Volume 32, Issue 5

November 2024



Rehabilitate Acclimate Compensate Educate



Greetings Team

Once again, we were hit by a major hurricane in mid-October. We here at the Detachment wish everyone God speed and hope you all fared well. If you did not know, there are avenues of help the American Legion provides. The national emergency fund, (NEF) provides Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to \$3,000) and Legion Posts (up to \$10,000. Individuals or Posts/Units/ Squadrons that would like to make monetary donations can make checks payable to: American Legion Department of Florida in memo line write " Disaster Relief"). Or you can make a donation by visiting our Department website at <u>floridalegion.org</u> and the donation link is right there.

Please join us for Fall Conference November 22-24, 2024, 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, on Commissions/Committees, Training at all levels, Leadership and General Q&A. This will be conducted Friday afternoon, November 22, 2024, 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, future leaders, and members 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. *Remember the three R's - Recruit. Renew. Reinstate.*

We would like all our members to help create an emblem for pins and coins for the National Convention in Tampa, 2025 and submit them to the committee. The National Convention Committee consists of Chairman Bill Kelly, Committeeman Ed Sheubrooks, Jim Roberts, Gerard Sambets, Christian Rapp, and yours truly. We would like the artist drawing or rendering to include a Florida and a Tampa symbol for example, palm tree, manatee, waterfront. We would like all submissions to be made by November 15, 2024, and decisions to be made at the Fall Conference.

My travels included a trip to Kissimmee for Past Eastern Area Commander Joe Marcheggiani's benefit for his wife, Post 117 for the District 12 training seminar, Post 394 for a benefit dinner to support Boy's and Girl's State and to my home Post 81 for the 12th District picnic supporting Boy's and Girl's State.

Inside This Issue		2024-2025 Me	embership Target Dates:
Detachment Commander	1	September 5, 2024	10%
Adjutant's Corner	2-3	October10, 2024	25%
NEC	3	November 7, 2024	35%
Membership	4	December 5, 2024	45%
Detachment Chaplain	5	January 9, 2025	60%
Area & District Commanders	6-11	February 6, 2025	75%
Internal Affairs	12-13	March 6, 2025*	80%
Committees & Commissions	13-15	April 3, 2025	90%
From the Editor	16	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Clarence Hill	17	May 1, 2025	100%
Barry Roberts, VA Entitlements	18	May 29, 2025**	105%
Special Events and Announcements	19-31	* Legion Birthday (M	larch 13th) ** Delegate Cut-Off
		Logion Diritiday (M	Belegate out on

Thank You for All You Do Rocky Cirigliano | Detachment of Florida Commander



Hello Sons!

I hope this edition finds you all well and safe from the storms. We were fortunate in our area this time, but many of you weren't. My prayers go out to all of you who were effected.

ASSISTANCE

If you were effected by the storms, one option for assistance you can use is the American Legion **National Emergency Fund** (NEF).

Established after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the National Emergency Fund has delivered over \$10 million in aid to Legionnaires, Sons, and their families, helping prevent post closures and support recovery. With grants of up to \$3,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for posts, the NEF ensures rapid relief when it's needed most.

NEF ELIGIBILITY:

- Eligibility open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to \$3,000) Legion Posts (up to \$10,000).
- Applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due damage sustained during a declared natural disaster. If emergency/disaster shelters are available, and applicant chooses not to stay at shelter, need to know the reason why they did not stay in the shelter.
- Not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.) during the period immediately following the disaster.
- Does not cover insurance compensation or monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds, etc.,) equipment or vehicles.
- Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Application must be submitted to the Department Headquarters(Opens in a new window) within 90 days of disaster.
- Disaster must be a "declared" natural disaster for Legion Family members.
- Supporting data (photos, receipts, repair estimates, etc.) should be included if at all possible or statements (testimony) from post/district/department officers attesting to damages to residence requiring displacement.
- Only one grant per household per disaster.
- Post grants must derive from a declared natural disaster and substantiating documentation must provide that The American Legion post will cease to perform the duties and activities in the community due to losses sustained.

Members can apply for NEF by visiting <u>https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/national-emergency-fund/</u><u>request-assistance</u>.

If you would like to donate to NEF, you can do so by clicking here.

'REMOVING OLD MEMBERS FROM YOUR ROSTER'

with permission from Membership Chairman Paul Stawicki

I recently was asked 'how do remove old members from your roster. I have members on it that haven't paid their dues since 2021'. I responded to the person on when inactive memberships typically fall off the roster but then I asked the question "why aren't you using this information to contact the member that hasn't paid since 2021?"

Instead of trying to remove them from your roster, you should be reaching out and ask why they haven't paid. These people may have gotten busy and simply forgotten about the Legion Family. Some may have had issues arise due to things such as hurricanes & COVID that maybe they could use help with. Instead of trying to remove their names from the list, we should be reaching out to them and reminding them that we are here.

Remember the 3 R's : Recruit | Renew | Reinstate.

As you've heard many times, membership is EVERYONE'S Responsibility.

(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

FALL CONFERENCE

While we always have important business to address, we have a special matter that we will need address at our Detachment Executive Committee Meeting (DEC) that is held at 8am, prior to the Opening of our General Session. All Members of the DEC (Detachment Officers, Detachment Vice Commanders, District Commanders, District Vice Commanders and all Past Detachment Commanders) must be in attendance. If you are one of these and cannot be in attendance, please indicate so by email privately at **adjutant@floridasons.org.** even if you already have.DEC members should be in a coat and tie for the day of our Conference, which is Saturday. Dress for Friday's training sessions is casual.

