



GERARD SAMBETS

★ DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★
COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



VOLUNTEER
EDUCATE
TRAIN
SUPPORT

"Remember always Veterans First"

By the time you read this, we will be back from the fall conference in Orlando. It was my pleasure to see so many members in attendance. This shows me the commitment to our success. It was my honor to have the National Commander in attendance and to have him comment that we always do things the right way in Florida. I hope you got the message from him that it is all about honoring our Parent's service to this country. IT IS NOT ABOUT SELF! It was also nice to meet a leader who was in this organization for the right reasons and not just about the title. The MT&D classes were spot on and there was some good information shared. It was also rewarding to see

Sons asking questions. Thanks all for their hard work on this presentation. A special thanks to our adjutant Christian Rapp for getting this all together!!!

I want to thank Paul Stawicki for his report and presentation at the conference. He updated the information of Friday morning and included all the Squadrons on the 35% achievements. He and J J really work on this continually. I did miss saying 2 MINUTES!!! Congratulations to J J and his family on the wedding, he would have been here but as always, family first.

My charity, My Warriors Place had a grand opening on Nov 12th at 32020 Oil Well Rd, Punta Gorda. This is their new Location in Charlotte County, this charity supports Veteran, Military & First Responder Recovery and coping programs, I hope you can visit and donate. The owner Kelly Kowal was at our Fall Conference. She had a table set up outside of our room for all the information that you needed to donate. She appreciated all who stopped by and for their donations to her charity and for letting her speak during the conference.

And finally, I am reposting this because I am told that no one reads *The Source*: 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. 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 ourselves, but also do GREAT things in our communities. Remember 45% membership is December 7th!!! Work on those snowbirds!

I hope you & yours have a wonderful holiday season!

"Keep doing what you do Best"

For God and Country,

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

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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



MICHAEL RAYMOND

★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★

COMMANDER@FLORIDLEGION.ORG



STATUS QUO

As I traversed the grand stairway to the ultimate position of Department Commander, I felt confident that yes, I was now ready and qualified to hold this prestigious position. I learned from some of our best and most experienced leaders, from all the families. I knew what to expect and I really believed that we, as a team, could make a difference this year. I believed that any issue that arose could be handled swiftly and efficiently as we stay on course and continue to move forward. But there are times when issues come up that take you completely by surprise.

There are issues that, number one, should never have happened, and number two, should have been squashed at Squadron or Post level. How do we do this, you ask? By being involved! By knowing what's going on at your Post.

Status Quo is wonderful when things are going great, but when drama occurs, most run for the hills. How do we fix this? That's where leadership comes in. Good leaders build good teams, and good teams accomplish great things. An active Legion, Squadron, Auxiliary and Riders make a productive Post.

Communication and teamwork is the key.

I'm very proud to say as of this writing all families are hitting it out of the park with membership. Let's keep it going by continuing our "Buddy Checks" and spreading our message of "Be The One" to everyone we come in contact with. I wish you all a wonderful and safe Holiday season. Keep up the great work.

Michael "Gambler" Raymond
Department Commander
American Legion, Department of Florida

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**





CHRISTIAN M RAPP

★ DETACHMENT ADJUTANT ★
ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

We've just completed another successful Fall Conference (our 20th) and it was good to see everyone. I'd like to not only thank everyone who made our Fall Conference successful, but those who assisted when asked. Set up and break down went the quickest I've ever seen! I'd also like to thank our National Commander **Donald L 'JR' Hall, Jr** from taking his time and visiting us from the Department of Maryland. It was a pleasure meeting and spending time with you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

Commander Hall is a firm believer in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion was founded: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security. He has issued a challenge to every Squadron. The challenge is based on your membership total as of July 31, 2023. All each Squadron needs to do is donate \$1.00 per member to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, \$1.00 per member to the American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors, \$1.00 per member to our Department's American Legion Boys State Program and host a blood drive or donate \$1.00 per member to the organization hosting the blood drive. **You can find the form for the challenge on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SAL-National-Commander-Challenge-Form.pdf>.** I believe this is a challenge that we all can get behind.

