ALL TIME HIGH IN MEMBERSHIP! A total of 20,823 members (103.19%)**. Thanks to everyone and their membership teams for your hard work!

Other notable events from our 50th Convention were the installation of Raymond Leventhal (323 | Lehigh Acres) being installed as your new Detachment of Florida Chaplain. Peter Puzzo (189 | Sebastian) being awarded the Albert J Farforth Memorial Award of Sons of The American Legion Member of the Year, and Gerard Sambets (275 | Dunedin) being installed as Detachment Commander. Congratulations to all!

Our 50th Convention ended with a celebration featuring myself and Ray Leventhal as the entertainment, the celebration was well attended. Thank you to John Jennings, Ed Sheubrooks and your Convention Committee for an outstanding job organizing the event and designing the memorabilia.

A topic I know John Jennings will talk about is the myLegion.org membership portal. I'm not going to steal his thunder, but I do need to remind each and every one of you to create your own **FREE** myLegion.org account. This will allow each member the ability to pay their dues online (once that feature is activated) but will also allow each member to view/print a copy of their membership card. A very handy feature if you lose your card or forget it when you go on vacation. ALSO, each squadron needs to complete and send in the SDR (Squadron Data Report). This document informs national of what your Squadron charges for dues for regular, dual and junior members. National uses this document to configure the myLegion.org system to collect the proper amount of dues online so Detachment receives the correct per capita and your Squadron receives the correct amount of dues. The form can be found online at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SDR.pdf> and I've also asked the Editor to include it at the end of this edition of "The Source". Please also email me a copy so I can have a record of it in case National says your Squadron has not submitted it. My new email address is [adjutant@floridasons.org](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org).

The Assistant Adjutants, George Aichele and Tom Soeder, are working on the Detachment Roster as I type this newsletter article. They will be contacting the Area and District Commanders for them to attempt to garner the missing Squadron Officer Reports. We are shooting for a deadline of August 31st to have all the missing Officer Reports in hand. Without this information on file at Department Headquarters, your Squadron will not receive any information from the Detachment. Please remember to have a valid email address as we are all continuing to move into the electronic age and getting away from snail mail.

Additionally, as your Detachment Adjutants are in the process gathering the information, and we are waiting for the Historians to send in their pictures, please understand that the Detachment website is still in the process of being updated. Officer information, administrative report forms and more are still in the process of being updated. If you notice something that is not correct on the website during this time, please send me an email so I can make note of it during the extensive update process. Your patience with all of this is greatly appreciated.

As some of you may have heard, we did not have the 2023 membership cards to bring home from Convention. We have been advised by National HQ that due to supply chain issues there is a delay in printing membership cards for the Sons of The American Legion and several Departments of The American Legion. Once the cards have been printed, they will be shipped to the Department HQ and sent out to the Squadrons from there. Even though this issue is

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## Detachment Adjutant's Corner (continued)

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out of our control, we apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your continued patience. *Please do not let this situation hold up the collection of membership.*

Finally, I would like to thank Sandy Bell for all of her hard work and dedication to the Sons of The American Legion. This Convention was the last one for Sandy as she is in the process of moving to Pennsylvania. Sandy will be dearly missed by all.

Thanks for all you do! I'm looking forward to another successful year for us all. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I'll do my best to answer you all in a timely manner.

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp  
Detachment Adjutant

Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida





**27th Consecutive 20,823 members  
All-Time High in Membership: (103.19%)**

**Donations to Various Programs**

Florida Special Olympics: \$83,098.00  
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: \$31,690.00  
Florida Children & Youth: \$7,400.00  
All Children's Hospital: \$6,270.00  
National Emergency Fund: \$16,000.00  
American Legion Veterans & Children's Fund \$5,000.00  
Project: Vet Relief: \$30,136.00  
COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association): \$7,500.00  
Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation: \$166,989.00  
Dollar Contributions to American Legion Posts: \$225,275.00  
Various Other Program Donations: \$854,380.00

**Total Dollar Contributions: \$1,429,648.00**

**Manhours**

**Hours to American Legion Posts: 120,605  
Community Service Hours: 139,725  
Hours for Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation: 14,753  
Various Other Hours: 41,513**

