



GERARD SAMBETS

★ DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★
COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



VOLUNTEER
EDUCATE
TRAIN
SUPPORT

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA

THE SOURCE

Remember Always Veterans First!

I am amazed at the membership numbers! Thank You ALL and PLEASE keep it going with our membership. I have a goal to make and you are going to get me there. I appreciate everything that you do for Florida! There are a lot of other Detachments that are amazed at what we do in Florida and I am proud of everyone! Keep it up!

I hope everyone is reading the source, my unofficial count from a direct reply to me is poor to say the least, but you still have time to respond to me at sambetsg@gmail.com or thru the historian@floridasons.org, which was in last months source article. The subject line is "VETERANS FIRST". The reason I mention "The Source", is because where ever I go, I get questions about our deadlines for reporting and other important information. The end of the year is fast approaching, and if you read Christian's article, you would know about all the deadlines, goals and what is do when? There is no excuse for missing paperwork or deadlines. He has made it simple for everyone, all you have to do is READ! "The Source" is filled with valuable information for all Sons. If you can't find the answer, he can Christian reached at adjutant@floridasons.org.

I want to thank all who attended the shared homecoming with President Jane and myself. It was well attended and both of us raised money for The USA Patriots and Snowball Express. The goal of our event was just that, raise money and give it away. A BIG thank you to Post #7 in Clearwater, they have a great venue for an event like ours. Their hospitality for a visiting Commander & President was very generous & kind.

My next stop was Post #323 in Lehigh Acres for the Children and Youth picnic, they also did a fantastic job in raising money for the cause. Dennis and Dianne Boland worked their magic on that one. On April 22nd, we visited Post #148, #72, #4 and #8. It was great visiting some Posts on the way to Winter Haven, Post #8. Winter Haven hosted Eunice's Homecoming. Another well attended Event and a Thank You to Department Commander Butts for her outstanding year as Commander. They out did themselves with decorations and great food! It was a lot of fun!

Finally, PAPERWORK, PAPERWORK, PAPERWORK... Its that time of year! Please be timely, ask questions if not sure. Your Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders are there to help. I would like all Area Vice & District Commanders to be reaching out to your squadrons to make sure they don't need any help with their paperwork. Please ask for help and the Commanders aren't sure, they will ask Christian for advice.

KEEP DOING WHAT YOU DO BEST!

Gerard Sambets, Commander
Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida

V.E.T.S. FIRST

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2022-2023 Membership Target Dates:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| September 1, 2022 | 10% | 16.01% Congratulations! |
| October 6, 2022 | 25% | 25.94% Congratulations! |
| November 10, 2022 | 35% | 41.32% Congratulations! |
| December 1, 2022 | 45% | 52.72% Congratulations! |
| January 12, 2023 | 60% | 75.28% Congratulations! |
| February 9, 2023 | 75% | 85.08% Congratulations! |
| March 9, 2023 * | 85% | 93.60% Congratulations! |
| April 13, 2023 | 90% | |
| May 4, 2023 | 100% | |
| June 1, 2023 ** | 22,250 | Commander's Goal |

* Legion Birthday

** Delegate Cut-Off



CHRISTIAN M RAPP

★ DETACHMENT ADJUTANT ★
ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

In just one month, we will be meeting in Orlando for our Annual Convention. What a year it has been! Here's some things that you should be doing, if you haven't started already:

NOTES:

All reports can be completed online and emailed to me at adjutant@floridasons.org

The main page on the website for ALL reports is <https://floridasons.org/detachment-report-forms/>

While all reports are important, these are the most important reports to send in:

CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORTS

You have to complete both the **NATIONAL** and **DETACHMENT CSR** reports. The **DETACHMENT** report was sent out to you in the end of year packet. It is also available on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/20-21-csr-rev-7-2022.pdf>. You must complete this report and send it to me either electronically or via snail mail by **JUNE 1, 2023**. The **NATIONAL CSR** is now available for you to complete and submit through your myLegion.org portal.