OFFICER PHOTOS

We have purchased a Green Screen for taking photos for the Detachment Website. Our Department Historian, Brian Patt will be retaking photos at Fall Conference. Take a look at the officer pages of our website. If you would like your picture retaken, we will do it during the weekend at Fall Conference.

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA FALL RAFFLE

The American Legion Department of Florida is once again conducting its Fall Raffle. The Raffle is held to raise money for the Department of Florida to help our Department's veteran and their families. The raffle has a \$10K grand prize with other prizes of \$2,500, \$1000, \$500 and \$100.

Winners will be selected on **Saturday**, **November 23**, **2024** during our Department Fall Conference at Caribe Royale in Orlando. The more tickets you enter, the more chances you have to win. You don't need to be present to win. Tickets will need purchased by **November 11th**, **2024** to ensure your entry in the drawing!

You can get your tickets on the Department of Florida Website here: <u>https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/raffles/fall/enter/</u>.

simply show up and surprise you for a meeting. Make sure you are inviting your leaders to your events and other functions!

That's all for now. Please let me and your Detachment Adjutant Staff know if you need anything. We are here to make YOU successful! I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp Detachment of Florida Adjutant



Gentlemen,

Last month we attended and reported on The Sons of The American Legion National Fall Meetings. We received the minutes from The 2024 National Convention that were unavailable at the National Meetings. We have since read them over, finding no errors, we submitted Florida's vote to approve. The minutes should be approved and posted on the National website at **legion.org/sons**

When we receive the National Conference Call Matrix we will be distributing it to our Commission and Committee Chairman so they may participate by listening to the National Commission and Committee calls. This may also stir some interest from our Detachment Chairman to get involved in possibly submitting their name to sit on a National Commission or Committee. The nominating process will begin after the 1st of the year for 2025-2026 year's appointments.

See everyone at Fall Conference and if not, have a Happy Thanksgiving!

William D Kelly, Jr National Executive Committeeman Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





Gentlemen,

I hope that by the time we see this article, we will have made our November Goal of 35%. We have been doing well meeting our goals far in advance of the dates. They will progressively be getting more difficult especially for those Squadrons who are already behind. How did you answer the questions I posed to you last month?

Did you discuss any issues you may have meeting the goals with your staff? Have you implemented your solutions? Don't wait any longer. We are here to help you. All you must do is ask. Not attempting to accomplish these goals is not an option. Remember that when you were installed as Commanders, you are responsible for the years programs, but you are NEVER alone. Use your staff to help you. Your Post is also required to help you.

The District Officers are there for you as well, if they don't know what to do, they should be going up the chain of command to

2024-2025 Me	embership T	arget Dates:
September 5, 2024	10%	
October10, 2024	25%	
November 7, 2024	35%	
December 5, 2024	45%	
January 9, 2025	60%	
February 6, 2025	75%	
March 6, 2025*	80%	
April 3, 2025	90%	
May 1, 2025	100%	
May 29, 2025**	105%	
* Legion Birthday (M	larch 13th)	** Delegate Cut-Off

get you what you need. I know we will reach our goals and make our 30th all-time high. Remember, without membership it makes it almost impossible for us to do all the great fundraising and work that we do for our community, Posts, Veterans and children around the State and Nationally.

I pray that we are done with the devastation from storms for this year. We've had more than our share again this year. Please keep everyone who is still dealing with the effects of the storms in your prayers.

God Bless you All and Stay Safe.

Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





God's Love for His children and our Faith in Him

There is no purer love than our Heavenly Father's love for His children. There is no greater love ever known in the universe. The concept and totality of God's love is almost unfathomable, but I implore you to have Faith in not only His love, but His belief in you as one of His children.

Long before you were born, He knew that you'd be reading this edition of The Source, He knew your name, your heart and your soul before you drew your first breath. His plan for us can only be revealed through Grace, but it is important to know that God's Grace comes to us through our **FAITH**. The Faith. In all scripture, new and old, it's not Faith that's taught, it's **THE FAITH**.

Regardless of your circumstance, keeping **THE FAITH** is your calling. Sickness, divorce, work problems, marital issues – these are circumstances that happen to us as humans, but as faithful children of the one true God, the creator of the universe, we are called to move through these things with the knowledge that God loves us, and that through our faith in Him and His word and His promises, we will endure, succeed and prosper. These circumstances are a moment in time. Faith is a perspective that knows no single point, but exists within the faithful no matter the circumstance.

Florida's recent battle with natural disasters has tested all of our resolve, and while we grieve for the loss of life and property, we share in the sadness of the devastation, we must always remember that we are the army of God on earth and that we are called to reveal His love to all of our brothers and sisters and help those who are suffering to remember THE FAITH and to remind them that they, like you, are loved by God in all ways and through all things.

In prayer, raise up His Holy Name and speak boldly to cast out sickness, sorrow and loss, that we may all live in the light of the Love of God. There is no darkness where He dwells, and we must seek out that place inside us where the darkness can never go. This, my brothers and sisters, is where God lives in you. This is what I implore you to find, deep in your hearts. Listen when that soft, still voice in your heart – the one that has no sound – as it speaks to you, for that is the Spirit of God living in each of us.

It can be very difficult to trust in His love, but once you actually accept and welcome it, you will be changed for the better, forever. As members of the Sons of the American Legion, we must always *fight the good fight, finish the race* and above all else, *keep THE FAITH.*

As always I'm available to anyone who would like fellowship, a conversation, a joke or just company.

For God and Country,

Ray Leventhal Chaplain, Detachment of Florida chaplain@floridasons.org 561 801 5822







Greetings from the Southwestern Area!