**Value of the total 358,109 hours: \$10,725,364.00**

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



Membership Team,

I hope everyone had a safe journey home from Convention. I don't know about you, but I really enjoyed our 50th Anniversary celebration. We made lots of new memories and made new historical marks to start our journey into our next 50th years. That is a very interesting thought. What will the next 50 years bring? It is in our hands and in it truly is in good hands if we each do the job we are all capable of doing. This is a volunteer organization and each of us understands that. We are here to help our Children, our communities, and our Veterans. Commanders Sambets' theme this year is Veterans 1st (Vets 1st) Volunteer, Educate, Train, and Support. If we do this with our membership both old and new, we will have completed what Commander Sambets wants to accomplish this year. We must educate and train our members so they, in turn, can and will support our Veterans and our Squadrons.

I will be attending a Department membership forum on July 26th via Zoom by invitation from the Department Membership Chairman. I am looking forward to getting some clarity to some of the issues that National is telling us (the Detachment) that the Department is the problem, and they need to correct it. I will be working to get help for ALL Squadrons with the SDR forms and getting online access to MyLegion.org. This will be a great opportunity to get some issues cleared up that have been issues for a while. I also will be working with the Department Membership Chairman to improve communication line at all District levels.

#### MEMBERSHIP:

Let us get off on the right foot with our 2022-2023 membership campaign. No ZERO SQUARDONS after installations are completed. As of the writing of this article we still had no membership cards and no due date as to when we might receive them. I do know that this will slow us down but be ready to rock and roll when cards are available.

As for our Detachment 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive all time high number. It will be around 21,350 or so----let's go to work.

Commander Sambets goal number will change once the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive number is known. Commander Sambets goal will be around 21,750 – 22,000---Let's go to work.

As you can see, we have a lot to get done in the next few months. Our Fall Conference is in November, which is only a few months away and a lot of work to get started.

**For our membership campaign to be a great success, we must work it each day. When a Squadron reaches the 100% goal and does not move from that number, what does that tell you? Membership numbers should always be moving and never standing still. We have plenty of resources in Florida and we must reach out to them if we are to grow.**

#### 2022-2023 Membership Target Dates:

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January 12, 2023	60%
February 9, 2023	75%
March 9, 2023 *	85%
April 13, 2023	90%
May 4, 2023	100%
June 1, 2023 **	21,350 Commander's Goal

\* Legion Birthday

\*\* Delegate Cut-Off



ALRIGHTY NOW! What a fantastic 50th Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida Convention at the Lake Buena Vista Hilton June 17th -19th 2022.

Commander Brian Carter last year oversaw the creation of The 50th Anniversary Ad hoc Committee to plan and create and implement our Detachment's 50th Anniversary Convention. Chairman John Jennings and Ed Sheubrooks and our committee met, designed, and convened conference calls throughout the past year to allow for a business-filled Convention culminating with the successful 50th Anniversary Convention Reception Saturday Night.

would like to especially thank John Jennings, Ed Sheubrooks, Ray Leventhal, Christian Rapp, all the rest of the 50th Anniversary Committee members, and all the Detachment and Department members and guests who attended our successful Convention and Celebration reception. Great Job.

Our 50th Detachment Convention attained 27th All-Time High Membership and surpassing Commander Carter's Goal of 21,000 members. The Convention donations surpassed our wildest dreams with a grand total of almost \$191,000. off the floor. Outstanding! Administratively Jim Roberts our Judge Advocate brought forward for approval our Detachment Constitution and By-Laws up to date to mirror The SAL & TAL National Constitutions.

We still need every Squadron Commander and or Squadron Adjutant to fill out your 2022-2023 [Squadron Data Report](#) if you haven't. The form can be scanned and emailed to [dsforms@legion.org](mailto:dsforms@legion.org) or [DataServices Forms@legion.org](mailto:DataServicesForms@legion.org) or it can be sent via postal mail to:

The American Legion  
Attn: IT/Data Services  
PO Box 1954  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Please Fill It Out and Send It In.