SQUADRON OFFICERS REPORT

This must be completed and submitted **AS SOON AS YOUR ELECTIONS ARE HELD**. Do NOT wait to send this in with your end of year paperwork. This form can be found on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/03-SOR-rev-7-2022.pdf>

CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS

As soon as your DCCs are held and new District Leadership is elected, you must complete and send out the **DISTRICT OFFICERS REPORT**. This can be found at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/district-officers-rev-7-2022.pdf>

SQUADRON DATA REPORT

We've been telling you about this all year. I still only have a fraction of these reports submitted. PLEASE send this report in ASAP. This tells National what your Squadron charges for dues so the proper amount can be collected. Get the form at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SDR.pdf>

DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

The Delegate Strength Report will not be released until June 1, 2023. After this time, you can fill out your Delegate Registration Form. This form registers your Squadron's Delegates for voting at Convention. **DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM IN – BRING IT WITH YOU TO CONVENTION REGISTRATION** along with a check for \$5 per delegate and alternate present.

MEMBERSHIP CARD SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

If you are planning on picking up your Squadron's 2024 Membership cards at Convention, you **MUST** complete the Instructions for Shipping Membership Cards before **JUNE 1** and mail it to **JoAnn at DEPARTMENT** (not me!) or submit it to JoAnn via email at jcollins@floridalegion.org.

If you do not send this form in, your membership cards WILL NOT be at Convention. You will have to wait for them to be mailed to you. So don't wait – complete and send this form today. You can find the form on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/17-membership-rev-7-2022.pdf>.

The form is available as a fillable PDF on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/12-silver-star-rev-7-2022.pdf>

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Adjutant's Corner (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

That's it for now. There's some important information here and I don't want to detract from it. We should hopefully have one more edition of "The Source" before Convention. In case we don't, I'd like to say thank you for your hard work this year. So many of you responded when I put out requests to get things done. You have made my first year as your Detachment Adjutant much easier than I expected it to be. I have so many people to thank, and not enough room here. I am looking forward to seeing you at Convention in June and thanking you in person.

Keep up the good work!

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp
Detachment Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida

2023—2024 DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S POLO

Offered through Department of Florida Emblem Sales

Be one of the first to get your 2023-2024 Detachment Commander's Polo. Commander Gerard Sambets has chosen this polo in the color True Royal. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida logo is embroidered on the left chest, with up to two lines of customization on the right chest area. Also, embroidered on the sleeve is the motto "Veterans 1st"

Available in Men's with or without a pocket, this polo is by Port Authority, moisture-wicking Dry Zone polo—now with UV protection. An exceptional value, this breathable mesh polo also resists snags.

***Extended sizes, 2X and above, are \$5 additional.*

For customization (2 lines): Put your personalization in the notes section at check out or email to emblemsales@floridalegion.org.

Click to order [DETACHMENT POLO](#)
Click to order [DETACHMENT POCKET POLO](#)



PERSONALIZATION: We work with an outside vendor for the personalization of our polos. Personalized polo orders are placed on a periodic basis. The next order will be placed in mid to late July, therefore you will not receive your personalized polos until late August. We do carry a limited number of non-personalized polos on hand, that you can order at any time for quick delivery and take to an alternate vendor for personalization if you choose.



JOHN JENNINGS

★ MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ★

MEMBERSHIP@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Membership Team,

WOW! WOW! WOW! What a GREAT report!!!

As of our April 20th, 2023, membership report we have recruited 4,044 new members and renewed 17,472 members for a total of 21,516. With these numbers the Detachment is standing at 99.99%, just 3 members short of our 100% goal. By the time you read this article the Detachment will be over the 100% goal and big congratulations will have been given to everyone. You guys blew the socks off the 90% target and are very close to surpassing our 100% goal which is not until May 4th. What a great job by all! The sky is the limit. Let's go big on May 4th, is 105% possible, sure it is with your continued hard work and support. So, let's GO for the 105% by May 4th---- CAN WE DO THIS---YES, WE CAN!!!!

