Volume 31, Issue 5
Noveber 2023



GERVARD SAMBETS

★ DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★ COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG





Volunteer Educate Train Support

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"Remember always Veterans First"

By the time you read this, we will be getting ready to head to our Fall Conference in Orlando. I hope that most of you will attend and see all of the good that we have accomplished since our Convention. I am very excited to share this information with you all. Also, our Membership, Training, and Development leadership (MT&D) will work with all of you on our programs and reporting. This is your chance to ask questions and learn more about how we operate and get tasks done. The MT&D members are excited to share this information with you on Friday afternoon. If you go to our website, you will find the Conference schedule with all the times of the scheduled classes

and events for the weekend. Please try to attend the ones you need the most help or info on. If you are unable to attend the class, try to swing by that room to pick up any information printouts they may have for you.

I want to thank JJ and Paul for their work on our membership reports. It is not an easy task, and they are constantly being asked for the next report! Let's give them a break, please! They provide the information to us as soon as they get it from National. I want you all to realize that they are not sitting on it and waiting to report it to us. They get it and put it into a report for us to digest and hopefully brag about it to the other districts. This should be a contest between all of us to see who gets to the top first. I want to thank all of you for being ahead of our goals, but let's not rest on that. We are heading into the time of year when membership should soar! Snowbirds are back and the end of the year is fast approaching, be prepared and have someone in your Squadron ready to work on getting them out to the members and then processing them online. It is time to Recruit, Renew, and Reinstate our members. Hopefully, with the snowbirds coming back, the ZEROS will disappear.

My charity, My Warriors Place is having a grand opening on Nov 12th at 32020 Oil Well Rd, Punta Gorda. This is their new Location in Charlotte County. If you visit, it is located off Oil Well Rd. on a dirt road called Bass Rd. (low riding cars are not suggested). This charity supports Veteran Military & First Responder Recovery and coping programs. If you can, visit and donate. The owner, Kelly Kowal, will be at our Fall Conference. She will have a table set up outside of our room for all the information that you will need to donate. Again, I want to thank all our members for their donations and Thank You for all that you do.

And finally, this is just a reminder about keeping your membership current. Not only would you be able to apply for assistance after a natural disaster, but your Squadron might also help you with a personal situation that happens to you or your family. I was just at a Squadron where a long-time member, who hasn't been around due to illness, was informed by the spouse that the member was now in Hospice care. After more conversations with the wife, we found out that they wouldn't be able to pay for his cremation. His Squadron agreed to

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Have you paid your dues?

2023-2024 Me	embersh	ip Target Dates:
September 7, 2022	10%	21.95! Congratulations!!
October12, 2022	25%	31.26% Congratulations!
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 (M	larch 13t	h) ** Delegate Cut-Off

Detachment Commander (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

pay for that expense because he kept his membership current. This is just one example of how membership has its benefits. You all belong to one of the best organizations around and not only do we help our own, but also do GREAT things in our communities.

"Keep doing what you do Best"

For God and Country,

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





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



CHRISTIAN M RAPP

★ DETACHMENT ADJUTANT ★ ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

In just a couple of weeks, we will be convening in Orlando at The Caribe Royale for our annual Fall Conference. If you haven't booked your room yet, it may be too late. The number to call is **(407) 238-8000**. I apologize for having this number wrong on our website, it has been adjusted now. Thanks to those who pointed out the error.

ENDORSEMENTS FOR OFFICE

I was mistaken when I said that we do not accept endorsements for office until after Fall Conference last month. We DO accept endorsements for office prior to Fall Conference, we don't post the endorsements on our website until after Fall Conference. If you are running for an office for the upcoming service year, you may present them to me at Fall Conference of mail them to me. Please keep in mind that your endorsement for office **must be on Squadron or Post Letterhead and must be signed** by any two of the following: Post Commander/Adjutant or Squadron Commander/Adjutant. Full details on submitting an endorsement for office can be found at https://floridasons.org/detachment-officer-endorsements/

FALL CONFERENCE TRAINING

Your Detachment MT&D (Member Training & Development) team met to discuss the planned training sessions to hold at Fall Conference. Currently, we are planning on holding training on Friday, November 17 from 1pm – 5pm. The planned topics are as follows:

- Commander & Adjutant Training
- Reporting
- District Commander/Ambassador
- Americanism
- myLegion Q&A
- General Q&A (time permitting)

The times for these training sessions will be added to the agenda that is on our website at: https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SAL-Fall-Conference-Agenda-2023.pdf

DETACHMENT DIRECTORIES

I know I have promised you Detachment Directories for a couple of months now. Your Adjutant Team is in the process of reworking the directories to be more in line with the way The Department of Florida does theirs. Please be patient, we should have these to you just after Fall Conference.