ENDORSEMENTS FOR OFFICE

It's that time of the year! Time to start thinking about if you would like to be a Detachment Officer, Detachment Vice Commander, District Commander or District Vice Commander. If you are considering a position for next year, you can send your endorsement to me via email or snail mail, if you haven't already. 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/>.

ENDORSEMENTS MUST:

- **BE ON POST/SQUADRON LETTERHEAD**
- **BE SIGNED BY ANY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:**
 - **POST COMMANDER | POST ADJUTANT**
 - **SQUADRON COMMANDER | SQUADRON ADJUTANT**

YOU CANNOT SIGN YOUR OWN ENDORSEMENT

EXPENSE VOUCHERS & REIMBURSEMENT

For those who weren't at Fall Conference, our Finance Committee Chairman, Ed Shuebrooks, informed the body that officers with expense accounts submitting for reimbursement must have their expense vouchers submitted no later than 10 days after attending a function, otherwise you may not get reimbursed. This is to follow IRS regulations. If you need the expense voucher, it can be found on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/expense-voucher.pdf>

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

A big thank you goes out to Ray Leventhal, Pete Puzzo and the rest of the MT&D Team for putting on a great training session. It may not have been perfect, but it was fun and informative. The MT&D Team is constantly working on refining their training materials and looking forward to creating new courses. Their goal is to create courses that can be given at a local level. If you have a topic you would like training developed for, please reach out to the team at mtd@floridasons.org.

If you attended Fall Conference training for Pete Puzzo's Americanism session, he showed a few videos for the course. There are several

(Continued on page 4)

Detachment Adjutant (continued)

more that weren't shown. If you would like these videos, please email me and I will send them to you in a .ZIP file.

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 postsqdnupdates@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. I hope you all have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp,
Detachment Adjutant
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



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% - 39.29%

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,

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 5 New Squadrons—**We have 2 New Squadrons and two more coming soon!**
 - Welcome
 - a. Squadron 108, Lutz (District 5)
 - b. Squadron 83, Macclenny (District 3)
 - c. Squadron 418 Spring Hill (District 15) - Awaiting paperwork from National
 - d. Squadron 287 Deerfield Beach - Paperwork delivered to the Detachment at Fall Conference.
- 105% Membership by National Delegate Cutoff
- 85% Renewal Rate by National Delegate Cutoff

(Continued on page 6)

Membership (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

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%, 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.

Please note that National will be mailing renewal post cards again on March 25-29th, 2024 and May 27th-31, 2024.

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

All target dates are the second Thursday of each month.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



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



PAUL STAWICKI

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR
PROMOLONT7@GMAIL.COM



Happy Holidays Detachment of Florida Sons of The American Legion,

It was an Honor and Privilege to have stood in front of all of you at this year's Detachment Conference this past November. I also Chaired our meeting. We discussed many items about our Membership issues Statewide.

Our Membership Committee must be at the forefront of getting to our issues. District Commanders must also be our eyes and ears. Do not let the struggling Squadrons fall behind. We saw a great push to get our 35% goal. Thank you all for your hard work.

We still have ZERO Squadrons and those still not up to par. These should be our focus. If you are one of those Squadrons, ask for help. That's what we are here for. During the upcoming Holiday Season, we must continue our push for Membership. Slowing down is not an option. December 7th is our 45% goal. We can do this if we continue our hard work.

It was my pleasure to accept and submit the request to Charter a new Squadron in Deerfield Beach #287. Thank you, District 9 Commander Kraemer, for your work on this. I also had discussions with other District Commanders about other new Squadron possibilities.

Congratulations to the Detachment of Florida on another great Conference.



God Bless America,

Paul J. Stawicki
Membership Vice Chairman
Detachment of Florida
Sons of The American Legion



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Voter Voice.