As I begin this newsletter, I ask all of you to keep several of our members in your thoughts and prayers. In the past few weeks, we have several of our members that are battling serious health issues. Now, with the devastating hurricanes and tornadoes that have hurt so many, we have members that have been inundated with tremendous loss. These problems affect all of us. We are The American Legion Family. We need to be there for each other.

Now is the time to increase activity in your "Buddy Check " program. These are definitely trying times for so many across our state and all the way into North Carolina. If you have the means to be able to donate, time, money, canned goods, cleaning supplies, anything will help. There are several posts collecting the goods for distribution. Get involved if you are able. " Be The One " to make a difference. You have no idea how much it means for someone to hear from you, to know they are more than a number, to know you care.

I have been able to attend many events at several squadrons and it is so nice too share the camaraderie. Squadron 90 in Cape Coral gained a new dual junior member, " Charlie". Charlie is 8 years old and is so proud to have joined through his fathers' military service. After cleaning up the debris from Hurricane Milton, Post 303 in Bonita Springs was able to have a soft opening on Friday, October 18th. The members that came that evening were so appreciative of the hard work and planning that created a beautiful new home. On Tuesday, October 22nd, I had the honor of meeting The American Legion, Department of Connecticut Legionnaire James LaCoursiere Jr., the 2024-2025 American Legion National Commander. The Commander was making a trip through the area checking on the devastation to our communities.

Thank you to everyone that has been working so hard on membership, even through these trying times. The Sons of The American Legion are the strongest arm of the family. We work hard, make a lot of money, give it away to our charities, and start all over.

The Child Welfare Foundation has changed their name and is now being called the Child Well-Being Foundation. The Child Well-Being Foundation will still have the same acronym CWF. Thousands of children each day face challenges marked by pain, prayer and perseverance. Many of these children require specialized care. To help them through these obstacles, they need help from all of us and The American Legion Well-Being Foundation.

Thank you for your time and I hope you are able to help someone that is going through a difficult time. Please feel free to give some feedback about these newsletters. Are they giving you the information you desire or are there other interests you would like to see covered? Remember, The Source is for all of us. Feel free to contribute information about your squadrons activities and invite me to any of your events. I will do my best to try to attend.

* Be The One*

Be Kind

Never Give Up



VCSW Nigbor and Charlie

Nat'l Commander James LaCoursiere Ja And VCSW Nigbor



Greetings from the Central Area!

Just when we were catching our breath from Hurricane Helen, Hurricane Milton reared his ugly head and gave us the second hit of the one-two punch to the Central Area in the past several weeks. My home post, Post 138, suffered heavy damage to the roof, while other posts in the area sustained more damage to their already hurricane rocked posts. It has been exhausting seeing with and dealing with the devastation these two storms have caused, but it has been so heartwarming to see posts that weren't damaged, or damaged to a lesser degree, reaching out to help, whether it be physical help or monetary assistance. When all posts and Legion family members pull together to help one another, there is nothing we can't overcome. I know I mention it in last month's article, but please remember, there is a National Emergency Fund (NEF) that can be utilized if you need help. It's open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to \$3,000) and Legion Posts (up to \$10,000). Visit https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/national-emergency-fund for more de-tails.

Unfortunately, a lot of events I had been looking forward to this past month were cancelled, but thankfully, most of them have been rescheduled. I am really looking forward to putting the storms behind us and getting back out and visiting with the Squadrons and Districts of the Central Area and beyond. We've got another round of District meetings coming up that I am planning on attending:

District 7: Saturday, November 2nd, 1pm at Post 4 (Lakeland)**District 16:** Saturday, December 7, 10:30am at Post 173 (Holiday)

I can't wait to visit our friends down south for Post 303 (Bonita Spring) grand reopening on November 11th and I'm really looking forward to attending Squadron 72's (Mulberry) rescheduled Fall Festival on November 16th. And who can forget Fall Conference coming up November 22nd? It's like our second family reunion of the year. I can't wait to see everyone there! Once Fall Conference is over, I'm excited to be assisting Squadrons 275 (Dunedin) and 238 (Safety Harbor) in their annual Turkey Fry Thanksgiving morning before attending Squadron 8's (Winter Haven) Car and Bike Show as well as the rescheduled 16th District picnic on November 30th.

As always, please let me know what events your Squadron or District has going on and I will try to attend if I'm able!

For God and County, Michael "Tank" Sherman Jr. Detachment Vice Commander for the Central Area Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida

P.S. – I didn't get any pictures in action this month, but since Mr. Editor likes that I submit pictures with my articles, here's one of my wife and I when we evacuated to Savannah during Hurricane Milton.

Thank you to George K. Gannam American Legion Post 184, Department of Georgia, for your hospitality!





Hello from the Eastern Area!

My thoughts and prayers go out to everyone effective by the hurricanes.

I would like to start out by saying great job Eastern Area for already meeting or exceeding our 35% goal ahead of time. Keep up the good work!

I want to thank Chairman Peter Puzzo for holding a MTD class at squadron 117 it was a very informative meeting. I attended the Tom Woods annual poker run for Special Olympics held by squadron 117 what a great turn out for a great cause.

We have reached our 35% target with only one zero squadron reported now the real work begins. Being the team owner of the Eastern Area race team I am asking my crew chiefs and race teams not to take a pit stop and step on the gas and get the Eastern Area into first place. (You can take a pit stop for fall conference)

Remember fall conference is in November and the conference is by far the best opportunity for training for you and your officers.

I look forward to seeing everyone at fall conference.

If you would like me to attend any meetings or events let me know.

For God and Country, Randy Chilcott Detachment Vice Commander for the Eastern Area Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida







Greetings from District 6!