MYLEGION | MEMBERSHIP NOTES

I have had many send me emails about issues with their myLegion.org access. Please keep in mind that, as of this time, we do not have the ability to control or modify access at the Detachment Level – you must reach out to National. You can contact Member Support Services at postsgdnupdates@legion.org.

Also, if you run out of blank membership cards, you need to contact JoAnn Collins at Department. You can reach her by email at jcollins@floridalegion.org.

That's it for now. There will be more info disseminated at Fall Conference is two weeks. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

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,

As of the writing of the article the Detachment of Florida stands Nationally at 32.93% with 23,066 members as our 100% target and a renewal rate of 26.31%. You guys are continuing to do great work and we need all hands-on deck as the year will move along very quickly. Let's all stay focused on our membership and not let anyone fall behind.

We have made our first two membership targets and on pace to reach our third.

- 10% 21.95%
- 25% 31.26%
- 35% -?????

Our Fall Conference is fast approaching, and our 35% awards will be given out at that time to those Squadrons that make or surpass the 35% mark by Fall Conference. We currently have 92 Squadrons that have reached that target. Great job!

In October we had 20 ZERO Squadrons. Here we are in November, and we have 16 ZERO Squadrons. WHY! We have got to work on these Squadrons. I say this every year and I will continue to say it, that when membership is not being reported or transmitted there is an ISSUE. It needs to be checked out and not just ignored! Another number that is very important is the SHORT OF GOAL. The short of goal are the Squadrons reporting membership that are off target. With the writing of this article, we had 79 Squadrons reporting but off pace. That is 42.93% of the Detachment, almost one-half. These are the one that can FALL BEHIND.... WATCH THESE NUMBERS CLOSELY.

I have made random calls to some of the Squadrons Commanders around the State that I know and have asked them if they have seen or talk to their Detachment representative. Almost all of them ask the Question, WHO?

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 zero Squadrons, and working with Squadrons that need our help. To help you with any issues, below are the members of the Membership Committee. Please use these men to help.

- 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 will be contacting the District Leadership with the questions on Squadrons that are not reach goals or are struggling with membership. It will be our job to see that membership starts stays strong and finishes strong,

Membership (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR FOR SOME – THE TRIPLE NICKLE AWARD

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

- Charter 6 New Squadrons—We have 2 New Squadrons
 - Welcome
 - Squadron 108, Lutz (District 5)
 - Squadron 83, Macclenny (District 3)
- 105% Membership by National Delegate Cutoff
- 85% Renewal Rate by National Delegate Cutoff

As we continue 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.

THE TIME IS COMING!!!! 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. (www.floridasons.org)

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%,

2023-2024 Me	embersh	ip Target Dates:
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March 7, 2024*	80%	
April 4, 2024	90%	
May 9, 2024	100%	
May 31, 2024**	105%	
* Legion Birthday (M	larch 13t	h) ** Delegate Cut-Off

All target dates are the second Thursday of each month.

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.





WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

★ NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEMAN ★ NEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



The Sons of The American Legion traveled to Indianapolis IN on October 6,7,& 8 2023 for the National Executive Committee Fall Meetings. We were down to just two attendees, CDR Sambets and myself, due to work obligations and illness.

The SAL National Organization and Staff have reorganized the scheduled times. We are now scheduling and completing all our Commission and Committee meetings Friday night and Saturday morning, before convening the National Executive Committee Meeting Saturday at 1 PM.

The Americanism Commission reported and requested that every Detachment and Squadron start planning now for **The American Legion Family Day, Saturday, April 27th 2024**. Post/Squadrons are requested to open their door and welcome in members of their community. The purpose of this event is to educate who The American Legion and their Family is, and to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of The American Legion Family and The Sons of The American Legion.