We need 734 members as of our April 20th report to reach Commanders Sambets goal of 22,250. I know we can get this done and we will. We have the members out there; it is just how hard we are willing to work for them. This is the time the rubber meets the road.

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone as we reached another milestone, our 28th consecutive all-time high in membership. We reached this milestone on April 13th, 2023, with 21,329 members breaking the old record of 21,094 and a 101.11% percentage rate.

With over 4,000 new members we need to look at keeping our exiting members. Get them involved, give them something to do, ask them to help. Most will help if ask. We must find a way to keep our members. Look at the above numbers and just think where we could be if we renewed 50% of those 4,000 new members and recruited the 4,000 new members. That is another big WOW! Just food for thought.

As we continue to work through our membership year let's all remember the three 3 Rs of membership. *Reinstate – Renew – Recruit* – This would be a great Squadron meeting topic to discuss the meaning of each word and the value it brings to the Squadron. Just what do these three simple words mean to you and your Squadron.

WE need to get focused and submit our RE-REQUIRED SDR (Squadron Data Report) form **ANNUALLY**. This is no longer an option to submit and must be submitted to National no later than **MAY 1st of EACH YEAR BY EACH SQUADRON.**

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| April 13, 2023 | 90% | |
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| June 1, 2023 ** | 22,250 | THIS IS THE BIG ONE! |

* Legion Birthday

** Delegate Cut-Off

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Membership (continued)

The instructions after the form have been completed. 1st - Save a copy for your Squadrons file. 2nd - email your submission to our Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp at (adjutant@floridasons.org). Adjutant Rapp will batch submitted to the National IT Department as required keeping record of those submissions which will hold the National IT Department accountable for correct posting or incorrect posting. We will get this resolved with your help and understanding. The form is available on our website. (www.floridasons.org)

Another form that is very important to the operation and success of the Detachment is the **Squadron Officer Report** form. It is also available online. If not done, the Detachment has no easy way of contacting you or your Squadron. Please get this completed as it is an important tool for our communication to you the Squadrons and for you to communicate to your membership. Why would you not want to communicate to your membership?

For our membership campaign to be a great success, we must work on it each day. Membership is not a part time job – it is a full-time job, and it requires WORK. When a Squadron reaches the 100% goal and does not move from that 100%, what does that tell you? I watch this, and I hope all of you will also.

Membership numbers should always be moving in a positive way and never standing still. If a Squadron is to grow it must add new members if they and the Detachment are to grow. We have plenty of resources in Florida and we must reach out to them if the Detachment is to grow.

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**



FROM THE DESK OF
JUDGE ADVOCATE
JAMES K ROBERTS III
JUDGEADVOCATE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



My Fellow Sons,

I hope that everyone is doing well and are getting things ready to head to Orlando in a couple of months for the Detachment Convention. It has been a busy time for me as your Judge Advocate as I have been reviewing Constitution and By-Law submissions from Squadrons across the state. However, there have been some developments within the National Organization which has necessitated another revision to the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws. This revision is to set term of office for both the National Executive Committeeman and the National Executive Committee-man Alternate to serve 2-year terms. This is not to set a term limit, but instead a term of 2 years instead of 1 year. This will effectively mean that the election for the NEC and the NECA will take place during a Detachment Convention every 2 years beginning at the 2024 Detachment Convention.

After reviewing the new National Sons of The American Legion Constitution, the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee will be submitting two proposed amendments to our Detachment Constitution. One is for Article VI (Detachment Officers), Section 2 and the other is for Article VI (Detachment Officers), Section 6, both are contained in this issue of The Source.

As always should you have a question, please feel free to send me an email at judgeadvocate@floridasons.org. Thank you all and I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention.

James K. Roberts III (FL)
Detachment Judge Advocate
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida

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**DETACHMENT
OF FLORIDA**



ED SHEUBROOKS

★ FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ★
FINANCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

We will be heading to our Annual Detachment Convention in roughly seven weeks. I would like to expand on what I stated at the Fall Conference about keeping our Donations local.

