



GERARD SAMBETS

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VOLUNTEER
EDUCATE
TRAIN
SUPPORT

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA

THE SOURCE

"Remember always Veterans First"

Looking at the numbers, we are improving on our ZEROS! We still have a way to go to end this problem. I have been contacting Vice and District Commanders about the Zero Squadrons and no one has the answer. Everyone says they have spoken to the powers that be and that they are working on this. To give you an example, a phone call to a Post to get some answers, revealed that the post hasn't turned in membership since last year. Luckily, the call was made on a meeting night, and the caller was connected to the Post Adjutant who helped get the answer. This Post had collected the money but wasn't able to transmit the info. Over 100 members weren't processed, and no one realized what was going on. Luckily, they are being processed and the Post is back on target. Why did I tell you this? Because it took a PHONE CALL, not always an email, or a visit when no one is there, to find out what or why there is an issue. It takes someone to say WHY? Why is this Post, which is always a good Post, showing no members? This should tell you that there is a problem that needs immediate attention. This is your job as a leader regardless of your position. Please do what is needed to end this.

I attended the National Convention in Charlotte N.C. and was proud to be the Commander representing the Detachment of Florida. We received a few awards because of your efforts. YOUR efforts got us the U.S. "UDIE" Grant Legacy Award, for our support of the Child Welfare Foundation which included a plaque for these efforts. It was my honor to accept these rewards for all of us. You should also know that Bill Kelly, our NEC, also received the National Veterans Advocate of the Year award, and a new Cover with that inscribed on it, another proud moment for Florida.

This past weekend I was in the 13th District and got to visit a few Posts. In case you have forgotten, they suffered tremendous damage last year from Hurricane Ian! I was in two Posts that are trying to come back. One year later, Sanibel Island (123) is meeting in a tiki building because the Post home was destroyed. Fort Myers Beach (274), is a little better because they have a rental area that the Post now meets in. I want to thank all the Posts in the 13th for their hospitality, Posts 103, 323, 274, and 123. While at Post 323, they did a fundraiser for My Warriors Place, my Charity this year, and they worked hard all day to raise money and were able to donate over \$2,700 that day! I am so proud of their efforts. The Auxiliary and Sons stepped up to make this happen, and I can't begin to thank them enough.

Let's continue working on membership and finding out the WHYS, and if there is a bigger issue that needs to be addressed, go up the chain of command and we will work on it together!

KEEP DOING WHAT YOU DO BEST

Gerard Sambets, Commander

Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Florida

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2023-2024 Membership Target Dates:

September 7, 2022	10%
October 12, 2022	25%
November 9, 2022	35%
December 7, 2022	45%
January 11, 2024	60%
February 8, 2024	75%
March 7, 2024*	80%
April 4, 2024	90%
May 9, 2024	100%
May 31, 2024**	105%

* Legion Birthday (March 13th) ** Delegate Cut-Off



CHRISTIAN M RAPP

★ DETACHMENT ADJUTANT ★
ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

In just about two months, we will be having our annual Detachment Fall Conference at the Caribe Royal Orlando. If you haven't reserved your rooms yet, THE TIME IS NOW. Call the hotel at (408) 823-8300 and let them know you're with the American Legion. This year's Fall Conference will be held November 17-19.

On Friday, Nov 17th, your MT&D Team will be holding some short training sessions starting at 1pm. The schedule for these sessions will be released soon.

Saturday the 18th will be our Conference Day. We'll hold our Detachment Executive Committee Meeting at 8:00am, with the General Session starting at 8:45am. For those of you that are first-time attendees, the Detachment Executive Committee consists of your Detachment of Florida Officers, the Area Vice Commanders, all District Commanders, and all Elected District Vice Commanders. It is important that if you hold one of these positions, that you inform me of your absence. Please let me know if you won't be in attendance ASAP. You can send your notification via email to adjutant@floridasons.org.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

I have received calls from many of our members in need of more blank membership cards. While this is fantastic news, please know that your Membership Team and I do not handle the cards. You need to reach out to Joann Collins at Department. You can email Joann at jcollins@floridalegion.org.

DETACHMENT DIRECTORIES

I still have not sent out the Detachment Directories as we have been having some officer changes being sent in. I should have the directories out to you soon. We will not be sending them out to the Google Group, as we do not want the directories to live on the Google Servers. The directories contain personal information, and we will do our part to keep the information secure. I will email the directories to the entire Detachment Executive Committee and Squadron Commanders.