The Children & Youth Committee reported that the SAL Children & Youth Academy is working on a curriculum with age-appropriate hands-on activities, registration forms with emergency contact information, participant patches, and gathering feedback from participants and their parents. National CDR JR Hall has a Youth Initiative this year and more information will be available soon but, start planning activities now for April Children and Youth Month now.

CWF Committee reported as the Presidents of the Child Welfare Foundation referred to it as it should be called The Sons of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation because the SAL donated over 62% of all monies in 2022-2023. This year the SAL is nearing a very significant goal of \$10 Million Dollars donated by the Sons to CWF. A group of SAL members are meeting to devise a celebration when we reach this significant goal. Donations for SAL CWF are up 24% so far this year.

Century Committee (Centcom) Was created in 2021 to create a strategic plan to take the SAL into the next century. A sub committee of Centcom The 100 Anniversary Committee was created to plan for the anniversary in 2032 with both committees planning for these events.

Internal Affairs Commission, along with the Membership Committee, Member Training & Development Committee, and Convention Committee were reporting. IA has asked to have TAL Family Day included in the National Consolidated Squadron Reports. There were two resolutions: a Candidate resolution that was filed and a membership resolution that was returned to the committee for further research.

The Membership Committee was planning a membership workshop on Saturday 10/7/ morning. The committee is working on more awards to stimulate membership and is trying for "EVERYONE SAYS 400" with a goal of 400,000 members and all Detachments at 105% of goal using Retention, Recrutement, and Restatement. Other ideas discussed were The Welcome Kit, new member involvement, Squadron Welcoming Committee, and being considerate of ideas by new members. The new National Southeast Region was leading the way with Florida turning in the most membership 7,059 in at 30.60% as of the 10/9 report.

Member Training & Development Committee's Sons of The American Legion (SAL) University has completed its planning stage, secured finance and will be making its first presentation this Spring. One of the 1st classes presented was the new National Executive Committeeman orientation class. This is to update, provide handouts and inform both new and experienced NECs. Applications for the SAL University will be coming soon.

The Convention Committee with our own committeeman Gerard Sambets was a part of reviewing the past convention in Charlotte and was discussing and preparing for the Convention in New Orleans 2024.

The Legislative Commission is preparing for the Washington Conference, February 24th-28th. The SAL on Sunday February 25th will once again be sponsoring a bus trip to Veteran Memorials for Wreath Layings. This Bus Trip to Arlington National Cemetery and other memorials is open to the entire American Legion Family at a mini-

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National Executive Committeeman (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

mum cost for lunch & ANC. Florida will once again this year be Laying a Wreath. Don't forget if you haven't signed up for Voter's Voice to support Veterans Legislation, Do It Today! Use the QR code for easy sign up

Public & Media Communications Commission Would like to remind everyone to start looking for new revised electronically delivered SAL National Newsletter. P&MC Commission is working on a resolution to match up the cutoff dates for Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service and don't forget to submit your photos and videos for national awards for this year.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission is continuing TAL National CDR Dan's & SAL National CDR JRs "BE THE ONE" campaign to prevent Veteran Suicide. VA&R is requesting more Detachments, Squadrons and members get involved with the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) as a representative or deputy representatives at Veteran Administration Hospitals. The VA has allowed the Sons of The American Legion to be its own certifying officer allowing the process to be significantly easier to become a representative. Please consider joining today. The SAL has become a voting member of the Veterans Administration National Veterans Service Organizations that submits resolutions on behalf of veterans to the Secretary of the Veterans Administration. The commission reminds all Detachments to start working on providing a candidate for the VA&R Charles B Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award. The commission is also looking into creating other award categories.

Finance Commission Reviewed the SAL 2023 Budget Reconciliations and presentation of the 2024 Budget.

The SAL NEC Orientation ends Saturday's meetings about 7 PM.

Due to circumstances beyond their control the leading & trailing National Candidates, Joseph Navarrete and William Clancy had their Candidates' Call at the Embassy Suites which I attended. It was a very nice affair.