Now to the election and installation of Gerard Sambets as Detachment Commander 2022-2023, Congratulations Commander Sambets to you and all your officers, especially Christian Rapp the newly appointed Detachment Adjutant. Commander Sambets and The Detachment of Florida we wish you a very successful upcoming year.

As your National Executive Committeeman and representative to the National Organization, I would like to apologize to every member of the Detachment of Florida for our organization for not having 2023 membership cards in your hands, someone should, While your Detachment Membership & Leadership Team has no control over it, rest assured we are and will be trying to find out where your cards are. Please, and believe me we understand your problems, be understanding of your Florida Team too, and be patient, we are working on the problem. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

District Commanders, please stay in touch with your Squadrons and hand every Squadron a [Squadron Data Report Form](#) and make sure they have a Squadron Handbook at your installations, if not get them one. Detachment Vice Commanders stay in touch with your District Commanders and make arrangements to attend a couple of their installations. Follow your Standard Operating Procedures, Squadrons report to District Commanders, they Report to Detachment Vice Commanders, and they report to the Detachment Commander. Follow your chain of Command.

District Commanders, Detachment Vice Commanders, Commission and Committee men, every one of you should be writing a report at least every 3 months but let's focus now on your first report. We are not talking about writing a novel, three or four paragraphs introducing yourself, what you're doing and what you intend to do this year.

Sign up for the google group so you can receive the Source and other important information Go to our website and encourage your members to go to [floridasons.org](http://floridasons.org)

The Sons of The American Legion National Convention will be in Milwaukee WI August 26th, 27th, & 28th 2022 and I will be attending with our National Team. Commanders and Adjutant Class have been moved to Convention from Fall NEC Meetings. Our hotel this year is a ½ mile away from the convention center, so be prepared to bus it or hike it.

Last but not least I would like to thank you for electing me your NEC 2023 again this year and thank you, Commander Sambets for appointing me Chairman of the Legislative Commission and Commanders Advisory Committee. I will work to do my best and Do My Job.



Greetings Detachment of Florida,

Congratulations to our newly elected Commander Gerard Sambets and to all the Officers, Commission/Committee Chairs for 2022-2023.

A big thank you to John Jennings our chairman for the 50th Detachment Convention and his committee members for a job well done, and thanks to Christian Rapp and Ray Leventhal for great entertainment.

Thanks to Ed Sheubrooks for all he does who will continue as our Finance Committee Chairman.

Detachment Internal Affairs Commission has authority over and coordinates the activities of all administrative or support committees. I would like to welcome commission members for 2022-2023 John Jennings, Squadron 137, Mark Getty, Squadron 148, and Dennis Kirsch, Squadron 80. Thank you for serving.

Our Membership Committee will be working hard to meet all our membership targets moving through the year. I am sure the Membership Chairman and his Committee members will have more to say as the year progresses. I look forward as Chairman of Internal Affairs collaborating with Chairman Jennings and his Committee. The membership theme this year is Veterans 1st "Volunteer\*Educate\*Train\*Support." Commander Sambets membership goal this year is 22,000 members. We are all members of the Membership Committee, we need to work membership, as I am sure you will. Always take the time to promote membership at every opportunity and let everyone know what the Sons of The American Legion do for their communities, children, and most importantly what we do for our veterans.

George Aichele, Chairman of the MT&D Committee will be working on new classes to continue to improve the education of our officers, our chairperson, and most importantly our members. George will also visit the Squadron reporting to improve the quantity and quality as to the form submissions.

Internal Affairs will continue to stress the importance of Improving communications within our Squadrons and their membership.

Squadrons need to develop a communication line to their members with both phone numbers and email contacts. The Detachment needs a valid email address for each of the Squadron Officers, and the Squadron.

Squadrons need to "Engage New Members to increase "Enthusiasm & Retention" Provide information to the SAL new members, (i.e., Squadron Handbooks, insurance benefits) Get them involved.

Explain to your membership the importance and value of using our website [floridasons.org](https://floridasons.org) Detachment of Florida Newsletter-"THE SOURCE", <https://floridasons.org/the-source/>, and to sign up for our Detachment Google Group, <https://groups.google.com/g/florida-sons>

Detachment Internal Affairs will strive to improve communication between commission/ committee chairs and their members.