First, I hope you made it through the storms ok. I know that some did not, and I assure you that my thoughts and prayers are with you. My wife and I were very fortunate as we withstood the high winds and rain with no major damage. I can only imagine what many of you are going through as you begin to rebuild yet again. May comfort and blessings be with you through this tough time.

I am excited to see everyone at the Fall Conference that is just around the corner. Please look for me and we can chat, and I will try to help with any needs you might have.

Congratulations to all the Squadrons in District 6 for your hard work in membership. Our next membership target is November 7thth for our 35% goal. I am happy to say as of 10/18/24 we have achieved 39.94%. That is great, but don't forget that District 12 is on our heels, and I would love to be able to present them with the Golden Toilet at Convention. So, we need to keep our foot on the gas pedal and encourage our members to renew early and get a head start on the coming year.

I also look forward to seeing you all at the next District 6 meeting at Post 35 Mount Dora at 9:00 AM on Decembers 7th. (Pearl Harbor Day) I hope many of you will be able to attend. Let me know if there's something you would like me to include in the meeting agenda.

I have started my Squadron visits this year. If you would like me to attend your meeting or just come for a visit, please let me know.

In closing, it's my honor to represent District 6 this year. Please feel free to reach out to me at: district6@floridasons.org for any needs you may have.

For God and Country,

Danny Roe 6th District Commander | Sons of The American Legion | Detachment of Florida



Greetings from the 12th District!

Hurricane season has come and hopefully gone for 2024. I know that all of you on the west coast and the big bend have suffered tremendously and my heart goes out to those people and posts. We have been working hard on our side to try to get relief to all of you.

With Fall Conference coming up it looks like the 6th district will get their golden gavel back as they are pretty far ahead of the 12th district in membership but the 12th district will prevail in the end I hope!

Our District 12 meeting will be at Post 318 in Port St Lucie on November 30th so please attend if you can!

The 12th District Picnic raised over \$5000 for Boys and Girls State buses in October and I would like to thank everyone that participated!

Hope everyone is ready for a little cooler weather coming soon!

For God and Country,

Andy Campbell 12th District Commander Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida



DAN HEIER DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER DISTRICT7@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from District 7!

Below is a list of all upcoming District Meetings for the 7th District. Please be sure to add these to your calendars and encourage all to attend.

For God and Country,

Dan Heier 7th District Commander Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



DATE	TIME	FAMILY	HOST POST
August 10, 2024	10:00am	District Meeting	Post 15
	11:00am	Riders	
	12:00pm	Sons	

November 2, 2024	11:00am	District Meeting	Post 4
	12:00pm	Riders	
	1:00pm	Sons	

February 8, 2025	10:00 AM	District Meeting	Post 34
	11:00am	Riders	
	12:00pm	Sons	
May 10, 2025	1.00000	DCC	Dect 9

May 10, 2025	1:00pm	DCC	Post 8
	2:00pm	Riders	
	3:00pm	Sons	

DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER DISTRICT2@FLORIDASONS.ORG

Greetings from District 2!

On Friday September 20, 2024 at 0800, American Legion Post 13 in Tallahassee laid a wreath for the POW/MIA commemoration at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. District 2 Commander/Squadron 13 Commander Michael Mann placed a ribbon for Squadron 13 on the wreath. Pictured is the wreath along with the article from the Post 13 newsletter.

For God and Country,

Michael Mann 2nd District Commander Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





PAGE 14

AL Sauls-Bridges Post 13 POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 7

egionnaires of Post 13 and others gathered together at the Tallahassee National Cemetery to lay a wreath in remembrance of our nation's POW/MIAs who have yet to return home. At each meeting

of the American Legion, the POW/MIA reading is read and/or a POW/ MIA table and furnishing are displayed as a reminder we still have over 81,000 men and women in military uniform who are still unaccounted for: "We will remember".



A beautiful and peaceful sunrise welcomed those who came to remember...





VOLUME 74, ISSUE II

Left, the POW/MIA Recognition Day Service was conducted at the main flagpole of the Tallahassee National Cemetery.



AL Post 13 POW/MIA Memorial Family Wreath



Left, the service began at 0800. Squadron 13 Commander Michael Mann, Post 13 Commander Cindy Laskowski, and Unit 13 President Nell Hewitt prepared to affix unit ribbons to the wreath.



Commander Cindy Laskowski fastened Legion ribbon on behalf of Post 13. Submitted by Dennis Hall



SAL Commander Michael Mann affixed the Sons' Ribbon on behalf of Squadron 13.

"Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants." ~ Epictetus



Greeting Detachment of Florida membership. I hope this article finds everyone doing well. How that we all have been beaten up by two ugly hurricanes, I hope each of you are safe and well as well as your friends and families. It was a and still is a rough time for many in Florida and other States in the Southeast. We have had several Post with damage but are under repair. Please continue to pray for all effected.

Fall Conference is around the corner and lots of preparation is underway. If you are planning to attend, please make your reservation. Information can be found on our website at www.floridasons.org . I look forward to seeing everyone there.

COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to talk about our Detachment communications get to our Squadrons and to our membership. One why is through your Squadron email. Does your Squadron have an email account? If not, why? In these times communication is especially important to maintain good communication with our members. Talk with your Post Commander or Adjutant and discuss using their computer if the Squadron does not have one. Have a fundraiser and purchase one for the family. Just an idea. All Squadrons and Squadron Officers should have an email and should be signed up to our Google group and have been receiving the Detachment communications. If you are not signed up it is simple, just go to the Detachment website (www.floridasons.org) and go toward the bottom of the first page. You will see a button and information about the Google Group. Click the button and just follow the props. You are now set up to receive information about your Detachment. Oh, we do not sell email addresses, they are safe with us. This is just one of many communication tools available to our membership.