I'll keep this article short. If you need assistance with anything, do not hesitate to reach out to me – I'll get you the help you need.

Keep up the good work! I can't wait to see you all in November!

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp

Detachment Adjutant

Sons of the American Legion

Detachment of Florida



JOHN JENNINGS



MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



MEMBERSHIP@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Membership Team,

Happy summer to everyone and I hope you are enjoying the heat...LOL. A little joke! LOL. Be careful outside as the temperatures are horrible. We are well on our way to our first membership target which is our 10%. As I write this article, the Detachment stands at 18.94% with 4,368 cards transmitted to date. Nationally the Detachment of Florida stands at 106.60% with 22,939 members and with a renewal rate still under 84.58%. You guys continue to do great work and we have a lot of work to get accomplished.

We must stay in touch with our Squadrons and their leadership as everything starts at the Squadron level. We must do a better job dealing with issues, dealing with OUR ZERO Squadrons, and working with Squadrons that need our help.

The gentlemen below are standing by to help in anyway you might need them. We are here to help you, help your Squadrons so they can help their membership. It all starts with helping one another.

2023-2024 Detachment of Florida Membership Committee Members.

- John Jennings – Chairman
- Paul Stawicki – Vice Chairman
- **North:** Gerry Kaufman
- **Central:** Rick Cummings
- **East:** John Gorsuch
- **Southwest:** Michael Nigbor
- **South:** Michael Mathias
- **West:** Henry Richard

The Committee members should be and have already reached out to their District Leadership to explain the process of using MyLegion and offer help in anyway. We are here to help! It is our job to see that membership starts strong and finishes strong. Our targets are aggressive, and Commander Sambets has set a very high bar for our 2023-2024 membership year, but I know you guys are up to the challenge.

SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR FOR SOME – THE TRIPLE NICKLE AWARD

This is awarded by National at National Convention and we have won this award in the past. This is what we must do to qualify.

1. Charter 5 New Squadrons
2. 105% Membership by National delegate cutoff
3. 85% renewal rate by National delegate cutoff

As we continue to work through our membership year let's all remember the three 3 Rs of membership. *Re-instate – 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 stay focused and submit our 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**. The required form can be found on [our website](#).

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Membership (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

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.

Renewal Postcard Mail Dates:

- October 23 – 27, 2023
- March 25 – 29, 2024
- May 27 – 31, 2024



2023-2024 Membership Target Dates:

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March 7, 2024*	80%
April 4, 2024	90%
May 9, 2024	100%
May 31, 2024**	105%

* Legion Birthday (March 13th) ** Delegate Cut-Off

All target dates are the second Thursday of each month.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

★ **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN** ★

NEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



National Executive Committeeman

The Sons of The American Legion held their National Convention August 25, 26, 27, 2023 in Charlotte North Carolina. I was once again blessed to attend the National Convention. Our Detachment of Florida was represented by National Convention Chairman & CDR Gerard Sambets, National Assistant Adjutant & Convention Secretary Ed Sheubrooks, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Tom Klinger, Detachment Committeeman Greg Tong, 15th District Commander Mike Sherman and Member John Kinlin.

Barbara and I enjoyed the 6 hours drive to Charlotte from Jacksonville and checked in to the Hilton Garden Inn about 1 block from the Convention Center.

On Friday CDR Sambets had the 1st meeting in which the National Organization now provides a National Detachment Commanders Class. Our National Convention Committee Meetings began at 8:30 AM. My assignment was Internal Affairs which included the subcommittee reports on Membership, Member Training & Development, and Convention. IA Chairman Bill Clancy informed us of some of the National Organizational changes. TAL has disbanded the SAL Oversight Committee and the SAL Advisory will report directly to TAL IA. There will be an improvement in the national officer and committee selections and notifications process. TAL Emblem Sales has a new SAL Flag Topper for your Squadron flags. The Subcommittee reports included Membership which had an outstanding year at 102% and over 275,000 members. They are introducing new tools, for example a Welcoming New Member Kit and New Member Letter. MT&D will be launching new classes, finishing up NMI 3, and unveiling the New Sons of The American Legion University and a SAL YouTube channel. Convention is gearing up for the New Orleans Convention in 2024.