Commission and Committees should keep in touch with their members to keep them informed as to what is going on. Commission/Committee Chairman need to promote involvement of their members. Send a welcome e-mail to your commission/committee members and keep them informed.

Improve communication with Commission Chairman, Committee Chairman need to Include the Commission Chair in your committee meetings and keep them abreast of the goings on as required in our bylaws.

(Section 10 of the Detachment Bylaws state All committees shall faithfully perform their duties, keep records of their acts, and **report the same to their respective Commissions**, or if so required, to the Detachment Executive Committee or Detachment Commander.)

*(Continued on page 9)*



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## Internal Affairs (continued)

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*(Continued from page 8)*

I want to thank Detachment Commander Brian Carter for the opportunity to serve with him. He has had a great year and should be proud of his year of service.

I will continue to publish the preamble with every Internal Affairs article. I also believe, as we all should, these words are meaningful for you as a member and us as 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 ALL 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 All 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.

Thank you for all you do.

Rocky Cirigliano  
Chairman, Internal Affairs  
Detachment of Florida





Gentlemen,

With a fantastic year behind us, and another on the horizon, your Member Training & Development Committee is gearing up to bring you some new and exciting learning opportunities as well as continuing with the classes that have already been established.

I would like to apologize for the error in the schedule that was printed in the Convention booklet regarding, the decision was made to not have the Commander/Adjutants training to allow more time for celebration as it was the 50th Detachment's Convention.

Several members asked about the training sessions and were genuinely disappointed that we were not offering them. This is very encouraging, as it shows that our training sessions are something that our members are talking about and looking forward to. Training is one of the most important things that we can offer our members. There is no better way to get our members involved than to not only teach them about the organization and its programs, but also teaching and training them on how to complete the duties of the offices that they may hold.

The Membership, Training and Development Committee will be working hard not only developing new courses and revamping some of the current ones, but we will be working on developing more avenues to get training out to our members.

We will be looking into virtual and video sessions as well as setting up in-person training events throughout the Detachment. If any District or Area commanders are interested in having the MT&D Committee come to your gathering for training, please do not hesitate to contact the committee via email to [mtd@floridasons.org](mailto:mtd@floridasons.org).

In closing, please watch *The Source* every month for more updates on the training sessions that the committee will have in the works.

For God and Country,

George Aichele, Chairman  
Membership, Training and Development Committee  
Detachment of Florida





# GERALD KAUFMAN



VICE COMMANDER NORTHERN AREA



VCNORTH@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Northern Area. We had a strong finish last year, but it was not good enough. As far as areas go, we finished in last place. If you do not know, The Northern Area consists of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 17th Districts. We have a lot of ground to cover and only one year to get it done. BUT WE CAN DO IT. We can move out of the last place spot with a little effort. Our District Commanders are capable and competent leaders with years of experience under their belts. These are good men who can get the job done for you.

As you can tell, my main goal this year is meeting our 100% mark, and not waiting until the last minute to do it. I am here to help our District Commanders reach that goal. We will have some district and area training coming out on the calendar soon.

My charity of choice this year is Project: VetRelief. If you do not know me, I am not only a son (my father fought in WWII in the U S Navy) but also a Legionnaire having served in the U S Navy myself.

Gentlemen, let us all remember why we are here. Someone in our ancestry served and fought for our country. We are here to honor their legacy. Our country is in turmoil right now and we are needed to set the example. The same example our forefathers set when it came time to protect our country. Today we are not marching off to some foreign land to set an example, we are in our posts, communities, state, and nation setting an example for what is right and just. Let's make this year count.

For God and Country

Gerry Kaufman

The Sons of The American Legion

Vice Commander

Northern Area

Detachment of Florida



# DAVE THOMPSON



8TH DISTRICT COMMANDER



DISTRICT8@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Members of the "Great Eighth"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me as your District 8 Commander for the 2022-2023 year. I am looking forward to working with all of you, to help each squadron reach not just detachment goals, but goals of each individual squadron.