First off, please know that I am not dictating how you spend or donate your Squadron's money. I can only relay my feelings on what is taking place on the National level as I believe it is moving our Organization in the wrong direction. So how do we make them take notice? Cut off funding to the National programs. Let's keep it local such as Florida Special Olympics, Project Vet Relief, All Childrens Hospital, Fisher House, or the Commanders Charity USA Patriots.

Again, you are free to donate to any Charity that your Squadron designates. This is only my opinion.

Please make your checks payable to the Charity you designated. Do not make them out to the Detachment of Florida with the Charity designated in the remarks section of your check. The reason for this is if it is made out to the Detachment, then I must send the checks to Department for deposit, then have to rewrite checks back out to the Charities listed. This delays the process and creates extra work for everyone.

The Detachments annual Budget proposal has been submitted to the Department Finance Committee for approval. I will update everyone at the Convention on this.

Regards,

Ed Sheubrooks, Chairman

Finance Committee

Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Florida



**DETACHMENT
OF FLORIDA**



WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

★ NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN ★

NEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



The Sons of The American Legion met for The National Executive Committee 2023 Spring Meetings Friday, May 5th through Sunday, May 7th, 2023 in Indianapolis Indiana. The Detachment of Florida was represented by Detachment Commander Gerard Sambets, National Executive Committeeman Alternet Tom Klinger, National Assistant Adjutant Ed Sheubrooks, and National Executive Committeeman William D (Bill) Kelly.

WetTraveled to Indianapolis early Friday morning the 5th and began our Committee Meetings. Tom and Gerard attended Children & Youth and I attended Century Committee (Cent Com). This is a standing Committee for five years to assist and plan for the Sons to prepare and move forward into the next century beginning in 2032. Cent Com is still looking for members under 30 for appointment to the committee. The American Legion National Convention Committee has offered a portion of the Convention Booklet to the Sons of The American Legion for usage. Next CDR Sambets and NECA Klinger attended the SAL Convention Committee while I attended the Commission and Committee Chairman / Membership Meeting. This is where I was 1st presented with The New SAL Outline of Authorization. Saturday morning starts early with the National Commander Chris Carlton calling the meeting to order at 8 AM. Our 1st speaker was our National Liaison Kevin Mook who advised us on some of the ADA accesses, reminds us of the CRS Reports, addressed the new online renewal, the development of a new member kit available through emblem sales

Next up was The American Legion National Oversight Chairman & SAL PNC Micheal Seaton informed us of the organizational changes, Constitution and Bylaw changes all meant to mirror TAL C&Bs using as reference TAL Resolution 28 stating "No Fundamental Differences are Allowed between our Organizations".

Our next speakers were Sons of The American Legion Past National Commanders and Co-Chairman of The Selection of National Officers & Committeeman Committee. PNC Hartman and Gannon advised us of the new procedures for selecting, nominating, and electing our National Vice Commanders. All officers will require a resolution and approval by National Vice Commanders Selection and Oversight Committees. After a few brief announcements, we adjourned till Sunday morning but day meetings continued with the Southern Regional Caucus, and the rest of the day of Commission and Committee Meetings. CDR Sambets attended Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation while I attended the Finance Commission where the 2024 Budget was presented, IA, and Subcommittee on Resolutions where the 10 Resolutions to be presented to the NEC the next day were discussed and voted on for presentation. NECA Klinger attended the National Management Institute 3 to finish the NMI Course. Congratulations to Tom not only for completing the class but his sticking to it, because his 3-year class turned into a 6-year course due to the COVID pandemic. Great Job Tom. Saturday night we attended the Southern Region Get Together Dinner at Post 103 Mooresville IN. Sunday morning begins at 7:45 with the non-denominational service by our National Chaplain followed by the reconvening of the Spring NEC Meeting. We were greeted by The American Legion National Commander Vincent (Jim) Trotola, American Legion Auxiliary National President Vickie Kourtz, and Child Welfare Foundation President Robert Morrill. Chairman Morrill informed us of the new CWF Polo Shirt, Ball Cap & CWF Pin.