Sunday started bright and early with the religious services and the meetings opening with The American Legion National Commander Daniel J Seehafer (WI) continuing the message of "BE THE ONE" to prevent veteran suicide and Servient Service. Are you doing everything you can in your jobs that allows you to continue wearing that cover? Please encourage everyone to fill out your squadron reports. We only had 31.2% of all Squadrons reporting last year and you still did, totaling over \$114 Million Volunteer Hours Valued & Donations. Think if we got 10% more Squadrons to Report?

Next was National Auxiliary President Lisa Williamson (AK) the Auxiliary will be supporting The American Legion "BE THE ONE" program with our ASK, Listen, Respond, program, from just call me Lisa.

The CWF President Robert Morrill thanked us for our Great Job donating to the CWF. He asked us to continue sharing the CWF Reports and to keep up the outstanding work supporting the CWF. Special Guest Dennis Boland was called up to say a few words thanking us for all the years of support.

National Commander Donald (JR) Hall concluded the Fall meetings asking us to take back the question in Servient Service Do You Deserve To Wear That Cover? Are you doing everything you can in that National, Detachment, or Squadron job? The changes in the scheduled meetings, are good he asked? So change is good! With that the NEC Fall Meetings concluded.

My take on the NEC Meetings, everyone always says to me, "have fun". This is work with no payment and minimum reimbursement of expenditures. Why do I do it, get up at 3AM Friday morning catch 6AM flight, fly 1660 miles roundtrip, Lift to and from the airport, spend 12 to 14 hours in meetings sleep or not sleep in a hotel, eat on the run and after 70 hours arrive back home at 10 Sunday night and then report it. Contributions in the last two years, new Constitution & Bylaws, an Outline of Authorization, new committees to better serve the NEC.

Why? Servient Service to the Sons of the American Legion to help to maybe make it better. Why do I write such long, in depth articles? Nobody else does it. Yes they do. Every month our officers write articles and try to explain the going ons of our SAL Squadrons, Detachment, and Nation Organization. Why to keep you informed and create a record of our Detachment for the future and in turn hopefully make The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion better and in some way help the veterans of our state and country.

See you at Fall Conference.

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CLARENCE HILL

★ PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ★ 2010 - 2011



Tampa will host the 2025 National Convention. Following are the Committees that will be required to be filled by volunteers. A lot will rely on the Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, SAL members and Riders volunteers to make it a success.

There are 5 committees (Badges and Packets, Distinguished Guests, Information/ Registration, Memorial Service and Special Events) required by National to have a successful convention, plus a Tampa Liaison and National Commander drivers. I will give a brief description of the duties of each. More specific duties will be described as we get closer and need to start signing up volunteers. Chairmen contact information is due in 2024.

The Liaison is someone with political connections locally and perhaps statewide. They may be asked to assist with agencies such as police, fire, public works, parks & recreation, mayor's office and airport officials. The individual should also be familiar with local businesses such as retail stores, restaurants, recreational facilities, transportation companies and other businesses that could impact convention activities.

The Badges and Packets Committee is responsible for setting up the Office located in the Convention Center. Badges and Packets for The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion are shipped from National Headquarters to this office. The bags must be assembled for each delegate for each Department. The estimated number of assistants needed is 28-30.

The Distinguished Guests Committee has a Chairman and two Vice Chairmen. The Vice Chairmen are the Distinguished Guests Registration Chairman and the Distinguished Guests Holding Area Chairman. The Committee will also need two full time drivers for the National Commander and for the National Adjutant. The estimated number of assistants needed is 2-6 for each committee. The duties of each committee are exactly as they sound.

The Information/Registration Committee mans the desks set up in the convention center to answer questions from the attendees. National will provide binders with lots of information in them. The estimated number of assistants needed is 8-10.

The Memorial Service Committee coordinates with the National Chaplain to set up the service, provide rooming arrangements that may be required and provide volunteers to assist with seating attendees. We also need to identify a well-known local group that can perform at this event. If you have any suggestions, submit them to Bruce or I. The estimated number of assistants needed is 3-5.

The Special Events Committee coordinates meeting the requirements for all special events scheduled, whether it be obtaining permits, coordinating with city agencies (police, fire, sanitation, emergency management, etc.) and must be a resident of the city. The estimated number of assistants is 30 or more.