The next meeting was the Pre Convention National Executive Committee Meeting to tie up all the end of the year 2023 business. The previous Minutes from Spring 2023 were not accepted unanimously due to a debate under discussion concerning the acceptance of the Rules of The NEC. Discussion was called to question and agreed to resume at The 2023 SAL National Convention. National Liaison Kevin Mook welcomed us to Charlotte. The Century Committee reported that the results of the surveys will be available at Fall Meetings.

Several Resolutions that were discussed and approved were allowing the National Adjutant to make administrative changes to resolutions that do not change the intent and a new SAL Tri Fold Brochure. A Resolution was presented to dedicate the 2023 Convention to Past National Chaplain Father Gary who passed away this past year.

The Pre Convention NEC ended after another discussion of the approval of the SAL NEC Rules.

The last Convention Committee Meeting for me was the Finance Committee. This past year I was tasked by the National Selection subcommittee to be the lead NEC Liaison to the Finance Committee.

Finance committee chairman Bill Hill (MD) reported completing the 2022 SAL National Ledger according to General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the updating of the 2023 SAL National Ledger. The 2024 SAL National Budget was accepted at Spring NEC.

Chairman Hill informed the committee that The Sons of The American Legion will present a resolution to donate \$250,000 to TAL National Veterans & Children Foundation from the SAL Restricted Reserved Fund which is approved by Finance. Discussion on Date and Time Stamping all Resolutions was referred back to IA for discussion and a resolution.

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Christopher Carlton opened the 51st Convention and dedicated the Convention to Past National Chaplain Father Gary.

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National Executive Committeeman (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

The Detachment of Florida was presented with the National Child Welfare Foundation US Udie Grant Award for the most donations for CWF by the entire Florida Legion Family. CDR Sambets also accepted for the Detachment the CWF Regional award for the most donations in the Southern Region and the Certificate for surpassing the \$1.00 per capita.

Day 2 began with the Detachment of Florida proudly welcoming TAL Department of Florida to the SAL Convention Floor. A big thank you to NEC Jim Ramos, and 2nd Vice Jessica Blair Moore for taking time out of their busy schedule to support the FL SAL at Convention and Thanks to the FL Legion Family for their support.

The Detachment of Florida Legislative Commission Chairman Bill Kelly was proud to accept the Sons of The American Legion 2023 George B Evans National Grassroots Veterans' Advocate of the Year Award. He accepted this award on behalf of the 1700+ members of Lakeshore American Legion Family 137 in Jacksonville, FL., the 22,000+ members of the Detachment of Florida, the membership of the Department of Florida and the 375,000+ members Nationally of the Sons of The American Legion for all of your support of Veterans Legislative Advocacy. This is for all of you who contacted your local and state legislators, those of you who joined Voters Voice and contacted your Congressman and Senators, all of you who marched on your state capitols, all of you who attended Washington Conference and spoke personally to our Legislators, and all of our Detachment and National Commissions members who coordinate our Legislative activity all for our Veterans. Thank you. That evening we attended the Leading Candidate Donald (JR) Hall's reception sponsored by his Detachment.

On Day 3 the Sons of The American Legion elected Donald (JR) Hall as National Commander along with 5 National Vice Commanders for 2023-2024. National Commander Hall in his inauguration speech laid out his year by explaining his slogan, Representing More Than Me. Everyone of us represents the entire American Legion Family.

National Commander Christopher Carlton, seeing no more business to come before him, closed the Sons of The American Legion 51st Convention.

Immediately following the National Convention's close is the Post National Convention, National Executive Committee Meeting. This meeting is to swear in the NECs, confirm the recommendations of the Advisory committee, and the Subcommittee on selection of Officers. Then these nominations by the National Commander for the 2023-2024 appointments are confirmed by the vote of the National Executive Committee. This is the first year the SAL will mirror TAL by not selecting all the Commission, Committee, Chairman and Committeeman until the Fall Meetings. The National Commissions and Committees term will now run from Fall Conference to Fall Conference.

Several new resolutions coming out of Convention committees were the new organization for the Membership subcommittee and the removal of the line item on the National Consolidated Squadron Report pertaining to Josh Dogs which no longer exist. With no more business to come before the Executive Committee the Commander entertained a motion to adjourn.

The American Legion has discontinued TAL Family Parade so the Department of Florida has moved its Florida Family Convention Party to Sunday Night. As in the past, except on special occasions, most of the SAL left Monday morning missing the Monday Night Florida Party.