The rest of the morning continued with the Commission and Committee Chairman reporting the highlights of the Commission and Committee meetings. We adjourned just after 11:15 AM and headed for the airport and our flight back to Florida.

We will continue to be looking for a few good men with experience to be nominated for appointment to National Commissions or Committees.

Some of the material which was distributed was the minutes of our Commission and Committee Meetings, Sons of The American Legion Outline of Authorization, New Uniform Code of Procedure, an updated 2022 Squadron Handbook, and other various pamphlets & literature that we will be discussing at our Detachment Convention next month.

For God and Country,
William D Kelly, Jr
National Executive Committeeman
Sons of The American Legion



ROCCO CIRIGLIANO

★ INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ★

IA@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello All

Please join us for our 51st Annual Detachment Convention to be held June 15-18, 2023, at the Hilton Lake Buena Vista. The hotel is located at 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. Convention is a wonderful experience for first time attendees as well as seasoned officers. It is our goal to make the Convention a successful and enjoyable experience for all.

I would like to take time and briefly discuss information regarding the Constitution and Bylaws. In my travels I come across members who are not familiar with the Detachment or their Squadrons C&BL. It is an especially important document that we cannot do without.

Constitution

The Constitution is the main document of an organization that determines the fundamental aspects of the said organization and how it is to be governed. These fundamentals of the organization are matters such as the organization name, purpose, membership, officers, rules of procedure, and amendments. The process of writing a constitution will serve to clarify your purpose, delineate your basic structure, and provide the cornerstone for building an effective group. It will also allow members and potential members to have a better understanding of what the organization is all about and how it functions.

Bylaws

Bylaws determine the detailed guidelines of the fundamental aspects of the organization. Bylaws also govern the way the group must function as well as the roles and responsibilities of its officers. They are essential in helping an organization map out its purpose and the practical day-to-day details of how it will go about its business. The constitution covers the fundamental principles but does not prescribe specific procedures for operating your organization. Bylaws set forth in detail the procedures your group must follow to conduct business in an orderly manner. They provide further definition to the articles of the constitution and can be changed more easily as the needs of the organization change.

Each Squadron in the Detachment of Florida shall have its own Constitution and By-Laws, provided that it shall not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida, the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion and the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, Department of Florida. The Squadrons Constitution and By-Laws together with any subsequent Amendments, shall be approved by the Detachment Judge Advocate, such approval confirmed by the Department Judge Advocate and the Detachment Commander, and a copy filed with the Department Adjutant and the Detachment Adjutant, with certification of approval issued to the Squadron before becoming effective.

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I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the Detachment Constitution & Bylaws

[2020-detachment-fl-constitution.pdf \(floridasons.org\)](#)

[2020-detachment-fl-bylaws.pdf \(floridasons.org\)](#)

as well as your own Squadron's. If your Squadron does not have these documents a suggested form for Constitution and Bylaws can be found in the Squadron handbook.

[2020-sal-handbook.pdf \(floridasons.org\)](#) located on our website.

Internal Affairs will continue to stress the importance of Improving communications within our Squadrons and their membership and will also strive to improve communication between commission/ committee chairs and their members.

In closing, I leave you with the Preamble. I 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.

For God and Country,

Rocky Ciriligiano
Internal Affairs Commission Chairman





GEORGE WORTON

VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN
VAR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from VA&R!

The Detachment of Florida has been busy supporting various Veterans needs during 2022-2023. The Urn project has been supporting the needs of indigent Veterans by supplying Urns at no-charge to a number of National Cemeteries in Florida so their ashes can be honorably interred. The program is mostly self-sustaining by taking donations for standard Urns and that allows us to build 5 Urns that are given free. The program began in 2012 and restarted in 2022 after Covid restrictions began lifting. To purchase additional material for building the Urns, we are marketing a series of coasters bearing either the Legion, Son's, Auxiliary, or Riders logo's and are waiting for National to bless this use!