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT (MT&D)

The MT & D Committee is hard at work putting together training classes. A training class/classes are being planned for our upcoming Fall Conference in November. Please continue to look for information regarding date and time of the training class. Addition classes are in the works around the state. Please Contact the Detachment MT & D Chairman Peter Puzzo on your interest of hold training classes at your Squadron, in your District or Area. His contact information can be found on our website www.floridasons.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is off to a great start and Chairman Paul Stawicki has the Drivers all in order. The pace laps are completed, and the GREEN FLAG has dropped. The race to the top is on and I sure it will be a true race battle to the top. The first percentage laps of 10% and it was successful. Congratulations to all the Divers and Pit Crews for their hard work. Let's leave no one behind.

SOURCE

The "SOURCE". What is it? It is the newsletter for the Detachment of Florida that is published monthly. The only thing that I see missing are articles. Our last several newsletters did not have many articles. Why? The Source is not just for the Detachment Officers, Commission, and Committee to use. It is strongly recommended that articles of important can be and should be submitted by Squadrons. You can do this on-line at www.floridasons.org. All Officers are encouraged and should submit articles along with the Chairman of Commissions and Committees. It is a great tool to share with everyone what is happening within the Detachment, so I encourage each of you to submit articles and this is a real easy process through www.floridasons.org under the administration tab. Let us spread the word to everyone about the great things that are happening within the Detachment of Florida. All Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairman should be submit-ting article for the Source. The more positive information we supply the better it will be for our membership growth. It will also help strengthen our members.

SQUADRON DATA REPORT FORM (SDR)

I am leaving this information as it is until Fall Conference as it will be a major topic at our Conference. We will have lots of communication around this form at Fall Conference. Squadron Adjutants. Please look in your Squadron packet that was mailed to you in March/April 2024 and see if you have a FOLDED form that just happens to be a PREPRINTED Squadron Data Report Form for 2025. This form was to be verified/changed/Signed, and a copy sent to our Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp and a copy to the American Legion Department of Florida Headquarters before April 12, 2024. I am working with Department Headquarters and National to ensure we have no other issues with this form for our upcoming 2026 year. Any questions please contact me at IA@floridasons.org and I will be glad to discuss with you.

SQUADRON REPORTING

Items such as, Proper Squadron Reporting, Squadron Officer Report Forms, Squadron Data Report Form (SDR) required by May of each year (you will hear more on the SDR forms upcoming), completing your Detachment and National Squadrons Consolidated Report Forms and turning them in in a timely manner and why this is important. This list will grow, and I am sure you will get excited as the year progresses.

PREAMBLE

I will publish our Preamble with every Internal Affairs article I submit. Please read and memorized our preamble to our Constitution. Read each line and stop for just a minute and reflect on the words. These words are powerful and should have great meaning to us all. Think about what each line is saying. This is why, we do what we do! This would also be a great training opportunity at each Squadron meeting. I keep this in my article because I think it is something very meaningfully and important for you as a member and us a Veteran Organization. It is our duty, and it was the duty of all our wonderful Veterans, without them we would not be what we are today, **A FREE NATION.**

PREAMBLE TO THE SONS OF THE American Legion National Constitution

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.



While we wait to roll out the newest version of SAL College, if you are even thinking about taking it, start by completing the American Legion Basic Training Program on line.

Go to legion.org, go to the Information Center, search Training and sign in to Basic Training. You will get a Certificate at the completion of the course. Save that.

In the meanwhile, I am formulating a similar type Program on a smaller basis for more localized usage. Once I get each segment on paper the MTD Committee will be able to help clean it up. Once the whole thing is done, it will be sent up to the Detachment for approval. I think it will be a good way to get Organizational Education to the Squadrons.

Don't forget that you can get a local Training Program set for your District, Area and even your Squadron. Contact me at 772-532-6511. Leave a message or text me and be sure to use a name and whether it's Squadron, District or Area Training.

Peter Puzzo | Chairman Member Training & Development Committee

EMAIL US AT: MTD@FLORIDASONS.ORG





The American Legion Is a Political Organization That's why we have a Legislative Commission to lobby for Veterans Legislation. Have you ever heard of the GI Bill, one of the most important pieces of US Congressional Legislation ever written for veterans, it was written by The American Legion Past National Commander Harry Colmery and our Legislative Staff of The American Legion. I personally witnessed in 2017 President Trump in person sign into law The American Legion Act. at The American Legion National Convention in Reno NV. Why? Because we are a Congressionally Chartered Organization under Chapter 217 Title 36 U.S. Code. That is why a Congressional Resolution must be approved with a Presidential Signature when we change for example. our dates of membership eligibility which required The American Legion Act of 2017

The American Legion is a Non Partisan Political Organization. That doesn't mean We can't individually support candidates but it does mean when we represent our American Legion Organization by wearing our covers and Legion shirts we should not be supporting political Candidates. *If you attend a Political Rally, No SAL Cover, No SAL or TAL Shirts.*

If you want to be Involved in the political process Sons of The American Legion Veterans Legislation Join **VOTER VOICE.** Most of us participate with The American Legion Americanism Program by being registered to vote and by Voting in elections with The Get out the Vote program, whether we know it or not. When The American Legion Legislation Headquarters in Washington DC has a veterans bill coming up for a vote in Congress they will contact you by email, if you are registered in VOTER VOICE. We need your voice and you can support veterans without leaving home. TAL Voter Voice will contact you by email and with a few clicks your Congressional Representative and Senators will know you are a member of the Florida Sons of The American Legion and you support Veterans and would like them to support the Veteran Legislation coming up for a vote. It's That Simple.