AL Voter Voice



WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

★ **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN** ★

NEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida met for their Fall Conference November 17th, 18th, & 19th at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando FL. We hope you were there but If you were not able to attend you can start now to arrange your schedule for the Detachment Convention in June of 2024 and next Fall's Conference in November of 2024, information will be available soon.

The importance of attending Fall Conference was designed for education of our membership through training and reports by our Commissions, Committee, and Officers. Our Member Training and Development Committee on Friday conducted classes for Squadron Commanders, Squadron Adjutants, and District Commanders. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and the committee intends to continue and expand its training program. Chairman Ray Well Done.

Our Detachment also convenes a Detachment Executive Committee Meeting first thing on Saturday morning at Fall Conference. All elected Detachment Officers are required to attend or provide an excuse to Commander Sambets and/or Adjutant Rapp. The Detachment Executive Committee meets to vote on all actions brought before it as to the running of the Detachment. All members may attend without voice or vote, thereby observing and learning about the workings of the Detachment Executive Committee.

My National Executive Committeeman Report to our officers started by asking how many of our officers received The Source, our Detachment Newsletter, and how many read it. If you would like to read it or be refreshed you may go to floridasons.org and read the NEC Report in the November Source which describes in detail our NEC Fall Meetings.

One of the big events you'll be hearing a lot about is The American Legion Family Day on Saturday April 27th 2024. TAL National CDR Dan Seehafer, ALA National President Lisa Williamson, and SAL National CDR JR Hall, have joined forces to ask every Post, Unit, Squadron to open your Post's Social Quarters doors to the public to highlight your Legion contributions to the community. Join in with your Post leadership and call up your local newspapers, radio and TV stations, send flyers and let everyone know about America's Largest Veteran Organization. Tell them how the Sons of The American Legion Nationally donated \$114 million to veterans, children, and our community. Get started planning today.

Both TAL National CDR Dan, ALA National President Lisa, and SAL National CDR JR will continue the BE THE ONE campaign to combat Veteran Suicide. They also are asking the SAL for a small 10% increase of our National Consolidated Reports. Last year only 31% of the Squadrons reported nationally. If we just increased that by 10% we could possibly report another \$11 million to The American Legion.

The Sons of The American Legion in 2022-2023 were responsible for 62% of all money donated to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. This year we are 24% above last year at this time. The Sons of The American Legion are closing in on a significant milestone of \$10 million in donations to the CWF and a celebration is being planned when we reach that goal. Look forward to more information on the celebration.

- The National Member Training & Development Committee has the funding now and has rolled out its 1st class and will be starting full time for The SAL University, more information coming soon.
- The National Membership Committee wants you to remember "Everyone Says 400" as the SAL moves closer to 400,000 membership goal. The new realignment at National has the Southeast Region leading the Five Regions in membership.
- The National Convention Committee and its newest member Florida's own Gerard Sambets is looking forward to New Orleans and will continue to work towards TAL National Convention in Tampa 2025.
- The Detachment of Florida continues looking for a few good Sons as candidates for the National Commission and Committees.

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National Executive Committeeman (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

- The Internal Affairs Commission is working to get TAL Family Day included on the SAL Squadron Consolidated Reports this year.
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission wants every member to be aware that Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services has allowed the SAL to be its own certifying agency for VAVS at Veterans Hospitals. Become a SAL VAVS volunteer at a veterans hospital today. VA&R wants its Squadrons to start looking for candidates for Charles B Rigsby VA&R National Volunteer of the year.
- The Public Media & Communications Commission is working on an electronically delivered national newsletter with a release date early next year. They want to remind you to get your Snapshots and Videos of Service submitted as soon as possible for award consideration.
- The National Finance Commission submitted its 2024-2025 to the SAL NEC for consideration.

That ended my NEC Report for the Detachment Executive Committee followed by all the other officer reports and the conclusion of our DEC Meeting.