The Commanders Homecoming resulted in over **\$30,000** being raised for USA Patriots to benefit their efforts assisting Amputee Veterans softball and their program to support Children with similar challenges. This is a great way to show that they are not alone and to demonstrate how to overcome obstacles life may place in our way!

Remember that if you or your Squadron do not have resources to donate, call a Veteran or Squadron member who needs some company. Take them to a doctor's appointment, mow their lawn. Sometimes a few moments to make a Buddy call could make an enormous difference in their lives.

If you are interested in supporting the Urn project, please contact me and I can share the details!

For God and Country,

George Worton

VA&R Chairman

Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Florida

SONS OF THE
 AMERICAN
LEGION



BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.



PETER PUZZO

★ VICE COMMANDER EASTERN AREA ★
VCEAST@FLORIDASONS.ORG



As my year as Eastern Area Vice Commander winds down. I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support, effort and accolades bestowed upon me during the last few years.

As I traveled through the Districts, I came in contact with many good people who are looking to bring our Organization to new levels. They just didn't know how or where to start. The answer I have tried to offer is training. If you understand your organization and the different jobs that we do, you can make things better. THAT, my Brothers is what we need to do. Leave your position in better shape than when you started.

While I am not going away, I will be focusing on new Visions. It is my deepest hope that in some small way I have given you something to think about, and have offered you the tools to help you and your Squadron. Thank you all so very much for the opportunity.

For God and Country,

Peter Puzzo, Eastern Area Vice Commander



GERALD KAUFMAN

★ VICE COMMANDER NORTHERN AREA ★
VCNORTH@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Good morning Northern Area Sons of The American Legion, we have some important memos coming into the election season

- If you are running for an office, whether it is at your District or Detachment level, you must file an endorsement letter from you Squadron.
- The instructions for endorsement letters are listed on the Detachment website under the officers tab. Scroll down to officer endorsements.
- Your district. Our District DCC meetings are coming up. These meetings are very important. This is where you elect your District Officers, your delegates for your voting for Detachment officers at the Detachment convention and all business conducted at the Detachment convention.
- You should have received a packet with all forms that must be filed with the Detachment. If you have not, please contact your District Commander ASAP.

The 3rd District was the first District in the Detachment to reach 100% in membership. The fourth District followed. Commanders Cooper and Susskind have done a fantastic job with their District membership. The 5th and 17th Districts have a lot of work to do but they can still hit the mark. The Commanders there have two ruff jobs. I continue to offer my assistance to both Commanders.

Gentlemen, I am running for Northern Area Vice Commander again. It has been a pleasure working with you this year and I look forward to working with you again next year. Let's hit the end of this year sprinting to the finish line and show Detachment Commander Sambets we have what it takes to lead this Detachment in membership. I look forward to seeing all of you at your District Constitutional Conferences. May God bless you all and your Squadrons.

For God and Country,

Gerry Kaufman, Northern Area Vice Commander



MICHAEL NIGBOR

★ 13TH DISTRICT COMMANDER ★
DISTRICT13@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings to everyone from District 13,

As of the time of this printing, you have already had your elections and appointed new officers or will be doing this soon. This is always a great time to get motivated and motivate others to take their new positions, or returning to positions with a fresh enthusiasm for the good of The American Legion Family. If you do keep your position or if you are newly elected or appointed, be prepared to serve your entire term. Be on time for your meetings, be respectful of other's opinions and lead by example.

The Sons of The American Legion are often called the "hardest working arm of the organization". We prove that time and time again. We work hard, play hard and make lots of money. We then give it to our charities and start all over again. Get out and meet your fellow squadrons and help them with their events and invite them to come to yours. We are a team. There is no competition between us. We all work for the same goal, to take care of our veterans and their families, our communities, State and Nation. There is strength in our numbers.

