



REHABILITATE
ACCLIMATE
COMPENSATE
EDUCATE

THE SOURCE



ROCCO CIRIGLIANO



DETACHMENT COMMANDER



COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings All!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!



Our Detachment has made its 30th consecutive all-time high in membership. We are on track to receive the Triple Nickel Award, 105% membership, 85% retention rate and five new squadrons. We still have some time to make a final push on membership. Send the cards in, **please do not hold them**. You deserve this award for all your hard work and dedication.

Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers. A huge welcome and thank you to all the first time officers, have fun and enjoy. To those currently in office please remember to fill out your officer's report and your yearend reports. It is critical these documents are submitted as they are the basis the National Organization uses in its report to Congress.

PLEASE avail yourselves of all the tools provided by the Detachment to assist you in your daily operations. They can be found at [Sons of The American Legion | Detachment of Florida \(floridasons.org\)](https://www.floridasons.org). Also, please sign up for the Florida SAL e-mail group. The purpose of the Florida SAL E-mail Group is to enhance the ability to communicate with the members and Squadrons within the Detachment of Florida. Messages to the group include upcoming Detachment events, membership reports, important notices from the Detachment and Department of Florida, National Headquarters and other news and information of interest to the Florida Sons of The American Legion.

My travels included the 12th District DCC at Post 394, the annual Wall Escort & All Veterans Reunion, Melbourne, and the Children & Youth Golf Tournament Post 347.

My charity this year is Operation Comfort Warriors. Operation Comfort Warriors is a program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. Monetary donations are vital to OCW, as most military medical centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages. Individuals from throughout The American Legion Family can donate online or by mailing a check. No contribution is too small. Visit www.legion.org/ocw to donate. You can also mail checks to: Operation Comfort Warriors, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206
[Operation Comfort Warriors | The American Legion](https://www.legion.org/ocw)

As we close out another successful year and move into 2025-2026, I wanted to take a moment and say thank you again to every one of you for your dedication, commitment and hospitality to me and our organization. Your tireless work has helped us achieve a great deal this past year. Not only were we on track to hit all our important milestones, but we also had a ton of fun along the way! So, thank you so much for everything that you have done over the last twelve months – here is to an amazing 2024-2025. I Look Forward To Seeing You At Convention!

Inside This Issue

Detachment Commander	1
Adjutant's Corner	2-3
Finance Committee - IMPORTANT!	4
Membership & NEC	5-7
Detachment Chaplain	8
Area & District Commanders	9-12
Internal Affairs	13 - 15
Committees & Commissions & CWF	16 - 17
Letter From The Editor & Clarence Hill	18 - 19
Source Spotlight	20
Endorsements For Office	21 - 22
Convention Agenda	23
Commander's Polo & Announcements	24-28

2024-2025 Membership Target Dates:

September 5, 2024	10%	LAP COMPLETE!	
October 10, 2024	25%	LAP COMPLETE!	
November 7, 2024	35%	LAP COMPLETE!	
December 5, 2024	45%	LAP COMPLETE!	
January 9, 2025	60%	LAP COMPLETE!	
February 6, 2025	75%	LAP COMPLETE!	
March 6, 2025*	80%	LAP COMPLETE!	
April 3, 2025	90%	LAP COMPLETE!	
May 1, 2025	100%	LAP COMPLETE!	
May 29, 2025**	105%		

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



CHRISTIAN M RAPP

DETACHMENT ADJUTANT
ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

As our Annual Convention is NEXT MONTH (June 12-15) my main focus for this article will be **reporting**.

The deadline for most reports was May 15th, 2025. Due to the error sending out the National and Detachment Consolidated Squadron Reports, the deadline has been extended to allow you time to get them in. **Please have your reports submitted no later than June 1, 2025.** Your Adjutant Team and Committee Chairmen need time to collate these reports and tabulate the data BEFORE Convention. **NOTE: As of 2024, Volunteer time is worth \$30/hr.** Use this figure when completing your reports.

NOTE: THE NATIONAL CSR CAN BE COMPLETED THROUGH YOUR MYLEGION.ORG PORTAL. WHEN YOU SIGN IN AND GO TO YOUR SQUADRON PAGE, THERE WILL BE A BIG BLUE BUTTON ON THE SCREEN THAT SAYS SUBMIT CPR/CSR REPORTS. CLICK THIS AND COMPLETE YOUR REPORT.

NOTE: SAVE A COPY OF YOUR SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS. THIS WILL SERVE TWO PURPOSES:

- 1) IT LETS YOU KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR SUBMISSION IN CASE NATIONAL SAYS THEY HAVEN'T RECEIVED YOUR REPORT.**
- 2) YOU CAN USE THE INFORMATION TO COMPLETE YOUR DETACHMENT CSR.**

CONSOLIDATED REPORTS

CPR / CSR reports are generally available from November to September.