The meeting opened with CDR Sambets calling the Fall Conference meeting to order and roll call of Officers and Squadrons by Adjutant Rapp. The Commission & Committee assignments and reports were started.

My Fall Conference Report as Chairman of the Legislative Commission thanked the attendees and the Detachment of Florida for the recognition as recipient of the Legislative George B Evans National Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the year 2023 award. I explained that all I did was to encourage our membership to contact their Congressman and Senators. They did the work and I thanked them for all they did and showed them the cover I was presented with.

The Detachment of FL will once again be represented in Washington presenting a Florida memorial wreath to memorialize our WW II & Vietnam Veterans on Sunday February 25, 2024 on the SAL Bus Trip.

My other report as Chairman of the CDRs Advisory was used to dispel rumors to the effect that the Advisory Committee ran the Detachment of Florida. I explained that the committee has Six Past Detachment CDRs, Five Past National Vice CDRs, and one Past National CDR with over 150 years of experience to assist our CDR with a successful year. I explained we do not tell anyone what to do, we advise and counsel the CDR and our Detachment Officers. The Detachment of Florida is run only by the Detachment Executive Committee made up of the elected Detachment Officers, Past Detachment CDRs, and delegates of the Detachment of Florida Convention.

After our presentation of our special guest to The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The American Legion Riders at their meetings it was my privilege to introduce our keynote speaker. A friend I've known and worked with for almost 10 years out of Squadron 40 in Glen Burnie Maryland Don (JR) Hall. CDR Hall spoke to the importance of honoring his grandfather's service. The importance of serving veterans and The Four Pillars of The American Legion.

Lastly, he reminded us of Servant Leadership, where we are doing all we could to be worthy to wear our Sons of The American Legion cap. We presented CDR Hall with a plaque in remembrance of his National Visit to Florida.

With that I will conclude my NEC Fall Conference Report and at this time I hope your Thanksgiving was very nice and in this holiday season I would like to wish all of you Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Years



SAL National Commander
Don "JR" Hall





ROCCO CIRIGLIANO

★ INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ★

IA@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings Detachment of Florida

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday with Family and Friends. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Fall Conference is now behind us, and the 2023-2024 year is in full swing. We had great classes presented by Membership Training and Development. Once again a big thank you to Ray Leventhal, Chairman MT&D, Christian Rapp, Adjutant and Pete Puzzo, MT&D Committee.

The Internal Affairs Commission discussed the need for Committee chairs to reach out to their committee members and keep them informed of the goings on within their respective committee's. In addition, we discussed the classes being presented by MT&D, and we welcome any suggestions from all members affecting classes or matters related to Internal Affairs.

Communication is a big part of our organization. Discussions took place about our members not knowing who to contact regarding questions and concerns. Our web site has all the Commission/Committee chairs and all the officers that would need to be contacted. Texting, Facebook, messenger, Face Time are not the ways to contact and communicate with one another. Making a phone call or sending an email to the appropriate person is the way to go. This way, if others are needed in the conversation they can be included, and you will get the information you were looking for.

Member Benefits

As a program of the American Legion, members of the Sons are entitled to many benefits that are provided to Legionnaires. Some of the benefits available include discounts on insurance, auto rental, and travel and lodging. Other benefits include discounts at Office Depot/Office Max. Sons members are also eligible for The Legion Insurance Trust and the National Emergency Fund.

Programs

The Sons of the American Legion has a broad range of programs for Family, Youth, Community and National Affairs. With over twenty-seven different programs, we have you covered from the baseball diamond to our nation's borders. Additionally, we are effective not only within our local communities, but nationwide as an organization.

Please use our website as it is full of information. It is just one of many tools to help you help your Detachment, District, and most importantly your Squadron.

The Sons of the American Legion will continue to work for the benefit of our veterans who helped make this country great and for the children who will help make this country even greater.

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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Voter Voice.