This brief overview will give you an idea of the immense project Florida has taken on, and how important your support and volunteering will be to its success.

Clarence Hill, PNC, 2025 Tampa Convention Corporation President



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



ROCCO CIRICLIANO

IA@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings All

Please join us for Fall Conference November 17-19, 2023, at the Caribe Royale, Orlando Florida. Fall Conference is a great experience for first time attendees as well as seasoned officers. It is our goal to make Conference a successful and enjoyable experience for all.

The Member, Training and Development Committee will be presenting training classes at the Fall Conference, consisting of Commander, Adjutant, comprehensive reporting, District Commander/Ambassador, Americanism and a General Q&A. These will be conducted Friday afternoon, November 17, 2023, from 1:00-5:00pm. The more we inform and train our Officers and Members, the stronger our Detachment will become. We encourage all officers and future leaders to attend.

Our Membership Committee has been 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 at Fall Conference. 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.

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 National Headquarters has become more important than ever. It is also imperative that your Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) is completed. If this form is not on file with the National organization, you cannot get access to MyLEGION. The Squadron Adjutant will be verified with Department before access is given by National. The Annual Squadron Data Report must be forwarded to your Detachment & National Headquarters.

MAIL: THE AMERICAN LEGION ATTN: IT/DATA SERVICES

PO BOX 1954

INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206

SCAN & EMAIL: dsforms@legion.org

For the Membership Committee and/or the Detachment\Administration to contact your Squadrons during the year, your Squadron must submit the Squadron Office Report form. If not done, 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.

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. We also urge commission/committee chairs to suggest to the Adjutant who they would like to be on their commissions/committee's at the appropriate time for the coming year.

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.



Be The One is SAL National Commander's Slogan.

Be The One Who Helps!

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AL Voter Voice

Internal Affairs Commission Chariman (continued)

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.





RAY LEVENTHAL

★ DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN

CHAPLAIN@FLORIDASONS.ORG





The Power of Prayer

As we prepare ourselves to gather once again in Orlando for our Fall Conference, I find myself contemplating all the ways in which we are blessed.

With Veteran's Day just passed, we are blessed by the sacrifices of all who have served and are serving in the United States military forces. We should always remember that their service is a blessing and a gift to all who treasure freedom, liberty, and justice. Service to something other than 'self' is why we're here. Service to the community, state and nation brings us closer to the creator of us all, and those that willingly and eagerly go into that service show a depth of love that is only surpassed by the love of God himself.

Our nation, formed and forged with the belief in and blessings of God, has been built on the ethic of hard work, dedication to family and Love from and for Him. It is these foundational blocks which propelled this great country into world leadership. The strongest, and most kind nation to ever exist on the face of the earth, is the United States of America. Through our strength, we have been responsible for the longest periods of peace. Even when we are involved in conflicts, our mission is always to assist and bring comfort to the innocents and the afflicted.

In eras past, the spoils of war included the disrespect of lives affected by a victory. In the era of US leadership in the world, the spoils of war include medicine, education and rebuilding. We, as well as our few true and faithful allies, believe in the sanctity of life, because life – all life - is a gift from our Heavenly Father.

How do we express our thanks for such a perspective? How should we engage with the Almighty to ensure that our outward faces match his vision of us? The answer is through prayer.

There's a popular song whose lyrics read: *I only talk to God when I need a favor, And I only pray when I ain't got a prayer.* The song goes on to lament that the singer believes he's not worthy, but still knows he may turn to God and ask for that favor.

Prayer is our pathway to Him. He wants to live inside us, to help us be more like Him. He hears all prayer and answers in his own way; sometimes in ways we don't and can't see.

My most fervent and most recent prayers have been answered and I'm so thankful for the outcome. I'm know not alone when I say that the prayers made to God, asking for a full and quick recovery for our brother and my friend Department of Florida Chaplain Barry Roberts have been answered very, very clearly. I look forward to his presence at Fall Conference and our continued brotherhood and friendship.

My friends, God hears you. He loves you. Please never forget these simple, but powerful truths. Through prayer, we reach Him. Through faith, he reaches us and provides the Grace we all need to truly be at peace within ourselves and in the world.