My goal this year, on top of membership of course, is unity. Unity as a Legion family. This doesn't just include within the post but within the district itself. I want to hold district wide events, fundraisers and contest. I want to see mutual support between the family organizations at all events. Regardless of where you hold your membership, we all have the same goals. Our goals are to support our veterans, veteran families, children, and youth abroad and within the local community. Let's do our best to achieve those goals and support each other doing so.

Help me, help you this year. I am here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions, concerns, or ideas

Once again, thank you for allowing me the honor to serve as your District 8 Commander.





Greetings to everyone from District 13.

I hope this finds you all happy and healthy. Our 50th Convention was fantastic. Thank you to everyone that was able to attend. Congratulations to Christian Rapp and Ray Leventhal as they move into their new Detachment positions. I am honored to be serving as The District 13 Commander for the 2022-2023 service year. Let's make it great.....together.

We all have events going on, so let's communicate with each other and attend each others events. Let's get the camaraderie booming and make this year great. We are all in this together so let's help one another. Please let me know if you would like me to attend your special event and I will make every effort to be there.

Please keep working on your " Buddy Check " program. These are very trying times for a lot of people. You have no idea how much it means to someone to hear from you and know they are more than a number, that they are appreciated. When working on your renewals, make sure to get phone numbers and email address's to help you make contacts.

Membership is a main goal. I would like you all to stop and think,,,,,How many members have you recruited since becoming a member of The Worlds Greatest Veterans Organization, The American Legion? Why did you become a member ? Thank you all for what you do to make The Sons of The American Legion successful.

For God and Country,  
Mike Nigbor, District 13 Commander  
Detachment of Florida







## A Week in Review

### Florida American Legion Boys State 78th Session June 2022

The week started on Friday, June 17th with the checking in of the Boys State Staff Counselors, who are comprised of The American Legion, The Sons of American Legion, Active Duty Military, Florida Highway Patrol, lawyers, engineers, and others from different walks of life.

Saturday morning begins with training for the counselors who were selected to the program and have completed a full background check and a child safety training class.

Saturday afternoon is when the delegates from across the state begin to board American Legion District sponsored buses/transportation at approximately 6 PM to arrive in Tallahassee by 7 AM on Sunday morning.

After a day of training and preparing for the new cities and counties to be formed by the incoming delegates, the counselors gather for a celebration dinner on Saturday night at American Legion Post 13. This is in part for the volunteering for the rigorous week the staff counselors endure for the Florida American Legion Boys State premier leadership program



78th Session—Florida American Legion Boys State Staff Training (Photo Credit S. Vilgats)

The program throughout the week has guest speakers in person and virtually partaking in the program to name a few that gave time to the program are Florida Supreme Court Justice Canady, Senator Marco Rubio, Bob Asztalos from Florida Department of Veteran Affairs, and Governor Ron DeSantis all spoke with and answered questions for the delegates.

I had the honor of representing The Sons of American Legion, Detachment of Florida and presented to the delegates what The Sons of American Legion stands for and supports as an organization. I reviewed the requirements to join S.A.L. and joining The American Legion Family in the future.

Continuing with the delegates experience: from Sunday thru Tuesday, they take part in academics of Florida History, Legislature Procedures, and Law for the Bar Exam (no, not the real Florida Bar). Running concurrent to the academics, the cities and the counties are faced with the mock scenarios from environmental Disasters to the need to redistribute budgets to take care of their cities from failing industries. The academics and the scenarios help to determine the winning city for the Commanders Award at the end of the week, which was presented by the newly installed The American Legion Florida Detachment Commander Eunice Butts.



Florida Supreme Court Justice Charles T Canady virtually addresses the delegates (Photo credit S. Vilgats)

This occurs while the delegates are holding elections for the city level the county level and eventually the state level offices. Some of the most wanted positions at the beginning of the program are the Mayor of the city who's going to take charge of the delegates and run the city for the counselors as the

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## Boy's State Week In Review (continued)

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This occurs while the delegates are holding elections for the city level the county level and eventually the state level offices. Some of the most wanted positions at the beginning of the program are the Mayor of the city who's going to take charge of the delegates and run the city for the counselors as the counselors are just become advisors for the delegates. The other two positions that are important are Laundryman and Postmaster as these two positions must make sure the delegates have clean polo shirts are they are provided by The American Legion and their letters go out to the Posts when they are completed.