AL Voter Voice

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE, WE MALE DESCENDANTS OF VETER-
ANS 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



Thankfulness and Gratefulness in this Holiday Season

Being thankful and grateful can be the way to true joy and happiness. Society will tell you that the accumulation of things will make you happy and perhaps for a time that will be true, but I believe that the only true joy comes from understanding that we have so many things for which to be thankful and grateful. This time of year it can be difficult to remember the meaning of the holidays we are preparing to celebrate.

Remembering that the United States of America was founded on the pillars of the Judeo-Christian Ethic, it is important to celebrate this season with a heart full of gratefulness for His love and a desire to be what He means for us to be.

At this time of year when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and when Jews are lighting the festive Hanukkah Menorah, I ask us all to remember that there are more commonalities between Christians and Jews than there are differences. The Christian faith is wholly based on Judaism and we all must stand together as one people who love the one true God, the Creator of the Universe.

Personally, I'm thankful for each morning that I wake up. Before my feet touch the floor, I say a short 'Thank You' to Him for the gift of another day. I'm most thankful for the voice in my head and my constant internal dialog with the Lord. When I'm in my car, when I'm at my desk, whenever I'm seemingly alone, I am not. I'm thankful for His presence, His guidance, His gift of life to me, and that leads me to an understanding that we are here, not to accumulate things, but to share the joy of thankfulness and gratefulness with the world.

I'm thankful and grateful for the love in my heart. For my life partner and her love, her friendship and the family into which I've been welcomed and accepted. There are so many things in our every day lives that are worthy of celebration, thankfulness, and gratefulness.

We've just wrapped up a truly amazing and constructive Fall Conference in Orlando and as I reflect on those days with friends I've made over the years – friends I don't get to see often other than at these semi-annual events, I'm grateful for every moment I get to be surrounded by fellow Americans who love this nation and love God.

During our Sunday Memorial Service at Fall Conference, I was blessed to sit beside my friend and mentor, American Legion Chaplain Barry Roberts who, by God's Grace, has made remarkable strides to recovery since his recent health issues. The only word that comes close to how I feel about that is 'Grateful'. I'm grateful to know him, to have seen how prayer has helped him and to watch as God's Grace lifts him up from illness to health before our very eyes.

Miracles like this are everywhere, my friends. Life itself is a miracle we should all be grateful and thankful for.

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

TOGETHER
WE CAN AND WILL
MAKE A DIFFERENCE





PETER PUZZO



MEMBERSHIP TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
SALSQUAD189@GMAIL.COM



The New Math

At the Fall Conference we spoke of the new math where one event could give your Squadron credits for two or three categories.

The way it works is by completing an Event, for example a Class on Flag Etiquette, you not only get credit for an Americanism Event but depending on the audience, say a classroom, you have helped Children and Youth thereby getting that credit. If your audience was a civic group, you provided a Community Activity and so on.

But it all means nothing if you don't get credit for the effort. Start today by keeping a record of everything your Squadron does by taking attendance, logging the hours of the Event, and don't forget the preparation and clean up. Out of pocket expenses can be supplies used, mileage and anything else that was bought or paid for by the Squadron or members.

Now if you complete the Event, put your records in a book. In that book, you should have a blank copy of all the different year end reports we complete. Simply list the members, the hours used, expenses and miles traveled. Don't forget to note the different categories you touched on. By the end of the year your reports will be basically completed.

The man-hours translate to dollars because the IRS credits a figure of about \$29-30 per hour for our volunteerism.

Try this for December and see if it doesn't begin to make sense to you a little more. Nobody likes paperwork but it's what drives home what our value as an organization is in relationship to the Legion and your community.

Any questions, give me a call.

Pete Puzzo

Membership

Training & Development Committee Vice Chair

pooz1830@gmail.com

SONS OF THE
 AMERICAN
LEGION



Greetings fellow Sons of The American Legion,

There is so much to talk about but I will keep this article brief.