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

For God and Country,

Ray Leventhal, Chaplain
Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida
chaplain@floridasons.org / 561 801 5822





BRIAN PATT





Optimistically, your Squadron and Legion family have been keeping busy with fun activities and events over the past few months. Hopefully, someone has been taking pictures and videos of these events and posting them to social media. It's time to start planning your entry for the Detachment Historian's 2024 Video Squadron Award.

The Detachment Historian Committee was recently formed to establish the requirements for a new award to be presented during our 2024 SAL Detachment Convention. How do you apply?

Using free software, organize and assemble the pictures and videos you have taken depicting functions and activities highlighting the Squadron and its members. Your Legion family, children, youth, and guests can also be included, but the Video Squadron Award is to showcase your Squadron.

Your objective is to create a 3-minute video (maximum) that is a compilation of pictures and videos that depict your Squadron doing what we do best, specifically; "Raise Money. Have Fun. Give it All Away." Incorporate some non-royalty music (Google is your friend here) and produce a social media "movie" of your Squadron. Then upload your production to the Florida Detachment Historian YouTube Video Channel @FloridaDetachmentHistorian, and that's all there is to it...

Those Squadrons which enter the 2024 Video Squadron Award will have their video shown during the registration process and run continuously for everyone to see at the 2024 Legion Convention in Orlando. The judging panel will then award a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize and will have those videos shown to delegates, guests and members attending the 2024 SAL Convention.

Details, instructions, and entry forms for the 2024 Video Squadron Award will be available at the 2023 Fall SAL Conference November 17-19th and on the floridasons.org website.

Start thinking about what your 2024 Squadron video submission will look like. This video is a powerful way to show-off what your Squadron does and is available for you to use on your social media pages. Our Squadrons do a lot to benefit the American Legion, tell YOUR story in a fun, fresh, modern, and entertaining medium.

Keep doing what we do well and REMEMBER to take a bunch of pictures and videos of every event. Upcoming Veteran's Day events and parades make great photo and video opportunities. More information will be provided in the December 2023 edition of "The Source"

Don't forget to check out the Detachment FREE Photo Gallery which is available for your Historian to display and archive pictures and videos. Please, take a moment to visit our Photo Gallery at the following link: DetachmentHistorian.smugmug.com

Help me to help you: historian@floridasons.org

DetachmentHistorian.smugmug.com

Brian R. Patt, Historian Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida (724) 699-9234





MICHAEL NICEOR

▼ SOUTHWESTERN AREA COMMANDER ★ VCSW@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello to everyone from the Mighty Southwestern Area,

Wow, so much going on at all our Posts, Units and Squadrons. Everyone has been so busy with their events, rebuilding and hopefully working on membership. I am sharing information in this article with you that I have received from other squadrons.

Congratulations to all the squadrons that have reached our October goal. We are on our way and need to keep working hard to renew, reinstate and recruit our members. Remember why we all joined this organization and keep doing what we do for our veterans and the children and youth of our great nation. Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible to be a member of the World's Greatest Veterans Organization, The American Legion.

Get out and support other members of the American Legion Family when they are having their events and invite them to yours. This is going to be a banner year. We need to help each other get the word out about our programs and how we help our communities and veterans.

The 2023 Consolidated Reports Summary was published in August 2023. You will see nearly \$10 million dollars donated and over 3.2 million hours volunteered across the country. These are great numbers that every member of The Sons of The American Legion should be proud of.

However, only 1,853 reports out of a possible 5,938 squadrons turned in information. This is only 31.21% of our membership turning in mandatory reporting. Think of how high our numbers would be if everyone got on board. When we see a more accurate picture of what we do, others will notice. People will want to become members when we can accurately brag about what we really do.

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is Success!

Remember the words of one of our greatest Statesmen, Benjamin Franklin. "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning!"

For God and Country.

Mike Nigbor Southwestern Area Vice Commander Detachment of Florida



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



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
- <u>District Membership Report</u>
- 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

Be The One is SAL National Commander's Slogan.

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AL Voter Voice

4

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA



The Source

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Squadron #347 Urn Project

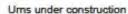
For a number of years a group of central Florida craftsmen, The Villages Woodworkers Club (VWC), has been constructing wooden urns exclusively for the ashes of indigent Veterans in Central Florida. The goal is to make sure that these forgotten Veterans, often with no known family, get the respect they deserve in their final resting place.