Consolidated reports are available for the following:

- Post Commanders and Adjutants
- Squadron Commanders and Adjutants
- Group Administrators

Click the "Submit CPR / CSR Reports" button to complete and submit your consolidated reports.

Submit CPR / CSR Reports

*** 2024-2025 Consolidated Reports are available.

THE ONLINE SUBMITTAL PORTAL

For those of you who are tech-savvy, I've created an online report submission portal. On just one page, you can submit all of the important reports such as your Consolidated Squadron Reports, Squadron Information Reports and even your District Officer Reports. Go to floridasons.org/report-submission to upload your reports.

PAY ATTENTION WHEN YOUR ARE COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING YOUR REPORTS!

I have received some reports via snail mail where the submitting squadron didn't fill out their squadron information. At this time of the year, as you can imagine, my mail box is full of reports. When received, I usually just take the reports out and sort them in piles, throwing the envelopes they came in away. If you don't take the time to review your reports for completeness, your squadron may not get credit for their efforts.

TAKE NOTE: SOME REPORTS ARE TWO PAGES

The Detachment Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) is TWO PAGES as is the Children & Youth Report.. MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE BOTH PAGES IN YOUR ENVELOPE!

53rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

The agenda for Convention has been posted to our website and is also included at the end of this edition of 'The Source'. We have done our best to adjust the schedule to allow the most time to get things completed in a timely manner. Please note that the times for all events are subject to change. The agenda can be found online at <https://floridasons.org/detachment-convention/>.

(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

DELEGATE STRENGTH REPORT

The Delegate Strength Report will not be generated until May 30, 2025. Keep an eye on your inboxes and the website (at the previously mentioned page). For the report we will be using for convention.

DELEGATE REGISTRATION

In your year-end packets there is a delegate registration form the clearly is labeled in big red font

“DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM! BRING IT WITH YOU TO CONVENTION REGISTRATION “

Yet I have received a couple in the report submissions, one even had a check. Bring this form with you to Convention with a check or cash to pay for your delegates. If you forget the form, there will be some at the registration table for you to complete.

SQUADRON INFORMATION REPORTS (SIRs)

As of this writing, we have still not received all of the Squadron Officer Reports. These reports need to be completed and submitted as soon as your squadron has completed elections. This report is **VITAL**. This report allows Department to assign appropriate permissions for your squadron to process membership and allows creation of the Detachment Directory. As a reminder, per Article X Section 13 of the Detachment Constitution:

“All officers of Squadrons, except the Squadron Adjutant and the Squadron Judge Advocate, shall be elected and certified to the Department Adjutant and Detachment Adjutant, **not more than ninety (90) days**, nor less than ten **(10) days** prior to the Annual Detachment Convention “

This means that your Squadron Elections should be completed by JUNE 2, 2025. GET YOUR FORMS IN TODAY.

The SIR form can be found on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/03-SIR-0525.pdf>

DISTRICT OFFICER REPORTS (DORs)

District Constitutional Conferences (DCCs) should be wrapping up. Not all Districts have sent in their reports yet.

Per Article IX section 4 of the Detachment Constitution:

“...there shall be held in each District a District Constitutional Conference not more than sixty Page | 9 (60) nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Detachment Convention”

This means that your DCCS should be completed by JUNE 2, 2025. GET YOUR FORMS IN TODAY.

The DOR form can be found on our website at: <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/dist-officer-report-05-12-25.pdf>

THANK YOU!

Although I have a letter in the Convention Program this year, I am going to take some time here to say thank you. It won't be a complete list of people to thank, as it would cause this edition to 'The Source' to get very long....

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Detachment Adjutant once again. There's been highs and lows (as there are in life) but we goth past them all. I could not have been so successful without the support, dedication and responsiveness of each and every member of this great Detachment. Every time I have asked for something out of every **Detachment Vice Commander, District Commander, District Vice Commander or a Squadron Commander**, even if it was for a second or third time, you have responded.

Commander Rocky - we've both shared in the highs and lows and have managed to make it through. Your unwavering support has been a blessing. Thank you for a great year of leadership and friendship.

John Jennings Your assistance, guidance and almost-daily talks have been invaluable. We have made great strides in improving the administrative tasks of the Detachment this year. I cannot thank you enough for your help and support.

To the entire American Legion Department of Florida Staff - nothing we accomplish on the Detachment side of the house would be possible without you. We are blessed to have such talented and dedicated people helping us. I am so very thankful of the relation the Department of Florida has with the Detachment of Florida - I know some Detachments aren't so lucky.

There's still way to many to thank here. Hopefully I will see you all at Convention in just a few short weeks to thank you in person.

Let's all have a Fantastic Convention celebrating our 30th Consecutive All-Time High in Membership and , hopefully, The Triple Nickel Award!