The short yet long week ends with the delegates going to the capitol in Tallahassee and sitting and working in the House chambers and the Senate chambers and the different committee rooms to hold mock legislative sessions. The delegates take their bills they argue for their bills if the bill passes the House the bill goes to the Senate; if the bill passes the Senate, then it goes to the Boys State governor to be signed or not to be signed in the boys state law. In history, a Boys State bill that became law in the state of Florida is the rumble strips on the side of the roadways and the call boxes on the turnpike. Further, some of the delegations have the honor and privilege to hold a mock Boys State Supreme Court in the actual court room and tour the



Steve Vilgats reviewing requirements for membership. (Photo credit Caleb Moran)



Working in the State House Chambers  
(Photo credit S. Vilgats)

The week is wrapped up on Friday evening with the presentation of Scholarships, Boys Nation Delegates, and City awards. The Boys State delegates are awarded the scholarships from the Samsung Scholarship to Lance Corporal Aviles tuition scholarship for four years for the Florida State University. These are just two of the scholarships that are available to the delegates during their time at Boys State. Also, two boys are selected as Boys Nation delegates and 2 alternates are select to represent Florida in Washington DC at the end of this month of July 2022.

This week does not occur without the American Legion family efforts to support the premier leadership program for the rising high school seniors. The American Legion Family supports Florida American Legion Boys State by providing meals, Bus Transportation, and boarding for the week. What can your Squadron do to support the program, assist in District level fundraising for Transportation, talk with your Post Boys State committee to assist in spon-

soring a delegate or over quota delegate or hold a fundraiser to help your Post sponsor a delegate.

The week is well documented via Boys State Delegates and Staff with Facebook: Florida American Legion Boys State #FALBS, Twitter, and professional photographed by Ryan and Kylene Gay of Capitolphoto.net. This wraps up the review for the week of Florida American Legion Boys State 78th Session.

Currently, I am seeking Squadrons from across to State assist me in submitting photographs of events past or future from this past year or coming year for me showcase at next year's Florida American Legion Boys State. These submissions of pictures that are received would be used to showcase the Florida Sons of American Legion Detachment to the entire 2023 Boys State delegation of Florida. Please email me directly at [district12@floridasons.org](mailto:district12@floridasons.org) again either from this past year's events or after your Squadrons host events throughout this coming year. Thank you all for your assistance with this project.

Steve Vilgats, Ed. S.

S.A.L. District 12 Commander

Florida American Legion Boys State Staff Member





# RAY LEVENTHAL



## DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN



CHAPLAIN@FLORIDASONS.ORG



It is an honor to have been selected to serve as the spiritual leader for the great Detachment of Florida. As your newly elected Chaplain, I have very large shoes to fill. Our departing Chaplain, my friend and brother Randy Collinsworth has, for the past 10 years, been a symbol of integrity and it was humbling beyond words to have had his nomination to this high position.

I firmly believe that we serve in this wonderful organization because we all have a sense of obligation to the one nation that was founded based on the blessings of God. It is with His blessing that we volunteer, donate and serve those who have served and are serving our nation in the military forces.

It is the veteran's service that allows us the freedoms we consider to be inherent based on the documents from which our nation was born. When Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, he, like all those who stood against tyranny, knew that it was God's will that all men...all his children, be free and whole.

Jefferson wrote *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"*.

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness – we have embedded these things in our national culture. They are the underlying framework of our society.

In October of 2021, a young author named William Biagini wrote a piece for [FSUNews.com](https://www.fsunews.com)<sup>1</sup>. His words and understanding of the Declaration of Independence are worth repeating because he wisely recognizes that God's will for his children is at the core of the creation of our United States of America.

Young Mr. Biagini wrote: "What many do not realize is that the Declaration of Independence is not just a slip of paper that states, "we are now free." It was originally written, however, as an appeal. The common belief in those days was that the King of England was selected by God through a process called divine right. This means that the only way that one can combat — legally — the actions taken by a king is by appealing to a higher authority than the King himself — in this case, God."