In various ways over the years the VWC has distributed these urns for the 2 or 3 National cemeteries in central Florida. In 2019, the VWC woodworkers asked The Sons of The American Legion Squadron #347 in Lady Lake, FL, to take over the distribution of the urns, and also to expand the distribution to other National cemeteries in Florida. Since 2019 this joint team has distributed over 250 urns to five Central & Northern Florida National Cemeteries, the Marion County Veterans Cemetery, as well as to the Missing in America Project (MIAP) in Brevard County.

The urns are supplied free of charge, to be used to inter the ashes of indigent Veterans.

For additional information about the project, you can contact Doug White at 352-355-6516 or by email at sons347fi@gmail.com.







laser etching



Department of Florida

The Florida Legion 50/50 Raffle is a fundrating effort where proceeds benefit the American Legion, Department of Florida, Inc., a 501c 19 nonprofit against at a 10/24 line Rd, Orlando, Fl. 32810. Cash prizes will be paid to our locky winnerful from the set 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, tool 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) bt-weekly by an electronic randominer. Although no purchase is necessary to win, donotions received from this saffie will benefit the many programs we offer for Florida Visterare and their formfiles. To request your PREE entry, please entral donate/offeriode/geon.org with your name, address, phone, and entall. For a full lat of rules, visit lates //www.florida/S050.com

www.florida5050.org

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DONATION NIGHT

Support The American Legion post 349 by presenting this flyer to the Palm Bay Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases to the Post!

Please ask your Server for a paper receipt and place it in the bucket marked "American Legion Post 394"

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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



January 27, 2024 - 8am

Suicide awareness 5K Health walk



Registration Form





BETTEONE



\$20. Entry Fee LEGION

To register see Bartender

Get TShirt & The P

entry fee

at Canteen In Post 394

With \$20 See Address below

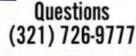
SPONSORS \$250.

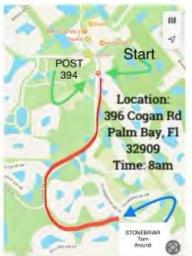
MINIMUM DONATION

* First 250 registered Will get a Tshirt

And a Wristband

*while supplies last in your size











Name:

Number:

Emergency contact:

Emergency Contact Number:

Shirt Size S M L XL XXL XXXL

LEGION

Hosted by American legion Post 394 & 117 For the 12th District Location: 396 Cogan Rd Palm Bay, Fl 32909

> Time: 8am (321) 726-9777

*While supplies last in your size



DISTRICT 12 IMPORTANT DATES 2023-2024

DATE	Activity	City	American Legion
9/23/2023	Regular Meeting	Melbourne	Post 163
10/14/2023	Picnic	Sebastian	Post 189
12/9/2023	Regular Meeting	Port St. Lucie	Post 318
2/24/2024	Regular Meeting	Cocoa	Post 22
3/23/2024	Picnic	Melbourne	Post 81
5/4/2024	S.A.L. DCC	Palm Bay	Post 117
5/11/2024	A.L. DCC	Melbourne	Post 163

All meetings open at 9:00AM for sign-in & coffee; Meetings begin at 10:00AM. All Squadrons will be asked to share about activities/events/programs or ask questions as needed.

Steve Vilgats, Ed. S.

Andy Campbell

S.A.L. 12th District Commander

S.A.L. 12th District Vice Commander

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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	
the second secon	ese coins will be created to commemorate this auspicious event. ve YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today!
I am ordering	50th Anniversary Commemorative Challenge Coins, at \$10 ea.
Include this for \$10/coin and s	rm and your check, payable to <u>SAL Detachment of Florida</u> , for send to:
	send to:

Coins are still available. Get a piece of history and help your Detachment at the same time.

Order your coins today!

Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Florida



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:

<u>www.floridasons.org</u>
Or e-mail us at <u>floridasons@floridasons.org</u>

Scan the QR Code below to visit our website





Source Articles

We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and or meetings!!!! This is your newsletter. Please send all articles to the Editor by the 23rd of every month.

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