Christian M Rapp | Detachment of Florida Adjutant



ED SHEUBROOKS

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

FINANCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



As our Detachment Convention approaches, I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of a few items. When writing checks for your donations to the various Charities, PLEASE make the check PAYABLE to the Charity.

For instance, say you have a donation for the Detachment Commander Rocky's charity, Operation Comfort Warriors. Make the check payable to Operation Comfort Warriors. Please make sure your Squadron number is on all checks as well. This way we can be certain of what Squadron gets credit for the donation.

For registration, please make the checks payable to the Department of Florida. Delegate fee's are \$5.00 per Delegate. Please remember to register your At-Large votes if your Squadron has any. If they are not registered, then they do not count for your Squadron. They must also be present on the Convention floor to count as well.

Some of our Charities that we work with are, Florida Special Olympics, Operation Comfort Warriors, Project Vet Relief, Child Well Being Foundation (The former CWF), Florida Children & Youth Fund, Fisher Houses, COTA, and the Veterans & Children Foundation. These are just to name a few.

If you notice, I did not list the National Emergency Fund, or NEF. At the past NEC meeting in Indianapolis the first week-end in May, it was announced that Sons of The American Legion are no longer eligible to receive money from the Fund. This comes after years of being included in receiving funds to help after a natural disaster. Apparently after some tornado damage in Kentucky, Son's members applied for assistance and were denied. Someone at National Headquarters looked at the original Charter that formed the Foundation and it stated for Legion members only to receive financial assistance. Please note that I am not trying to tell you not to donate to the NEF, I just wanted to make sure the members know if they apply, they will be denied.

On Expense reporting, other than being reimbursed for mileage without a receipt, all other reimbursements must have a receipt attached. Please be responsible for your meals as well. Your expense account is for your travel and not buying steak and lobster dinners for you and friends. One final item, NO ACOHOL on your receipts as well.

The National Convention is in our own backyard this year. In August we will all gather in Tampa for the Convention. The Detachment will be selling Pins and Coins and will need some Volunteers to help with this. Expenses for National Convention are not included in your 2025 – 2026 budget. There is a separate Delegate reimbursement for National Convention Delegates. All Delegates will have their registration paid by the Detachment, and each will receive \$300.00. This is based on the Detachment having 53 votes, including one At-large for PNC Roberts. More discussion will be held on the National Convention during the Detachment Convention.

As in the past, you can mail or email your receipts to me for approval. You do not have to send both. I hope everyone has safe travels during your year. Any questions, I am only an email or phone call away.

Regards,

Ed Sheubrooks, Chairman

Detachment of Florida Finance Committee

SONS OF THE
 AMERICAN
LEGION



PAUL STAWICKI

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

MEMBERSHIP@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

We have now reached the month of June. This is the closing of our fiscal year. This is when we tally up everything and we give the Awards out for those who did their jobs correctly who attained the membership goals that we had asked for. Those that gave it all for the sake of their Squadrons, Districts, Area and The Detachment this Year.

It is also the time of the year when we need to complete the paperwork necessary for Detachment and National to show all the great things we can accomplish when we put our hearts and minds into who we are - The Sons of The American Legion!!

I want to thank all of you for another **AMAZING YEAR**. We managed to meet every Goal up until article publication. You have All done Commander Rocco Cirigliano proud this year by making our **100%** and attaining our **30th Consecutive ALL TIME HIGH! Great Job!** You showed how the Detachment of Florida Sons **GET'ER DONE!!!** I am humbled by all the work You continuously do even through hardships You always manage to shine. I am the lucky one who gets to Report to you weekly on your progress. Without Membership we can not exist. You allow me to stand in front of you at Convention and present to you the Awards you Deserve. Thank you.

This Year's Theme R.A.C.E. Rehabilitate • Acclimate • Compensate • Educate

It's what you can do, not what you can't do.

"Never Retreat"

It was at times challenging but in the end, I believe, was very informative. The Colors were meant to show where attention was needed and never a show of failure or disappointment. Your District and Area Leaders were given the task of reaching out to those who struggled and to report back to the Committee and to the Detachment Commander himself so we as a body could understand what is happening in each District and Area as we cannot be everywhere. District and Area Commanders are our eyes and ears. We **EXPECT** a response when we ask for them. Not everyone can be a District officer or Area Commander. It takes Commitment and Diligence. It's not always easy.

We are working on attaining the Triple Nickel Award from National. We have our 5 New Squadrons for this year: **Pensacola SQ 33 Dunnellon SQ 58, South Jacksonville SQ 244 Groveland SQ 239 and Orlando SQ 331**. All of which have attained at least 100% or better. We need to reach 105% by Delegate Cut Off for National and an 85% Renewal Rate by Delegate Cut Off for National. Currently at article submittal. we are at 26,055 that's 101.24% Membership total and 84.75% Renewal Rate. We can do this. It is within our grasp. This would be the Ultimate Checkered Flag for the Detachment of Florida.