I implore you to pray for the guidance of God to be imbued to the leaders of our nation, that they may make decisions that follow His will and not the call of wealth or fame. With every silent moment, invite Him into your heart and converse. He is, after all, our Father and as we read in every single word of scripture, He loves us without end.

Peace be to you all.

With the love of our Lord,

Ray Leventhal, Chaplain  
Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Florida

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fsunews.com/story/opinion/2021/10/31/united-states-founded-judeo-christian-values/6215716001/>



# RAY LEVENTHAL

★ EDITOR OF "THE SOURCE" ★

THESOURCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



All Squadrons are urged to submit highlights of their events to *The Source*. Let's let the world know how the Detachment of Florida 'rocks the house' when it comes to making the words in our preamble come to life.

The Source will continue to be a great place to let the rest of the Detachment know about your upcoming events and your fundraising successes. Thanks to the Detachment of Florida's Public Relations Chairman Christian Rapp, it is now easier than ever to make a submission for publication in The Source.

Simply visit <https://floridasons.org/the-source-source-article-submission-form/> to submit your article. Submissions are due by the 23rd of each month, as we make every effort to publish on or near the 5th.

Now more than ever it is important that we use all means available to us to remain connected and in communication. *The Source* is **your newsletter** and is intended to serve all we do as Sons of the American Legion. If you know anyone, in or out of the American Legion family, who could be inspired by what we do, ask them to subscribe.

Subscription is easy and free. Simply join the [Detachment of Florida Mailing List](#).

***The Source* can only continue to be a viable and vital tool with your help and involvement.**

In an effort to provide the easiest access to important forms and information, we've compiled this quick reference list of links for you:

- [Detachment of Florida Website](#)
- [Squadron Administration Manual](#)
- [All Squadron Report Forms](#)
- [Squadron Membership Report](#)
- [District Membership Report](#)
- [Detachment Officer Endorsements](#)
- [Detachment Email List Subscription](#)
- [Article Submission Form for \*The Source\*](#)
- [Event Submission Form — Promote Your Event\(s\) to the entire Detachment](#)

Thank you for what you do and for helping to keep *The Source* focused on what we do and who we are!

Respectfully,

Ray Leventhal • Editor, The Source



# THE SOURCE



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## 50th Convention Photo Gallery

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50th Convention Banner



Commander Gerard Sambets receiving his new cover.



Commemorative Delegate Ribbon



Commander Sambets presents Linda Lewis of Special Olympics a check for \$23,000 from Squadron 275 (Dunedin)



Member of the Year Pete Puzzo with National Vice Commander Jason Roberts (GA)



The Changing of the Guard  
Adjutant Christian Rapp and  
Adjutant Emeritus Ed  
Sheubrooks



NECA Klinger, Commander Sambets and NEC Kelly  
take the oath of office

# Instructions

Throughout the year, it is necessary for National to contact squadrons regarding membership renewals, awards, and general communications. In addition, National receives daily requests for post and squadron information from members and potential new members or others who are looking for information about The American Legion at the local level. Maintaining your squadron's current information with the National Headquarters has become more important than ever.

Completing an annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) is necessary to inform your Department & Detachment and National Headquarters of pertinent information regarding your squadron and, most importantly, membership renewal information. Complete an annual SDR even if your squadron information has not changed. Any information that has changed can be indicated by checking either the "CHANGE OR CORRECTION" boxes.

Squadron information will be maintained with National's records and published on the [legion.org](http://legion.org) and [mysal.org](http://mysal.org) websites and through the "Post Locator" feature. Members who are traveling or have moved, or simply want to transfer, frequently refer to the Post Locator for assistance.