Annual Squadron Data Reports (SDR).

This is first on the list. We have so many squadrons that have not turned in this mandatory report or have filled it out incorrectly. A lot of the dues for Squadrons across our area are showing \$11.00. Obviously your Squadron is charging more than this, I hope. District Commanders and Vice Commanders as well as myself are here to help you with this. Please double check your most recent SDR and update if needed. Send a current copy to our Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp and keep a copy for your records. I would appreciate a copy also. I will have extra blank hard copies with me when I travel, so don't hesitate to ask me for one or two.

While speaking about dues, The American Legion's dues will go up \$5.00 effective July 1st, 2024. This dues increase comes at a time when the need for American Legion advocacy expertise, influence, service and programs are needed in every corner of our nation. This is a time to continue supporting The American Legion's ability to serve veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and young people. The American Legion's ability to succeed over the next decade depends on positive cash flow and the ability to invest in the future.

We met SAL National Commander Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. at the Fall conference. Commander Hall has issued a challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, all you have to do is raise one dollar per member each for your Squadron's membership as of July 31, 2023. The four areas are listed on the National Four Pillar Squadron Criteria and Validation Form. I will be carrying extra copies of this program with me when I do my visits, so please ask for a copy.

Commander Hall goes on to state, "Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth us being the best Son we can be." **"Be The One"** in more ways than one.

This brings us to a final point. This is the holiday season. This is a very joyous time and a time of thanks. Spending time with family and friends. Enjoying time with our loved ones. But keep in mind. This is a very difficult time for many. Now is the time to "turbo charge" your "Buddy Checks and Be The One" programs. Many people are home alone (if they have one) during the holidays, or working away from their family. "Be The One" is working hard to destigmatize, asking for mental health support. It offers resources and ways for everyone to "Be The One". You have no idea how much it means to someone to get a call from you, or a knock on their door just to say hello, how are you? Thank them for their continued membership. If a member might be having financial hardship, offer to pay their dues for them.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for everything you do to make The American Legion the Greatest Veterans Organization in the world.

Duty

Michael Nigbor
Southwestern Area Vice Commander
Detachment of Florida

Honor

Country



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](#)
- [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



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FOR GOD AND COUNTRY OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 * WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS * P: 317-630-1205

Stand for the Four Pillars, stand for the Legion Family

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We are off and working to make 2023-24 a great year! What an honor to be elected as your national commander and be able to represent my grandfather's service in the Army during World War II. "Representing More Than Me" is my slogan for the year because I truly believe that is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper it is a commitment to pay respect to our family member's service in our military. Let's make sure that our commitment is worth the sacrifices they made.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization, and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security and they are still the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, all you need to do is raise one dollar per member each for Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), the Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) and your department's Boys State program (Americanism) and hold a blood drive (National Security). You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is not that hard to do, if we plan and work to get it done.

I believe that the Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in the work we do to help our veterans, children, and community. Aaron Tippin sang a song that said, "You've got to stand for something or you will fall for anything." Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth all of us being the best Son we can be. "Be The One" in more ways than one.

Sincerely,

Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

"Representing More Than Me"

**NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE
NATIONAL FOUR PILLAR SQUADRON CRITERIA & VALIDATION FORM**

Children and Youth

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Please list check # and submission date:

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors. Please list check # and submission date:

Americanism

Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 to your home Department's American Legion Boys State Program. Please list check # and submission date:

National Security

Host a blood drive or donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total as of July 31, 2023 payable to the hosting organization of the blood drive. Please list date blood drive held, quantity of blood donated & recipient organization and/or list check # and submission date:

Squadron Name:

Squadron Nn:

Squadron Address:

Submitted By:

Title:

Return Application to:

Thomas Deal, 1434 Clayton Street, Perryville, MD 21903
(email) tom.deal@verizon.net

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 sons347fl@gmail.com.