Do what you can to increase your memberships. Try to get dual members at your post. Go to the schools and have a meeting with the principals and administrators and let them know of the good we do. Ask about their possibilities of becoming a member of The Worlds Greatest Veteran Organization, The American Legion. Get the students involved and informed about The Auxiliary and The Sons. Meet with other organizations in your area.

The American Legion Program, "**Be The One**" is going strong and is very important. "Be the one person to recognize that maybe you need some help, or be the one person to recognize that a family member needs some help, or be the one friend who actually makes a phone call and asks someone how they're doing." "You just have to be a true connection with someone who needs it. That's what Be The One is about."

We hope to see you at the District 13 Constitutional Conference on May 20th. This will be at Post 103 in Punta Gorda. S.A.L. meeting at 9:00am and elections will be held.

Remember to keep Memorial Day on your calendar. This is a day to honor all who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation. Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May.

* BE KIND

* BE HELPFUL

* BE THE ONE

TOGETHER WE CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Be The One is SAL
National Commander's
Slogan.

Be The One Who Helps!

Be The One

Use this code to sign up
for the American Legion
Voter Voice.



AL Voter Voice

Endorsements for Office



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

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

1. Each endorsement letter must come from a Florida Squadron or Post and must be signed by the Squadron Commander and Squadron Adjutant, or the Post Commander and Post Adjutant or any combination of these.
 - a. The letter must be on Squadron or Post letterhead and include the date that the Squadron or Post made the endorsement and that the membership approved said endorsement.
 - b. This letter should contain information explaining why the individual should be considered for the office he is seeking and a narrative of positions held to show his leadership potential.
2. Endorsements will only be accepted for the elected Detachment Officers, District Commanders as follows:
 - a. Detachment Commander, Detachment Vice Commanders, National Executive Committeeman, National Executive Committeeman Alternate, Detachment Historian, Detachment Chaplain, Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms and the District Commanders

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

1. Endorsement letters can be sent via the US Postal Service to the Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp – 215 Greenwood Ave, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-1452.
2. Endorsement letters can be scanned and sent by e-mail to the Detachment Adjutant at adjutant@floridasons.org. Scanned documents are required to be in an Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) and must have all of the original signatures as required and be of good quality.



Detachment Officer Endorsements

| | |
|--|---|
| Detachment Commander | <u>Gerard Sambets (275, Dunedin)</u> |
| Office of Detachment Vice Commander | |
| Western Area | |
| Northern Area | <u>Gerald Kaufman (383, Oldtown)</u> |
| Eastern Area | |
| Central Area | <u>Richard Cummings (238, Safety Harbor)</u> |
| Southwestern Area | <u>Michael Nigbor (303, Bonita Springs)</u> |
| Southern Area | |
| National Executive Committeeman | <u>William D Kelly Jr (137, Jacksonville)</u> |
| National Executive Committeeman Alternate | <u>Tom Klinger (119 Largo)</u> |
| Detachment Chaplain | <u>Raymond S. Leventhal (323, Lehigh Acres)</u> |
| Detachment Historian | <u>Brian R Patt Squadron 158- Treasure Island</u> |
| Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms | |

District Commander & Vice Commander Endorsements

| District | District Commander Endorsements | District Vice Commander Endorsements |
|----------|---|---|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | <u>Brian Wolfe Squadron 57 – Lake City</u> | |
| 4 | <u>Timothy Susskind (155, Crystal River)</u> | <u>Steven McKim (77, Inverness)</u> |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | <u>Robert 'Buzzard' Medley (312, Sarasota)</u> | |
| 9 | <u>Martin Kraemer (310 Hallandale)</u> | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | <u>John Kinlen (189 Sebastian)</u> <u>Steve Vilgats Squadron 163 (Eau Galle)</u> | <u>Andy Campbell (117 Palm Bay)</u> |
| 13 | <u>Sean Wing (90, Cape Coral)</u> <u>Thomas Burns Squadron 323 – Lehigh</u> | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | <u>Frank Blankenship Squadron 152 – Tampa</u> | |
| 16 | <u>Gary Sanderson (238, Safety Harbor)</u> | <u>Karl N Fest (252, Seminole)</u> |
| 17 | | |



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!