**Remember to inform your Department & Detachment Headquarters any time a change is made throughout the year.**

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Each question for the SDR requires specific information. Each question requires the following:

- 1) Enter the actual physical location of the squadron's location.
- 2) Enter the mailing address of the squadron (if different than the physical address). This should be the address where the squadron receives all mail and parcels.
- 3) Enter the dues mailing address that is to appear on the membership renewal notices. It may or may not be the same as the regular mailing or physical address of the squadron.
- 4) Write the dues amount each member pays for the current membership year. If your dues are changing, write the effective date of the new rate. Unless noted otherwise, an effective date of July 1<sup>st</sup> will be entered to coincide with the first renewal notice of the new membership year. Indicate your junior and dual dues rates, include the maximum age the junior rate is valid, i.e., 18, 19, 20, 21 years of age, etc. Any district or county per capita should be included in the squadron dues for each member. The squadron will be responsible for paying any local district or county per capita dues.
- 5) Enter the business telephone number of the squadron. (Do not use a personal phone number of a member.)
- 6) Enter the fax telephone number of the squadron, if applicable.
- 7) Enter the squadron email address, if applicable. Enter the email address that is regularly monitored.
- 8) Enter the URL of the squadron website, if applicable.
- 9) Enter the name of the squadron Facebook page, if applicable.
- 10) Enter the date and time of your regularly scheduled squadron meeting. (Ex: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday @ 7:00pm)

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The Annual Squadron Data Report must be signed at the bottom of the page by the Squadron Adjutant or Commander. Unsigned reports will be returned for an authorized signature.

The Annual Squadron Data Report must be forwarded to your Department & Detachment and National Headquarters no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> in order for squadron information to be processed in time for the first renewal notice.

If there is a subsequent change in the squadron's contact information or a change in the dues amount, the squadron must notify their Department & Detachment Headquarters immediately. National Headquarters will not be responsible for reporting incorrect information if the proper notification was not received or if notification was not received in advance of the established deadlines.

**NOTICE TO DEPARTMENTS & DETACHMENTS:** All annual SDRs must be received at National by May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be processed prior to printing the first renewal notices. Please forward as quickly as possible to II/ Data Services after receipt from the squadron; this will help ease processing at National.

MAIL: THE AMERICAN LEGION  
ATTN: II/DATA SERVICES  
PO BOX 1954  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206

SCAN & EMAIL: [dsforms@legion.org](mailto:dsforms@legion.org) OR [DataServicesForms@legion.org](mailto:DataServicesForms@legion.org)



**ANNUAL SQUADRON DATA REPORT (SDR)**  
**20\_\_ Membership Year**

**Detachment** \_\_\_\_\_ **District/County** \_\_\_\_\_ **SAL Squadron #** \_\_\_\_\_  
CHANGES ☐ (or) CORRECTIONS ☐

Please type or print in ink and forward to your Department, Detachment, and National Headquarters

1) Squadron's Home (Physical) Address:

2) Squadron's Mailing Address:

If different than physical address

3) Squadron's Dues Mailing Address:

If different than physical address

**Note:** If the above address contains a member's name or is being sent to a member's home address as the contact, please provide the member's ID#.

4) Annual Squadron Dues for 20\_\_ Regular members \$ .  
Junior members \$ . max. age \_\_\_\_\_  
Dual members \$ .

**Note:** Include in your dues all district and county per capita rates Effective Date / /  
the squadron will be responsible for paying those per capita Month Day Year

5) Squadron Telephone Number:

6) Squadron Fax Number:

**Note:** DO NOT use personal phone numbers of members

7) Squadron Email Address:

8) Squadron Internet Website:

9) Squadron Facebook Page:

10) Squadron Meeting Day & Time:

Squadron Adjutant or Commander Signature

Date

★ **IMPORTANT NOTICE** ★

Complete and return this form to your Detachment and National Headquarters no later than **May 1st**. Failure to meet this deadline may prohibit your members from renewing their membership online through [mysal.org](https://mysal.org) and cause Renewal Notices to be mailed with incorrect information.

Form available on the Detachment website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SDR.pdf>





## 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](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**

Department Headquarters  
PO Box 547859  
Orlando, FL 32854  
(407) 295-2631

Detachment Adjutant  
Christian Rapp  
215 Greenwood Ave  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-1452  
[adjutant@floridasons.org](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org)

*The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 185 Squadrons and over 21,000 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@floridasons.org](mailto:floridasons@floridasons.org)

## Source Articles

Scan the QR Code below to  
visit our website



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 Editor by the 23rd of every month.***

**The official way to submit articles for publication in The Source is to simply click here.**