Commander Eunice and Adjutant Bruce Comer planned a party with 3 bus loads of Family Members bus-sing 35 miles to South Carolina from Charlotte. The Sunday liquor laws required a trip. TAL Post 34 in Rock Hill South Carolina was a beautiful large brick post. The hospitality was great and the food and drink were very good.

The next day, Monday, while The American Legion and Auxiliary had their meetings and prepared for their Convention on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we made the drive back to Florida.

I would like to thank Ed Sheubrooks, for besides doing all of the National duties, he found time to do all the

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National Executive Committeeman (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

duties of the Detachment Secretary. I would also like to thank our Detachment Commander & Convention Chairman Gerard Sambets, our ANEC Tom Klinger, Committeeman Greg Tong and all the rest of the Detachment of Florida delegation who helped make it a successful National Convention.



GERALD KAUFMAN

★ VICE COMMANDER NORTHERN AREA ★
VCNORTH@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Well gentlemen the west side of the Northern Area pretty much took a direct hit from hurricane Idalia. Two posts took the brunt of the damage in the 3rd District. Post 291 in Steinhatchee is still closed due to mud and debris inside of the Post. Post 96 in Perry as of this writing is still closed. Post 166 in Homosassa in the 4th District had some flooding. I have not received any recent reports from the 4th District Commander. The reports that I have received from the 5th District Commander is no major damage to any of his Squadrons. I have received no reports at all from the 17th District Commander. Guys Hurricane Lee is still in the Atlantic and headed this our way. The East side of Florida is still in harms way. Commanders, you need to get with your squadron and post Disaster Preparedness Chairmen and formulate a plan for your posts and your members. I have been assisting members from the 3rd and 4th Districts in removing debris from their homes. It seems none of our Districts had a plan in place for helping their members and their posts in debris removal. One of the most important things you need to consider is downed power lines and whether they are live wires. Remember, SAFETY FIRST. I can not stress that enough. I know each and everyone of you that are in the hardest hit areas of the state are busting your backs trying to help your families and your members. If we can work as a team, we will get through this hurricane season.

On to membership. Congratulations to all four of our District Commanders for reaching the September 7th goal of 10% early. Commanders don't let up on your membership duties. There is still some serious work to be done. We still have under achieving squadrons that are not pulling their weight. We still have 7 squadrons in the Northern Area that are at 0.00%. guys, this is unacceptable to be this far into the year and not to have transmitted a single card. I know some squadrons have difficulties with MyLegion.org. if that is the case with your squadron you need to let me know so we can get it straightened out and you can start reaching your goals.

Remember, the Fall Conference is coming up in November and the Conference is by far the best opportunity for training for you and your officers. Come on down to Orlando and meet some of your comrades from across the state.

As always, I am proud of every single one of you. You are hard chargers and I have faith that you all will continue to meet and exceed your goals. May God bless all of you during this hurricane season.

The Northern Area Homecoming will be February 10th, 2024, at Squadron 383. As it was last year this is a picnic theme most definably open to your entire family. For those of you who have children or grandchildren please bring them. This is also open to the public. The cost and charities will be listed in the following months.

For God and Country

Gerry Kaufman, Northern Area Vice Commander
Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida
352-210-6767 VCNorth@floridasons.org



ROCCO CIRIGLIANO

★ INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ★

IA@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello All

I would like to thank Christian Rapp for updating our website www.floridasons.org, and for setting up email aliases for Detachment Officers, Committees/Commissions and District Commanders and District Vice Commanders. Communication is the key to a successful organization.

Please remember your 2023-2024 Detachment of Florida Membership Committee Members.

- John Jennings – Chairman
- Paul Stawicki – Vice Chairman
- North: Gerry Kaufman
- Central: Rick Cummings
- East: John Gorsuch
- Southwest: Michael Nigbor
- South: Michael Mathias
- West: Henry Richard

These are the Committee members that will be contacting you, the District Leadership with the questions on Squadrons that do not reach goals or are struggling with membership.

I urge all Commission/Committee Chairs to keep their membership involved in the workings of their respective areas.

IA presented a Resolution by the Detachment to The Department/Detachment of Florida Executive Committees elevating Ed Sheubrooks, National Assistant Adjutant for 27 years, to PNC status at the time of his retirement from National service was approved. Congratulations to Ed, for his untiring efforts with the Sons of the American Legion.