AL Voter Voice

We will have Voter Voice QR codes here in the Source and at Fall Conference once again for you to register with Voters Voice so you may support Veterans Legislation, and veterans and that's what the Sons of The American Legion are all about. RIGHT!

William D Kelly, Jr Legislative Committee Chairman Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





Elections are important to our republic. As citizens of this great nation, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right of franchise by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well. It was on this premise that The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program was initiated shortly after the organization's inception. Today it is as important as it was in elections past.

The Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program encourages all Americans to register and vote in all elections. In addition, Legionnaires, posts, districts and departments are encouraged to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.

Download the American Legion's Guide to promoting the "Get Out The Vote" Program: LINK







Children and youth activity and major events are now in action looking forward to closing another record year.

The C&Y Annual Family Picnic is now scheduled for April 5 at Post 117 run by Department C&Y Chairman, Rick Johnson.

The Annual Family Golf tournament is now agreed upon and run by Post 347 on May 10, 2025 at Stonecrest Country club. Flyers for the event are on pages 24 & 25 of this newsletter.

Many Grant opportunities are available this year and with the purpose to Provide financial support to programs and projects that enhance the lives of children in the State of Florida. The organization that is seeking funding must be well established in contributing to the physical, mental, and emotional welfare of children throughout the community of which service is provided.

Grant Guidelines are published on the Department web site under the URL https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/children-youth/grant-guidelines/

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Soeder Chairman, Children & Youth Commission Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





Gentlemen,

Please submit your articles and event flyers so that we can continue to bring you this important information. Event flyers will run every month until the event is complete. If any of your fellow members do not get **The Source** delivered via email feel free to share it with them and encourage them to sign-up on the mailing list. Subscription is easy and free. Simply join the <u>Detachment of Florida Mailing List</u>.

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
- <u>Article Submission Form for The Source</u>
- 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! I am proud to be serving as your Editor.

For God and Country, George Steger Editor of 'The Source', the Detachment of Florida Newsletter





As a reminder, the Committees are: Badges and Packets, Distinguished Guests, Memorial Service, Information/Registration and Special Events. There is a place on the volunteer form to indicate which committee you would like to serve and whether or not you'd like to be a Chairperson. I will take note now of those who would like to chair a committee, serve as the Tampa liaison or be the driver for the National Commander or the National Adjutant. We will have a meeting at the Fall Conference this year to finalize those appointments. We owe National the names and contact information for the Chairpersons by December 1st. The Chairpersons can then begin to put their team together. If you volunteered to be a chair and can't be at Fall Conference this month, please contact me to make other arrangements. I do not know the time or room for the meeting yet, so inquire at the Department office in the hotel.

Remember to contact your state representatives to lobby for transportation money from next year's budget for this convention. It's not too early to make that contact and we really need to push hard to get it. The transportation cost for the New Orleans convention this year was \$200,000.

The Memorial Service Committee coordinates with the National Chaplain to set up the memorial service, provide rooming arrangements that may be required and provide volunteers to assist with seating attendees. Most importantly, we need recommendations on well-known groups in the Tampa area that would be willing to perform in the Memorial Service on Sunday. We need to provide National with a number of options by January, and National will pursue booking them. If you have any suggestions, submit them to Bruce or I.

This is an immense project that Florida has taken on, and your support and volunteering will be critical to its success. We'll probably need between 50 and 100 volunteers. Hosting a National Convention is not an easy task, costs a lot of money and every member of all the other Departments is a critic. If you can help in any way or have any ideas, please provide them. If you can volunteer in any way, we need you.

Clarence Hill American Legion Past National Commander 2025 Tampa Convention Corporation President



The Sons of The American Legion The Detachment of Florida 2025 Tampa National Convention Committee Chairman Bill Kelly Committeeman Ed Sheubrooks, Jim Roberts, Gerard Sambets, Christian Rapp & Detachment Commander

This is your committee for the National Convention in Tampa in August 2025. We would like all of our members to help create an emblem for pins and coins and submit them to the committee. We would like the artist drawing or rendering to include a Florida and a Tampa symbols for example, palm tree, manatee, waterfront. We would like all submissions in by November 15, 2024 and decisions to be made at Fall Conference.

Update: Since the last Detachment of Florida September Source Article we have not received **ONE** inquiry or art submission concerning the National Convention. If you have a submission, please send it today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to volunteer to help with 2025 National Convention in Tampa?

SIGN UP AT floridalegion.org/volunteer2025 OR page 24



Greetings, Detachment of Florida!

Consider supporting the Veterans Expo through donations or volunteer work, as all proceeds will benefit Project Vet Relief. This community event allows participating posts, units, and organizations to receive a copy of the events results for their end of the year reports. Theire will also be a Flag Line All Posts, Units, Squadrons and Chapters in attendance are encouraged to bring their respective banners to participate in the Flag Line.