2024-2025 Membership Target Dates:

September 5, 2024	10%	LAP COMPLETE!	
October 10, 2024	25%	LAP COMPLETE!	
November 7, 2024	35%	LAP COMPLETE!	
December 5, 2024	45%	LAP COMPLETE!	
January 9, 2025	60%	LAP COMPLETE!	
February 6, 2025	75%	LAP COMPLETE!	
March 6, 2025*	80%	LAP COMPLETE!	
April 3, 2025	90%	LAP COMPLETE!	
May 1, 2025	100%	LAP COMPLETE!	
May 29, 2025**	105%		

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

Let's GET'ER DONE men! It's Just a couple of extra laps around the track I know we have the fuel to make it happen!!!

Thank you, Team, for a amazing year!

God Bless and Be Safe,

Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

NEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

The Sons of The American Legion met for their semi-annual National Executive Committee Spring Meetings at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Center Hotel. The Florida delegation consisted of National Assistant Adjutant Ed Sheubrooks making his last NEC appearance after almost 30 years of service to our National Organization. Our Alternate National Executive Committee-man and Convention Committee Liaison Gerard Sambets and myself who has been appointed as NEC Lead Liaison to Internal Affairs Commission and the subcommittee on Resolutions

After we fly in and check in to our rooms we have a get together to discuss who is going to Commission & Committee meetings we are not a part of. Our Detachment Leadership Team had some questions, and our Assistant Adjutant Jennings and I worked up a presentation instead of just asking questions they received a hard copy of the questions.

The 1st & 2nd questions dealt with Squadron Data Reports. We presented the questionnaire to National Adjutant Wright, National Liaison Mook, Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Hill, and Membership and Squadron Activities Committee Chairman Verstrete. The 1st question was concerning a fillable, printable, & saveable in 2027. Answer was Not At This Time. 2nd question concerned posting a SDR that is electronic or in a portal. Not At This Time.

While we did get answers we wanted but stimulated thought and our concerns.

3rd Question was addressed to Member Training and Development Committee Chairman Cotton concerning online SAL Training. Answer: The Training Modules have been prepared and are being reviewed by The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission, unfortunately No Time Frame was Available for release and there are other training and online training in the pipeline.

4th Question was addressed Public Media & Communication Commission Chairman Chaplin & National Staff and TAL Advisory Chairman Mayne, Concerning our new website. The 2 websites one has since been taken down and the new website is currently working and being worked on and improved.

5th Question addressed to the subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman Fox. The Resolutions are no longer on our website. That was an oversight and has been brought to our TAL/SAL HQs I.T. staff by our Liaison. The past Resolutions are still being kept & housed by National Assistant Adjutant Thorton.

Our National Organization was extremely impressed with The Detachment of Florida with their way of communicating these important Sons of The American Legion problems. A big thanks goes out to NAA Ed, ANEC Gerard CDR Rocky and especially a big shout out to John Jennings who prepared the questions.

This all took place Friday evening and Saturday morning before we went into session. At 1PM on Saturday our National Commander Joseph Navarrete convened The Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee Spring Meeting. We immediately begin the Commission and Committee Reports. We received a hand out from the Sons of The American Legion Commanders Advisory Committee. This was a first, with a summary on the cover page listed within the handout assessment strategies, data gathered, analysis conducted, commentary and conclusions reached.

Some of the highlights are future SAL University have been temporarily postponed until further notice due to the upcoming TAL College revisions. MT&D has also been tasked with creating a new leadership training program.

The National Resolution process has been under review and revisions are being made.

Status of the monthly newsletter (Millenium) and the establishing The National CDRs & National Adjutants & SALCS Updates.

PNC Scacco & PNC Hall are working to identify National CDR candidates and assist in coaching them and NVC candidates.

Membership Training videos are in production.

Some of the pending items are The outline of Authorization is being finalized and this document is pending with national staff final review & editing. Reestablishing a fully functional website. Restablishing cooperation with the Child Well Being Foundation Board to get at least one grant submitted by the SAL excepted. Working with TAL Media & Communications to improve the SAL Brand. Establish a SAL National Security Commission. Work to establish a Paid Up For Life and Multi Year Membership.

(NEC Spring Update continued)

Next year 2026 is the 250th Anniversary of The United States of America. The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion are encouraging The SAL Detachments and SAL Squadrons to take an active part in the celebration. More information will be forthcoming.

Commission & Committee Reports highlights:

Americanism Commission subcommittees Veterans & Children Fund ad-hoc Committee reported Veterans & Childrens Fund has a \$500,000 Goal for 2025.