A warm welcome for our new Historian Brian Patt, a 19-year member of The Sons of The American Legion. Please e-mail him if you would like to be part of his steering committee with your opinions to discuss, via Zoom and email, at historian@floridasons.org

The Internal Affairs Commission meeting at convention had a fruitful discussion on the duties and responsibilities of the District Commanders. As a District Commander, you are now part of the leadership structure within the Detachment of Florida. As such, you will be called upon to do many things from the Squadrons in your District, from the Detachment & the American Legion Family. IA has followed up with our Adjutant on a future course of action related to Management Training and Development.

If you have any questions or concerns on the National Convention, please either email Ed Sheubrooks your questions, or feel free to call at 1-772-216-3063.

It is time to go to work and make 2023-2024 another record year. Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers.

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.



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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.





MICHAEL NIGBOR

★ SOUTHWESTERN AREA COMMANDER ★
VCSW@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greeting to everyone from the great Southwestern Area,

I would like to mention how thrilled we are to see the renewals and new memberships that are coming in. It has been a rough couple of years, but we have achieved some great numbers. This year will be no different. With the camaraderie that has been achieved through these past months, this is going to be another banner year. We will meet Commander Sambets' goal with flying colors.

In our area, we have had a small Squadron struggling for quite some time. Well, guess what??? They are now the first Squadron to reach 100%. Absolutely fantastic. I am very proud of the new officers at this Post and Squadron for being able to motivate their members. There will be a grand re-opening at American Legion Post 192 on September 4th from 12-3pm. I am hoping many of you can make an effort to stop in and say hello to support them.

I work an American Legion Family 303 membership table every Thursday evening alongside Unit 303 President Denise Serdahl. We do this at the VFW, an organization that has been very generous to let us use their facility. Our Post 303 is still closed and waiting for permits. We work The Sons of The American Legion, The Auxiliary, and the Riders. There is a veteran a few tables away working the Legion renewals. We have amazing meals on this night, along with the 3 of Clubs and a 50/50. Please come sometime to support us.

I would like to share some ideas that were received in an email I received called American Legion eight tips to membership recruiting. Please carry the new American Legion "Join Our Family" brochure with you. It has all three family applications in it.

- Know what you're going to share with a potential new member about why they should join.
- Know The American Legion programs- they drive membership.
- Give post leadership the names of the new members you signed up.
- Take your new member to their first meeting.
- Sit down with new members to take the online Basic Training course.
- Go where younger veterans are-at youth sporting events. Ask the athletic directors and staff if you can set up a membership table.
- Give special incentives to your members for their recruiting efforts. An S.A.L. tee-shirt, challenge coin, S.A.L. ball cap, etc.
- Conduct a new member initiation ceremony.

Remember to check floridasons.org. This is where you will find all the information you need to run your Squadron effectively and post your events. Check with your neighbor Squadrons to see what they have going on so you can support them. Invite them to your events. Let's share ideas and make our Squadrons the example for the rest of the country.

We have the ability to do all of this. We are a team. We are The American Legion Family. I have some interesting ideas for the next article I will bring up. As always, please contact me at vcsw@floridasons.org. I am willing to help anyone with membership questions.

Lastly, I would really like to hear your feedback on these articles, your ideas, and concerns. Thank you for all you do to make The Sons of The American Legion the best organization in the world. We are here to honor our veterans, their families, and our communities.

* BE THE ONE * LEAD BY EXAMPLE * NEVER GIVE UP

For God and Country,

Mike Nigbor
Vice Commander Southwest
Detachment of Florida
vcsw@floridasons.org



GEORGE WORTON

VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN
VAR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



The interest in supporting the Urn Project we saw at our Convention was very appreciated. We are asking for a donation of \$20 for a set of coasters that feature the emblems of the American Legion, The Sons of The American Legion, The Legion Riders, and the Auxiliary.

Some of the members attending Convention wanted to know how they can support the program at their local Post/Squadron and we want to make the process easy. If your organization wants to obtain some sets of the coasters, you can contact me, and we can bring them to Fall Conference and distribute them there. If you want to display them in your local Post earlier, we can offer to supply them for a donation of \$20 plus \$5 for shipping and send them out.