For more information or to contribute, contact:

Larry Roberts American Legion Department of Florida VA Entitlements Chair Project Vet Relief Board Member Phone: (850)718-7773 E-mail gunhunter1966@yahoo.com

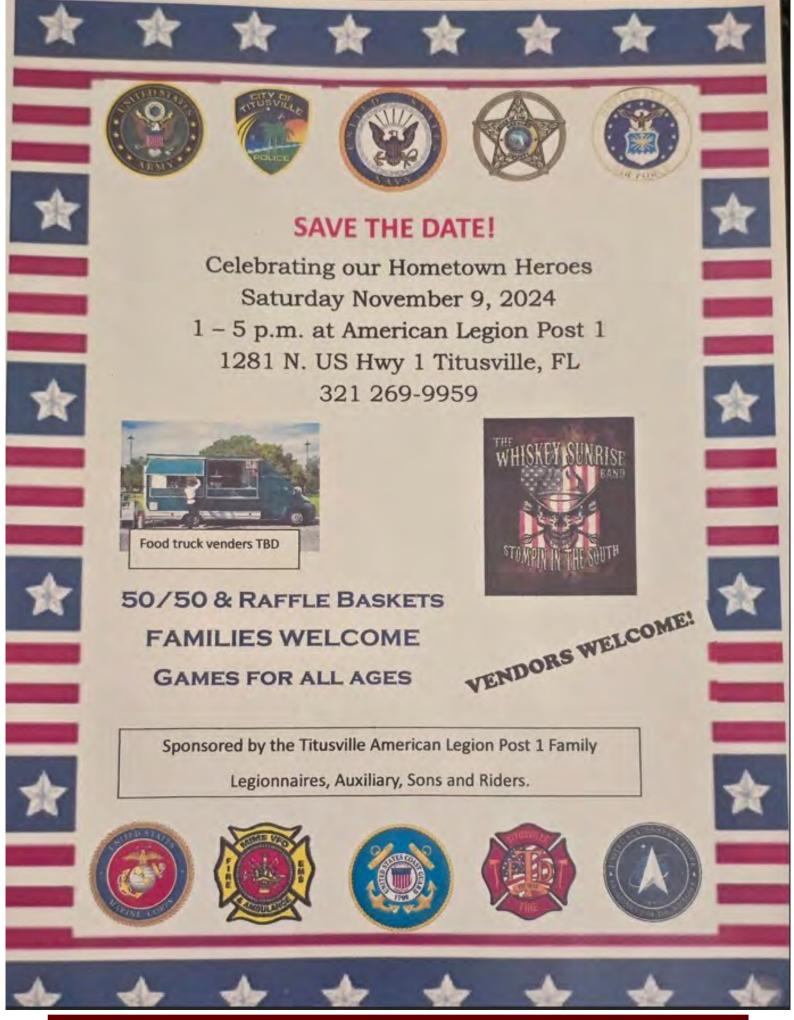


21st Annual Detachment Fall Conference Schedule November 22 - 24, 2024 – Caribe Royale | Orlando, Florida

	ALL MEETINGS / TRAINING HELD IN GRAND SIERRA E	
	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024	The second second
1:00pm to 5:00pm	Training Classes by the Member Training and Development Committee	DETACHMENT
and state of strength of	Topics Include:	and a design of the
	Training at the Area, District and Squadron Level • Committees	and Commissions
	Leadership • General Q&A (time permitting)	a sector and sector as
	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024	
8:00am to 8:30am	Detachment Executive Committee Meeting	
	All Detachment Officers, Area Commanders,	
	District Commanders & Elected District Vice Commanders MUST ATTEND	
8:45am	Opening of Fall Conference General Session	S
9:00 - 9:30am	Committee and Commission Meetings	
	(All members present are URGED to participate)	- W
9:35am - 11:30am	General Business	
	Detachment Commission and Committee Reports	
	Americanism Commission	
	Children & Youth Commission	
	 Special Olympics Committee 	
	Legislative Commission	
	 Community Affairs Committee 	
	 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission 	
	 Project Vet Relief 	
	Internal Affairs Commission	
	 Commanders Advisory Committee 	
	 Constitution and By-Laws Committee 	
	 Convention Committee 	
100	 Finance Committee 	
100	 Squadron Activities Committee 	
	 Member Training & Development Committee 	
11:30am - 1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Fall Conference General Session	
100 March 100	Detachment Commission and Committee Reports - Continued	
	Internal Affairs Commission (Continued)	
	Membership Committee	
	Public Relations Commission	
	Keynote Speaker – National Commander Joseph Navarrete (NM)	
3:00pm - 4:30pm	Training and/or Round Table Session	
	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024	
8:30am to 10:300 am		and Sierra C

This agenda is tentative and may change on the days of Conference

Updated 10/18/24



VOLUME 32, ISSUE 5



SUPPORTING FLORIDA DISASTER RELIEF





Competitive games - entry fee \$10 per couple -Trophy's for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Baskets, 50/50, live music donations gladly accepted

> Checks written out to ALK Post 11 Memo - SW Area Picnic

ALK Post 11 C/O Tammie Clifton **PO Box 835** Arcadia, FL 34265









2025 Eastern Area Ball

February 8th, 2025 Post 117 Palm Bay Cocktails at 3pm Dinner at 5pm **Schnitzel by Chef Ray** Tickets \$30 Couples \$55 At the door \$40 Proceeds go to Commanders Charity of choice Chris Hamrick and Rocky Cirigliano

Wear your Red Shirt



ENTERTAINMENT

BY

JIMMY D



National Convention Volunteer Interest Form August 22-28, 2025 in Tampa Bay, FL

Phone:		
none.	Email:	
When is the best time to contact you?	□ Anytime □ Morning □ Afternoon [∃ Evening
What is the best way to contact you?	🗆 Email 🔲 Phone 🔲 Either Method	
/OLUNTEERING		
How would you like to volunteer? (Sele	ct all that apply)	
 Badges and Packets Committee Distinguished Guests Committee Memorial Service Committee 	 Information/Registration Committee Special Events Committee Tampa Liaison 	 National Commander's Driver National Adjutant's Driver General Tasks
Are you interested in serving as Chair fo	or any of the committees you selected? \square	Yes 🗆 No 🛛 Undecided
Are you a member of any of the followi	ing? (Select all that apply)	
 The American Legion Sons of The American Legion Not a member 	 American Legion A The American Legi 	
	al Convention?	
	al Convention? Yes No Not Sur	



Valentine Day

Dinner With Elvis...