Children & Youth Committee The American Legion Family Day was 4/26/25. We hope everyone participated and are interested in report forms by 7/23/25

The National C&Y Academy will take place at The Sons of The American Legion National Convention in Tampa Florida Saturday 8/23/25 from 8AM Check-in till 3PM

The Scrapbook judging criteria is being updated for next year. The criteria will remain the same for this year.

The Child Well Being Foundation Committee has collected \$231,000. As of 4/5/2025.

Finance Commission has submitted 2026 Draft Budget to the NEC

Internal Affairs Commission

Convention Committee's Gerard Sambets reported on the Tampa Convention Concerning the Detachment of FL Friday Night Social at the JW Marriott and the National Convention Pin. The Committee is working on a new standard operating procedure

Member Training & Development: Training Modules have been submitted to TAL IA for review for SAL Basic Training.

Detachment CDRs Training at National Convention on Friday 8/22/25 from 8AM. AZ Squadron 27 will be presenting their membership training on their membership briefcase.

Membership & Squadron Activities A reviewing of all SAL pamphlets. Squadrons should be setting a 90% retention goal. Refining Recruiter of the Year, Blue Brigade, & Squadron CDR of the Year wording.

Legislative Commission requests all detachments to submit a George B Evans candidate.

Public & Media Communications Commission are working to improve the Millenium newsletter and website. The Commission is submitting a resolution to change the Snap Shots & Videos of Service dates.

Veterans Administration & Rehabilitation We have 48 Veterans Affairs Service Officers and are always looking for more to assist at VA Hospitals. May 1st was Silver Star banner day and please submit any activities.

100th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee Encourages all Detachment to begin planning for the 100th Anniversary of the Sons of The American Legion in 2032

Resolutions Passed at the NEC Spring Meetings

SAL Spring 1 P&MCC Snap Shots of Service Changing the dates to July 1 and June 30th.

SAL Spring 2 P&MCC Videos of Service Changing the dates to July 1st to June 30th

SAL Spring 5 Establishment of a National Regional Membership Award

SAL Spring 7 Amending the Triple Nickel Award and including a plaque.

SAL Spring 9 Amending the Categories for the Houghton Membership Award

SAL Spring 10 Amending the contest rules for judging the Scrapbook Contest

These resolutions will go into effect following The American Legion National Executive Committee Approval.

William D Kelly, Jr

National Executive Committeeman
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida





GRATITUDE AND GOD'S GRACE

There's a school of thought that embraces the fact that though we're wholly unworthy of God's love, it is nonetheless present and available for all who seek it. The Judeo-Christian ethos that founded this great nation is based on the understanding that there is but one true God, our Heavenly Father. That all of our rights and truths, stem from Him and His word.

These teachings are the bedrock of our republic and are the reason we've been so blessed by Him; they are the reason that our great nation has survived and thrived. His Grace has never been withheld from the United States of America, and I believe it is because, at our core, we are a virtuous and grateful people. But gratitude is a muscle that must be exercised and normalized in our lives.

Gratitude, the mother of all virtues, is something we should practice every day. No matter the mood, the day or the situation, find even the smallest thing for which you're grateful and speak with your Heavenly Father. I believe He craves fellowship with all of us; a one-on-one relationship, just as any Father would desire of their children.

Gratefulness comes in any size. One can be grateful for a sunny day, or rain when it's needed most. It can be as significant as a prayer of relief when cancer has been defeated. It can be as seemingly insignificant as receiving a smile from a passing stranger. Gratefulness and Gratitude are the doorway to all other virtues, and a virtuous society is necessary for our wonderful United States to continue to grow and thrive.

Holding a door open for a stranger, wishing them a blessed day as you pass; smiling at a child across the room; looking in the mirror and seeing not just yourself, but a wonderful creation – a child of God. All of these are things for which we should be grateful.

When you're grateful, it's easy to show peace and love to those you encounter. When you're grateful, you're sharing God's love outwardly, you're doing His work.

I'm grateful for being able to serve as your Detachment Chaplain; I'm grateful for the ability to share my thoughts through our newsletter. I'm overly grateful for the men and women in our nation's Armed Services, including my late Father through whom I became eligible to service in our wonderful organization.

Ultimately, I hope we can share in a deep seated understanding that God, our Father made us all. I'm grateful to be a Son of the American Legion, but mostly I'm grateful to be a son of God.

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





MICHAEL NIGBOR

SOUTHWESTERN AREA COMMANDER

VCSW@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from the Southwestern Area!

Hoping that this finds everyone doing well and flourishing with their squadrons and memberships. We are so close to getting the Triple Nickle Award, do what you can with your renewals and make this a fantastic year for Commander Rocky. At the time of this article, District 8 is at **102.96%** and District 13 is at **109.18%**. This is all because of you being diligent on working membership. **Thank you!**

On May 3rd, I attended District 9 DCC at Post 321 in Cooper City. A wonderful group of members. May 4th was The S.A.L. Annual Gong Show at Madeira Beach Post 273, after their rebuild from the past hurricane damage. A great group of volunteers and contestants made this a memorable evening. Commander Tom Beck and his team worked so hard. Please try to support them next year.