Urn under construction



laser etching

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

Post 69
4pm to 6pm Dec.8th

Son's fish and chips



Beer battered haddock with
steak fries, coleslaw, and dessert
\$11

*Karaoke by
Jody*

The American Legion Family, Post 5
Brian Fuerst, Commander S.A.L.
Public Relations Officer
3810 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 870-0505



For Immediate Release

Wreaths Across America Community Event

Saturday, December 16, 2023 – The American Legion “U.S.S. Tampa” Post 5 invites the community to its holiday memorial event, Wreaths Across America. This is a family-friendly event to show support for our military’s sacrifices.

The ceremony begins at 12:00 p.m. (arrive early for parking and seating) at the American Legion, “U.S.S. Tampa” Post 5 located at 3810 W. Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33609. Terry Doan (American Legion member) will be presiding over the ceremony under the coordination of Post Commander Chris Man-Son-Hing and Cemetery President Alyse Duffy. All branches of the military will be represented, as well as the remembrance wreaths announcement. Designated wreaths for the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Merchant Marine and POW/MIA will be placed during the ceremony that will be coordinated simultaneously at over 4,000 participating locations across the Country (including Arlington) and abroad.

The cost of our programs is paid by individual wreaths sponsors. Sponsor a wreath for \$17.00, any donation will be delivered to Wreaths Across America officials. This can be done on the Post 5 website <http://www.post5tampa.org/WreathsAcrossAmerica.html> or <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/pages/17901/Overview/?relatedId=15625>

We hope to be included in your holiday event schedules to make the community aware of this event, which provides a venue for all ages to give thanks for our military’s sacrifices. The significance of the cost our soldiers have come to bear to preserve our freedoms granted will never be forgotten.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization whose mission: Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and abroad. Their mission is to spread the important message of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms. This event is made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths, and participate in the events. We receive no government funding for the project.

For directions or to sponsor a wreath please call (813) 870-0505 or visit www.post5tampa.org

The American Legion | USS Tampa Post 5
3810 W. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, Florida 33609-2720
(813) 870-0505
For God & Country | A Post with a Heart

America Legion Post 69

1301 W Bell St Avon Park FL 33825

Presents

Jan 5th, & 6th 2024

9th Annual

Veterans Expo

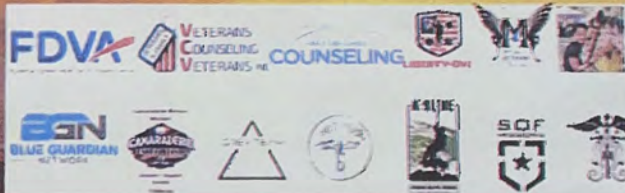
Your one stop for Veterans resources

Counseling and therapy resources,
Veteran jobs, health care
networking and much more
VA representatives will be
onsite for benefits

Fundraiser

All proceeds benefit Project: VetRelief

Donations accepted



Post 69 Commander

Larry Roberts

850-718-7773

Please check www.ALpost69avonpark.com

for exact times and details



Day 1 Fri. Jan 5th
Traveling Memorial Wall

Escort

From 1750 Longleaf Blvd Lake Wales
FL 33859 to AL Post 69

10AM Staging (post 69)
10:15AM Sharp KSU
11:00 AM Staging (longleaf)
11:15AM Briefing
11:30AM KSU

Day 2 Sat. Jan. 6th
Veterans Expo

10am to 5pm

Veterans Suicide Awareness

Come see the Vietnam
Memorial Wall

Children's activities
Live music Food trucks
Raffle items and 50/50

PROJECT: VETRELIEF
They Fought for Us. We Fight for Them

Legion Riders Post 69

Mike Pollock

419-549-0478

January 27, 2024 - 8am

Suicide awareness 5K Health walk

AMERICAN
LEGION

Registration Form

AMERICAN
LEGION



BE THE ONE



\$20. Entry Fee

AMERICAN
LEGION

To register see Bartender

***Get TShirt &
Wristband
With \$20
entry fee**

**at Canteen
In Post 394**

See Address below

SPONSORS

\$250.