A set of coasters includes one from each Family and the proceeds are donated through the Sons at Lady Lake Post # 347. The donation will pass through to The Villages Woodworkers Club to purchase material for building Urns for Indigent Veterans. These are sent to 5 Florida based National Cemeteries at no cost to properly retire Veterans Remains. Each set will supply material to build 2 Urns that the Woodworkers build and send to various National Cemeteries.

This program falls under VA&R and can be listed on the CSR as a donation on your report. All donations are used to purchase material and the Woodworkers Club is a 501-C3 organization. They provide the tools and expertise to build these Urns. Contact me if you are interested and we will work out the details!

We were extremely impressed by how much support we saw demonstrated at Convention for the many worthy programs we participate in. The numbers were truly inspiring, and the dedication was apparent. The Commanders Project, Project Vet Relief, Fisher House and all the programs will benefit from your hard work and commitment.

Thank you all
God Bless you and the entire American Legion Family!

George Worton
Detachment VA&R Chairman
410-382-0473



Be The One is SAL
National Commander's
Slogan.

Be The One Who Helps!

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



RAY LEVENTHAL

★ DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN ★
CHAPLAIN@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Why do bad things happen to good people?

This is often a topic of some discussion especially when there's been a natural disaster. As the Southwest section of Florida is slowly recovering from hurricane Ian, the Big Bend area is now rebuilding after hurricane Idalia. Surely, we've had enough, don't you think?

It is human nature to consider that while we do our best to do good things and be good people, bad things still happen. In these times of lament, I urge you to seek out a private, quiet place – even if only for a few minutes. Sit, breathe, set lamentations aside and remember that where there is life, there is hope. Where there is hope, there is strength. In communities that have suffered through this type of disaster, the coming together of people will reignite the inner spirit and glow with hope and eventually, joy that the gift of life is still with us.

It's written that 'today is a gift and tomorrow is not promised'. While that's true, the tomorrow of the spirit *is* promised. The entirety of the Judeo-Christian ethic that built this great nation is founded on the principle that the spirit lives even when the flesh is no more.

Rebuilding our communities takes a lot of time, a lot of effort and a lot of teamwork. The pure joy of working beside others towards a common goal can be very reaffirming. As we in the Southwest of the state have realized through the generosity and help we've received from all over the state and country, so will it be for those on the northern Gulf Coast now rebuilding after this latest storm.

Don't let lament and despair take over the drive and resolve that we as a nation share. Be faithful to yourself and remember that our Heavenly Father is always within reach. Ask of Him, receive of Him and let His inner strength be yours.

I heard what feels like the one true answer to my opening question recently and it stopped me in my tracks. What if bad things just happen to people - all people. What if the last time a bad thing happened to a good person, he volunteered.

I'm honored to serve as your Chaplain again this year and am always available to anyone who reaches out.

For God and Country,

Ray Leventhal, Chaplain

Sons of the American Legion

Detachment of Florida

chaplain@floridasons.org / 561 801 5822



DETACHMENT
OF FLORIDA



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
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



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA



THE SOURCE

WIN BIG & SUPPORT VETS
HUGE PRIZES

50/50 RAFFLE
4 VETERANS

★★★ **BI-WEEKLY DRAWINGS** ★★★
Florida participants only

Show your support for Florida's veterans and their families through
The American Legion, Department of Florida's 50/50 Raffle!

Support Post _____ when you submit your tickets!

Questions: 1-800-393-3378

AMERICAN LEGION | Department of Florida

The Florida Legion 50/50 Raffle is a fundraising effort where proceeds benefit The American Legion, Department of Florida, Inc., a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization located at 1912A Lee Rd, Orlando, FL 32810. Cash prizes will be paid to our lucky winner(s) from the net proceeds generated from each raffle. Any additional or special drawing, such as an early bird drawing, will be announced before the start of any bi-weekly drawing. Participating Florida American Legion Posts will receive a part of the proceeds, too! All Winners, early bird and grand prize winners, will be selected at The American Legion, Department of Florida's Headquarters | 1912A Lee Rd, Orlando, FL 32810 | bi-weekly by an electronic randomizer. Although no purchase is necessary to win, donations received from this raffle will benefit the many programs we offer for Florida Veterans and their families. To request your FREE entry, please email donate@floridal legion.org with your name, address, phone, and email. For a full list of rules, visit: <http://www.florida5050.org>

www.florida5050.org

SCAN ME



The American Legion Post 138
5535 W. Prescott St.
Tampa, FL 33616
(813)839-5119
(South Westshore Area)

Note: All Youth (15 & under) registered in the fishing tournament gets a free rod/reel from: Gandy Bait & Tackle!

Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) "Kenny McCall Memorial"

22nd ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

By Boat or by Land – Let's Go Fishing! Trophies & \$1,425.00 in total Prize Money

Saturday, Sept 16, 2023

6:00 AM—4:00 PM

Captains Meeting Friday, Sept 15, 2023, begins at 5:00 pm at Post 138:

- Latest S.A.L. & FWC tournament instructions will be provided
- Can pick up fishing package. Entries receive: Free: T-Shirt, dinner ticket & raffle ticket
- Sponsors get: Free Tournament Entry, 2 Free T-Shirts, dinner ticket & raffle ticket

Should you have questions, call Steve Lentz, S.A.L. Commander, 813-435-8238

Net proceeds donated to Veterans & Children Charities

Open to the Public - Adults & Youths



Snook

1st Place Adult 16 & Over - \$400
1st Place Youth 15 & Under - \$150



Redfish

1st Place Adult 16 & Over - \$350
1st Place Youth 15 & Under - \$125



Seatrout

1st Place Adult 16 & Over - \$300
1st Place Youth 15 & Under - \$100

Tournament begins at 6:00 am - Final FWC review at 4:00 pm. Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded at 5:00 pm at the American Legion Post 138

RULES FOR WINNING

Weigh-In Rules for Winning Fish in each Category: Method 1: Heaviest fish wins; 2. If tie, Longest Fish wins. Method 2: Should FWC Red Tide Order be in place, photo required with S.A.L. provided yardstick (at Captain's Meeting)—longest fish wins. If need be, any ties in either method will be placed into a "pool" and winner drawn by the S.A.L. Commander

Register Today at Post 138, see your bartender for Entry Forms!

**Mature Adults, 70 & over, \$20; Adults, 16 & over, \$55;
Youth 15 & under, \$10; Family: 2 Adults with 2 Youths, \$65**

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 252

**SUNDAY
SEPT
17th**



GOLF TOURNAMENT

8:00am SHOT GUN START \$70 pp

**MONEY FOR 1ST, 2ND, 3RD
PLACE AND CLOSEST TO THE PIN
LUNCH AND RAFFLES
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AT
POST 252
LIMIT 29 TEAMS**

**EAST BAY GOLF CLUB
702 COUNTRY CLUB DR
LARGO, FL. 33771
CONTACT ENOCH DOANE:
727-333-5730 OR EMAIL:
ENOCHDOANE@ICLOUD.COM**

ALL PROCEEDS HELP SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

HOLE SPONSORS NEEDED:

**GOLD \$100
SILVER \$50
BRONZE \$25**

*TAX DEDUCTIBLE INFO PROVIDED AT TIME OF SPONSORSHIP

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SAL



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

CHARITY GOLF Tournament

**COCOA BEACH
COUNTRY CLUB**

**Scramble / Shot Gun Start @8am
1st, 2nd, 3rd place Prizes**

**Date : November 19, 2023
Teams Needed
4 PERSON TEAMS
\$60.00 PER GOLFER**

**Fill out signup
sheet and turn it
in at**

American Legion

Post 348

105 Lincoln Ave

Cape Canaveral

Also

Hole Sponsors

NEEDED



FOR MORE INFO CALL

MIKE BARCLEY @

321-302-1042

OR

TERRY CAREY @

631-742-2642



SAL RAFFLE

"BASKETS OF CHEER"

**DRAWING
SEPT 23RD**

**All proceeds go to
helping our
Veterans & Youth**

****do not need to
be present to win**

**American Legion Post 35
920 S Highland St
Mt Dora FL 32757**



(1) TICKET FOR \$5

(5) TICKETS FOR \$20

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE CANTEEN

DISTRICT 13
CHILDREN & YOUTH PICNIC
FUND RAISER



November 5, 2023

11 am - 4 pm

American Legion Post 323
1124 Ashlar Ave, Lehigh Acres FL
(239) 369-3178



Games for children and adults,
Food, Baskets, 50/50



All money goes towards
District 13
Boys & Girls State
Transprotation



Questions or Concerns:
Dennis Boland (239) 641-1224



**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!**



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.