May 10th we were at District 15, Post 138 and District 7 Post 8 for their DCC's and elections. May 17 was the annual American Legion Family Post 347 Golf Outing, supporting Children and Youth Programs. May 18th was District 13 DCC in the morning and District 8 DCC in the afternoon. Wonderful attendance for all of these events. Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers coming on board and to all of the returning officers for their dedication. Remember, if you have chosen a position, that you intend to serve your entire term and have read about the duties of that position.

June 12th we will be at Convention in Orlando. Can't wait to see everyone there. Lots of new, refreshing ideas for training from our amazing instructors. Lots of time, thought and energy has been put into this event, so please make a point to attend as much time as you can. Knowledge is strength, mentor your members.

We will be going to Tallahassee after convention for The Florida American Legion Boys State program. This is a premier youth leadership program held annually at Florida State University. The program provides hands-on experience in government and civic engagement for high school juniors. It is so exhilarating to see these motivated young people being involved with their future expectations.

As always, as we try to get to the **Triple Nickle Award**, write your members a letter, send them an email or text message, or better yet, call them. Let them know what is going on at the post. Describe the activities and events the post is involved with at the local community, state and national levels. Let them know you are thinking about them, that they are more than a number, and that you appreciate their continued support. Our "Buddy Checks" are a necessity.



DUTY

HONOR

COUNTRY

For God and Country,

Michael Nigbor

Vice Commander Southwestern Area

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



Greetings from the Central Area!

Where has this year gone!? It seems like I blinked and it's almost time for convention again. It has truly been such a rewarding year traveling around, meeting new people and reconnecting with old friends all while supporting our very important mission and charities. This past month, I was glad to have been able to attend all three District Constitutional Conferences and hear just how far each District came this year and watch as they elected their new Commanders for the coming year.

To the current District Commanders of the mighty Central Area, 7th District Commander Heier, 15th District Commander Rikansrud, and 16th District Commander Sanderson, thank you for a great year and thank you for all the hard work and dedication you have put into your Districts this year. Despite a challenging year with multiple hurricanes, your dedication to your Squadrons and District members greatly contributed to the Area's success.

Commander Heier and Commander Rikansrud, I congratulate you on your reelection as District Commander for the 2025-2026 year. I know you will continue to serve your Districts well as you have this past year. To 16th District Commander-elect Huddle, I congratulate you on your election and look forward to seeing you succeed this year. I look forward to working with all three of you this year and continuing to grow and strengthen our Central Area.

It's fitting that I got to close out this Legion year honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation; those whose legacy compelled my grandfathers to serve and made me eligible to be a Son, and those who compelled me to serve. It was my honor to attend the Memorial Day service conducted by the USS Tampa American Legion Post 5 family along with my family. I was humbled to place a wreath on behalf of Squadron 138 along with the Post 138 family, while my daughter, Paige, led the Pledge of Allegiance and my wife performed the National Anthem and God Bless America.

It has been my absolute honor to represent the Sons of the Central Area as your Detachment Vice Commander this year, and I hope to be able to continue to serve you in the coming year. I look forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks at convention.

As always, please let me know what your squadrons or districts have going on. I would love to come out and participate in and support your events!

For God and Country,

Michael "Tank" Sherman Jr.
Vice Commander Central Area
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida

**BE THE
ONE**





Hello from the Eastern Area!

I would like to start out by saying great job Eastern Area for making 100% plus. ***Our next goal is 105% by May 30th 2025 delegate cut off.***

The race to the finish line is getting really tight for the golden gavel which I will be presenting at convention to the winner between the 6th and 12th district.

On May 3rd I attended the 12th district DCC at squadron 394 congratulations to Andy Campbell commander and Gary Raymond vice commander for being reelected. On May 10th I attended the 6th district DCC at squadron 80 St Cloud congratulations to Sonny Perchitti commander and Richard Blanton vice commander.

We have reached our 100% target 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 back in 1st place. It has been my honor to be your Eastern Area Vice Commander this year. What a great race team we had this year. I look forward to seeing everyone at convention.

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

For God and Country,
Randy Chilcott

Vice Commander Eastern Area
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



Greetings from the Mighty 9th District!

Things are moving so fast. Elections are in full swing, All our posts are proud of the job they have accomplished.

Our very own Martin Kraemer has stepped down from District Commander due to illness. We wish him a speedy recovery. He is still behind the scenes helping to keep the Mighty 9th working like a well oiled machine.

I have been re-elected as Vice Commander for the 2025-2026 Service year.

Always remember with All of us working together, we can have an Awesome year. Till next time.