Be The One is SAL
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Be The One Who Helps!

Be The One

Use this code to sign up
for the American Legion
Voter Voice.



AL Voter Voice



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA



THE SOURCE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Friday, March 10, 2023.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article VI Detachment Officers, Section 2

Detachment Officers shall be elected at each Annual Convention, except that the Detachment Commander shall appoint the Detachment Judge Advocate, the Detachment Adjutant, the Detachment Assistant Adjutants, the Detachment Finance Officer, the Detachment Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms and they shall be ratified by the Detachment Executive Committee. Such Officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Detachment Convention following their election. **The National Executive Committeeman and the National Executive Committeeman Alternate are elected in accordance with Article VI, Section 6 of the Detachment Constitution.** No Detachment Officer shall assume office prior to providing the Detachment Adjutant with proof of eligibility.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by **bold underline**
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strike through~~

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| APPROVED _____ | REJECTED _____ |
| FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____ | |
| FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____ | |
| CONSOLIDATED WITH _____ | |
| OTHER ACTION _____ | |
| SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN) | |

DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT

PROPOSAL NUMBER 2023-01

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Friday, March 10, 2023.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article VI Detachment Officers, Section 6

There shall be a National Executive Committeeman and an National Executive Committeeman Alternate elected at the Detachment Convention. They shall be elected in even numbered years and shall serve for a term of two years. where ~~Their~~ terms of office shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the National Convention, next ensuing after their election. Should the National Executive Committeeman be unable to perform the duties of such office, the National Executive Committeeman Alternate shall perform those duties during the period of absence with all rights and privileges of the office.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strike through~~

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| APPROVED _____ | REJECTED _____ |
| FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____ | |
| FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____ | |
| CONSOLIDATED WITH _____ | |
| OTHER ACTION _____ | |
| SIGNATURE _____ | |
| (CHAIRMAN) | |

DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT

PROPOSAL NUMBER 2023-02

**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida
Limited Edition 50th Anniversary
Commemorative Challenge Coin**



Order Form

Your Name _____
Your Phone _____
Your Email _____
Your Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

**Only 1,000 of these coins will be created to commemorate this auspicious event.
Reserve YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today!**

I am ordering _____ 50th Anniversary Commemorative Challenge Coins, at \$10 ea.

**Include this form and your check, payable to SAL Detachment of Florida, for
\$10/coin and send to:**

**Ed Sheubrooks
Finance Committee Chairman
800 S Brocksmith Rd
Ft Pierce, FL 34945**

Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Florida

**Coins are still available. Get a piece of history and help
your Detachment at the same time.
Order your coins today!**



EVENT INFORMATION:

**Location: Harbor Hills Country Club
6538 Lake Griffin Rd. Lady Lake, FL 32159**

- Shotgun Start– 8:15 AM
- Cost per Golfer – \$85.00
- * Breakfast items before golf*
- Longest Drive Contest-Men & Women
- Hole-in-One Contest-Men & Women
- Hole-in-one for golf cart Hole #16
- Closest to Pin Contest-men & Women
- Prizes and surprises
- Mulligans

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Bronze Hole Sponsor - \$100
- Silver Hole Sponsor – \$200.00
- Gold Hole Sponsor – \$300.00
- Platinum Sponsor - \$500.00 & up
 - * Includes Table Space+ Sponsor Sign
- Major Sponsor - \$1,000.00 & up * Includes Table Space, Sponsor Signs & 4 golfers
- Donate a gift to be used as a raffle prize

Cut-off date for sponsorships and gift submissions:

April 28th, 2023

Make all checks payable to:

Squadron 347

PO Box 1534 Lady Lake, FL 32158

ATTN: Children & Youth Golf Tournament

**After the tournament, please join us at Post 347 in Lady Lake, for lunch, raffles,
50/50, auction and more**

Hotel: TBD



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/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

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
Or e-mail us at 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.