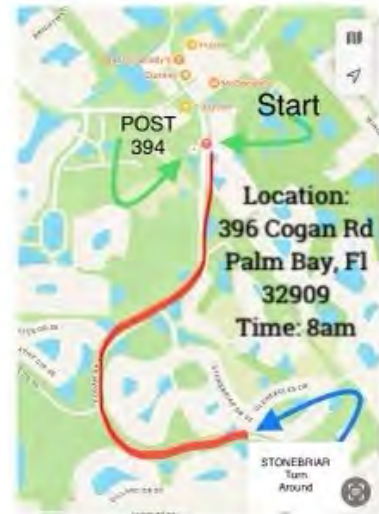
MINIMUM DONATION

* First 250 registered

Will get a Tshirt
And a Wristband

**while supplies last in your size*

Questions
(321) 726-9777



Name:

Number:

Emergency contact:

Emergency Contact Number:

Shirt Size S M L XL XXL XXXL

AMERICAN
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*



14th ANNUAL

CAR & TRUCK Show



Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #138

Saturday, February 3, 2024

11am - 4 pm/Open to the Public

✓ Be a Sponsor Put
your company's logo or
loved one's name on the
back of the Car/Truck T-
Shirt for only \$100.00.
Sponsors get one free:
Show Entry, T-Shirt,
Meal, & Raffle Ticket.

- Great Trophies • 50/60s DJ Music
- Food/T-Shirts for Sale • Raffles • 50/50

ENTRY REGISTRATION FEES: \$15 in-advance; \$20 day-of-event

(no rain checks, encourage entrants to arrive early to select your parking spot)

all entrants receive 1 free meal, 1 raffle ticket & voting ballot

(see your bartender for registration forms)

All proceeds benefit Veteran & Children Charities

American Legion Post 138—Pavilion Area
5535 W. Prescott St. Tampa, FL • (813) 839-5119
For more information, call Larry Begy (813)767-1197



*Northern Area
Vice Commanders*
Homecoming
P I C N I C

February 10th 12:00 PM to 4 PM

**American Legion Post 383
1297 NE 82nd Ave Old Town Florida**

*Live music by Doc Adams - Bounce
House - Food & Drinks - Raffles -
Vendors - Door Prize*

*Proceeds go to
the Commanders
Charities
theme: Children
and youth*



*Immediate Family: \$40
(Parents & children or
Grandparents and
grandchildren)
Individuals: \$20*

*For More Info: Northern Area Vice Commander
Gerry Kaufman 352-210-6767
soal183@yahoo.com*

Made with PosterMyWall.com

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 323 **RIDE TO REBUILD POKER RUN**

PROCEEDS HELP DISTRICT 13 AMERICAN LEGION
POSTS DAMAGED BY HURRICANE IAN

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

AMERICAN LEGION POST 323
1124 ASHLAR AVE | LEHIGH ACRES, FL
(BEHIND BURGER KING)

REGISTRATION 8AM - 10AM

RIDER: \$20 PASSENGER \$10

KSU NO LATER THAN 10AM

RIDE AT YOUR OWN PACE

LAST RIDERS IN BY 3PM

STOPS

1) AMERICAN LEGION POST 110
3152 HARBOR BLVD
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952

2) LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE 1297
11161 PALM BEACH BLVD
FT MYERS, FL 33905

3) AMERICAN LEGION POST 130
699 W HICKPOCHEE AVE
LABELLE, FL 33935

4) AMERICAN LEGION POST 323
1124 ASHLAR AVENUE
LEHIGH ACRES, FL 339936

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**



ALL MOTOR VEHICLES ARE WELCOME!
RAFFLES, FOOD, ITEMS FOR SALE AND MUSIC
WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE RIDE

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.

S.A.L. 12th District Commander

Andy Campbell

S.A.L. 12th District Vice Commander

**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.