For God and Country,
Sam Aloï

9th District Vice Commander
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





DANNY ROE

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER
DISTRICT6@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Since there will be no Source published in the month of July, this will be my last article this year as your District 6 Commander. I cannot believe how fast this year has gone by. I have met many people and made many new friends throughout the district. It has been my great honor to have served and represented this District. I am very pleased to announce that District 6 met on May 10th in St Cloud at Post 80 and new officers were elected. I am pleased to tell you your new Commander beginning in July will be Sonny Perchitti from Squadron 55 in Clermont. Sonny brings many years of experience leading Squadron 55. Assisting him as Vice Commander, Richard Blanton from Old Glory Squadron 183 Altamonte Springs will be returning for another year. Congratulations gentlemen and I wish you well in the coming year.

Our Membership Delegate cutoff is coming to a close on May 30th. We are still trailing District 12. We are at 101.52% and District 12 is ahead at 103.84% as of Friday 5/07/25. Unless something drastically happens, we will again be using the Golden Throne to run our meetings. Please pull out all the stops and do what you can to get those renewals in. I would love to see District 12 keep it for another year. On a high note, our Detachment Commander Rocky Cirigliano has led us to our 30th consecutive all-time high in membership. Congratulations to Rocky and the entire Detachment for reaching this milestone.

Remember, "End of Year" reports were due May 15th. Thanks to all the Squadrons that have sent in their reports and copied me. If you have not sent in your reports, please get them in ASAP to Christian. Also please send me a copy of your reports. Remember I am only a phone call or email away if you have questions and need help. Please feel free to contact to me at: dannyroe@prodigy.net for any needs you may have.

For God and Country,
Danny Roe
District 6 Commander
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



ANDY CAMPBELL

DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER
DISTRICT12@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from the 12th District!

First and foremost, thanks to all the squadrons for getting their membership renewals and new members in thus far! We have all but 3 Squadrons over 100% as of this letter and hoping that they get up to 100% by May 31st.

It is reporting time again and as of this letter I have 6 Squadrons with 100% of their reporting in. Reporting is very important to get done as this reflects to Congress the amount of dollars we donate thru miles, hours and donations. So lets please get these in. If you need help I can help you with them just email or call me.

We have had elections for the District 12 officers. Let me introduce these.

Commander – Andy Campbell

Vice Commander – Gary Raymond

Sgt-at-Arms – JD Lance

Asst-Sgt-at-Arms – James Reed

Judge Advocate – Bruce Walkowiak

Lastly Convention is coming up. We would ask that you attend and pay for your delegates. It is from June 12th thru the 15th and the agenda can be found here: <https://floridasons.org/detachment-convention/>.

If you would like something on the District 12 Facebook page please email me the flyer and I will get it up there!

For God and Country,

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



Detachment of Florida,

It is that time of year! Convention time. All reports should be worked on for year end. These year end reports let everyone know what we do as a Detachment for our Veterans, Children & Youth, and Communities. We do so much.

Our year continues to move along, and you guys continue to bring on the surprises. We have lots to be thankful for and I am excited to see how our year finishes. Membership has another opportunity for the "TRIPLE NICKLE AWARD, Member Training and Development is putting together some much needed training materials to hopefully be given at Convention, and we have a National Convention coming to Tampa and the Tampa Bay Area, what more could we ask for. We are having another banner year, and we need to let our records show that with our Squadron reports that are coming due before the Convention. Get those reports in.

I have been and will continue to talk about acronyms as they are a big topic of discussion for me. Why? Because most of our membership do not encounter the acronyms we are using, and they will not ask what they are. We are failing them by not using full description with the acronyms until our membership understands their meaning. I as Internal Affairs Chairman and Past Detachment Commander ask, we the Detachment of Florida stop USING ACRONYMS, so we do a better job of educating our membership on what these acronyms mean and how to use them if needed. Please continue to educate our membership.

COMMUNICATIONS

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 (roughly 425 signed up out 25,00+) which is roughly 1.5% of the Detachment. If you are not signed up, WHY? 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 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. Area & District Commanders, you can help with this issue by talking with your Squadrons during your visits and help them to help us get the much needed information distributed. This is another item that needs great attention and correction.

Our Detachment Adjutant and I have noticed over the past few weeks that our members, Squadron Officers and our Detachment Officers are "NOT READING" completely the emails that are being distributed. They are skimming over and not reading the complete message or instructions given and it has already caused some early issues with reporting. We really need to work on these issues moving forward and thank you in advance for your understanding and action.

As our Detachment continues to grow it now becomes increasingly more important for us to mentor our membership and Officers and not downgrade or belittle someone because he does act or dress as we do. We have a lot of talented people within the Detachment, and we need to tap these individuals and not cut them off. We need to work with the ones that are interested and educate them to help them become better members and have a better understanding of our organization and how it operates.