Surf or Turf (Prime Rib -or- Salmon) Dinner & Dessert

1 Complimentary Glass of Wine or Beer

Tribute Elvis Concert by 'The Pooz'

Have Your Wedding Vows Renewed by Elvis

Saturday...February 15, 2024 Doors Open for Dinner at 6:00 PM

Cash Bar Open Dance the evening away to...

"The Pooz"

Seating limited to 80...Advance Sales ONLY Proceeds to fund several Sons of The American Legion Veterans Programs & Community Programs

\$35.00 Per Person

See Bartender for Tickets-Checks payable to Squad 189-SAL Sons of The American Legion-Squad 189 807 Louisiana Avenue-Sebastian FL 32958









THE CENTRAL AREA LEADERSHIP *Presents*

The Central Area CASINO ROYALE



AT WINTER HAVEN POST 8 COCKTAILS/GAMES AT 5:00PM DINNER SERVICE AT 6:00PM тіскетя: \$45

PER PERSON OR \$80 PER COUPLE Tickets include dinner and casino "cash" that can be used to play your favorite casino games.

Dress like 007 or your favorite Bond girl or villain!

CASINO GAMES - LIVE DJ - RAFFLES - DOOR PRIZES

PROCEEDS BENEFIT: C.O.T.A, OPERATION 300, AND OPERATION COMFORT WARRIOR

MENU: 1905 SALAD - STUFFED MUSHROOMS - BEEF TENDERLOIN - POTATOES - DESSERT -

> RSVP / Make checks payable to: Michael Sherman (813) 541-3452 - vccentral@floridasons.org Mail to: 7519 Winging Way Dr, Tampa, FL 33615

American Legion Family at Post #347 **Charity Golf Tournament**











EVENT INFORMATION Location: Broad Stripes Golf Club 11560 SE 176th Place Road Summerfield, FL 34491

- Shotgun Scramble Start at 8:00 AM
- Cost per Golfer \$95
- Coffee & Breakfast snacks before golf
- Longest Drive Contests Men & Women
- Hole-in-One Contest Men & Women
- Hole #15 PRIZE: Golf Cart
- Closest-to-the-Pin-Men & Women
- Many Prizes & Surprises!
- Purchase Mulligans for Charity ******

After golf, please join us at Post 347 699 W. Lady Lake Blvd, in Lady Lake for Lunch, Raffles, 50/50, Auctions, & More

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Bronze Hole Sponsor: \$100
- Silver Hole Sponsor: \$200
- Gold Hole Sponsor: \$300
- *Platinum Hole Sponsor: \$500-\$999 *Includes Table Space
- *Major Sponsor-\$1,000 & Up *Includes Table Space & Foursome
- Donate Gifts for Raffle Prizes

Accepting Sponsorships & Gift Donations NOW through April 26, 2025

Golf Foursome Registration Starts February 1, 2025

Make all Checks payable to: Squadron #347

Mail to: Attention: C&Y Golf Tournament P.O. Box 1534 Lady Lake, FL 32158

The American Legion Family is Donating All Proceeds to Benefit Children & Youth Programs



AMERICAN LEGION POST 347

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHARITY

GOLF TOURNAMENT – May 10, 2025

Golf Foursome Registration Starts February 1, 2025

(We Sell-Out Quick, so Don't Delay!)

Golfer (\$9	95)			<u> </u>
Golfer (\$9	95)		2	
Golfer (\$9	95)			
Golfer (\$9	95)			
Contact fo	or the Team	۱		
Contact P	hone #			
Contact E	mail		1	
		Hole	Sponsor:	
Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	Major
Additional G	Guests for Dinn	er at Post 347	are \$10.00 each_	
	<u>Please</u>	make checks	<u>payable to:</u> Squad	lron 347
		PO Box 1534, I	Lady Lake, FL 3215	58
		Attention: C&	Y Golf Tournamer	nt
	<u>lf yo</u>	<u>u have any qu</u>	estions, please co	ntact:
		Danny Roe	- (317) 508-6465	
		dannyroe	@prodigy.net	

or THE	MERICANICS STATENTOP ROPINS
* Sol	
*0	Oth *
	Order Form
Your Name	
Your Phone	
Your Email	
Your Address	
	se coins will be created to commemorate this auspicious event /e YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today!
Only 1,000 of the Reserv	
Only 1,000 of the Reserv I am ordering	ve YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today! 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Challenge Coins, at \$10 ea m and your check, payable to <u>SAL Detachment of Florida</u> , for
Only 1,000 of the Reserv I am ordering Include this for	ve YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today! 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Challenge Coins, at \$10 ea m and your check, payable to <u>SAL Detachment of Florida</u> , for
Only 1,000 of the Reserv I am ordering Include this for	e YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today! 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Challenge Coins, at \$10 ea m and your check, payable to <u>SAL Detachment of Florida</u> , for end to: Ed Sheubrooks Finance Committee Chairman
Only 1,000 of the Reserv I am ordering Include this for	ve YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today! 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Challenge Coins, at \$10 ea m and your check, payable to <u>SAL Detachment of Florida</u> , for end to: Ed Sheubrooks Finance Committee Chairman 800 S Brocksmith Rd
Only 1,000 of the Reserv I am ordering Include this for	e YOUR collector's item commemorative coin today! 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Challenge Coins, at \$10 ea m and your check, payable to <u>SAL Detachment of Florida</u> , for end to: Ed Sheubrooks Finance Committee Chairman

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.

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 (<u>floridasons.org</u>)
 - 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 <u>https://floridasons.org/detachment-events-calendar/</u>, 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>

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.