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT (MT&D)

Member Training & Development continues to work on training needs for our Detachment. Him and his Committee are making plans for another great training opportunity at our upcoming Convention. Please Contact the Detachment Member Training & Development Chairman Peter Puzzo, on your interest of hold training classes for your Squadron, in your District or Area. His contact information can be found on our website www.floridasons.com . We need to make every attempt to educate our members to support our growth and development.

MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Paul Stawicki has the Drivers all in order. The race to the top is on and I am sure it will be a true battle to the top as we work on our 100% target and another all-time high. Congratulations to all the Divers and Pit Crews for their hard work. Let's leave no one behind. On a special note, let's keep focus on the main prize ---105% by delegate cutoff. Congratulations on the I believe we have 5 new Squadrons and this opens the door for the "TRIPLE NICKLE". Chairman Stawicki will be advising everyone on this great opportunity for the Detachment. We have a lot going on with membership as our numbers continue to grow. It is becoming more and more important that everyone is involved in membership and that the growth of our Squadrons and Detachment get the attention of everyone. One Driver and No one Team can do it all. It Take everyone one the track making the same laps and racing the same race!!! **Let's go RACING!!!**

SOURCE

The "SOURCE". What is it? It is the newsletter for the Detachment of Florida that is published monthly and ALL ARTICLES ARE DUE IN BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH. NO EXCEPTION!! The date change is to get in line with Headquarters and open up the opportunity on our "Source" being distributed to the American Legion Post and memberships on their list. More complete communication for the Legion Family. The only thing missing is YOUR 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 importance 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 submitting 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)

All Squadrons should have received a 2026 Squadron Data Report Form in report packet from Department Headquarters. On the right side if you have submitted in the past this information will be bold. If you have "NO CHANGES" you need not submit the required form. If you have any changes/corrections you make them on the left side of the page. Mark the box at the top correction or change, sign, date and email to sdr@floridasons.org. Any questions please contact me at IA@floridasons.org and I will be glad to discuss with you. I hope to have good solid information soon.

SQUADRON REPORTING

It is getting to that time of year we need to prepare for our year end reporting. Several District are planning and/or having District reporting meetings to help all Squadrons within a District get the required paperwork completed and turned in in a timely manner.

Such items are:

Squadron Officer Informational Form – This form is very important and needs to be completed and sent in.

District Officer Forms – Completed after District Constitutional Conference.

Squadron Data Report Form (SDR)

New Squadron or Never Completed one.

Submit ONLY if your Squadron has CHANGES.

Squadron Consolidated Report Forms-CRS

Detachment Squadron Consolidated Report Form – SCR- Before Convention

National Squadrons Consolidated Report Form – SCR

BOTH SQUADRON CONSOLIDATED REPORT FORMS NEED TO BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN IN A TIMELY MANNER.

All the forms can be found on our web site at www.floridasons.org

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:**

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.



**DETACHMENT
OF FLORIDA**



PETER PUZZO

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN
MTD@GMAIL.COM



GREETINGS FROM MEMBERSHIP TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT!

As this year winds down, it's time to look back on the 'developments' of 2025 in the area of Training. 3 Districts took advantage of our Training Programs. We held Sessions at the Fall Conference on Leadership, Area Vice Commander & District Commander Responsibilities, All Committees & Commissions addressed their goals & ideas, and we had some very good interaction amongst the attendees.

We have begun work on a Detachment Training Program that we, quite honestly, believe will be the next coming of the SAL University System. We completed a Chain of Command and Communication Guide for Squadron Usage. Info-Grams are being updated and provided by request.

With all of that going on, if your Squadron didn't hear about these things, it time to contact your District Officers and find out why. I have always believed that 'mandates' & 'regulations' flow from the top down, while training and responsibility flow from the ground upward. I have set my sights on 2026 as the next step in training our membership in what we are all about, where we have been, and where we are going. I will have some new MTD members this year, and I hope to get additional ideas and thoughts from them.

Last thought, as you elect your Squadron & District Officers, please give thought to what Training would be beneficial to them as well as you. Email me at mtd@floridasons.org anytime, and I will get back to you. If you have trouble emailing me, text me at 772-532-6511. Ensure to include your name, Squadron, District or Area.

GOOD LUCK & LET'S HIT THE GROUND RUNNING!

For God and Country,
Peter Puzzo

Chairman | Member Training & Development Committee
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



STEVE GORDON

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN
COMMUNITY@FLORIDASONS.ORG



As our membership year is coming to a close, I would like to thank Detachment Commander Cirigliano for appointing me to Chair the Community Affairs Committee. It's been my pleasure serving the Detachment in that capacity.

I'm hoping to see an increase in year end reports. I know that our Squadrons are all working the programs and should be taking credit for the work they're doing. You need to let everyone know what you've done to help better your Post, Squadron, Community, and the Detachment. Imagine what our numbers would look like if we had 100% reporting.

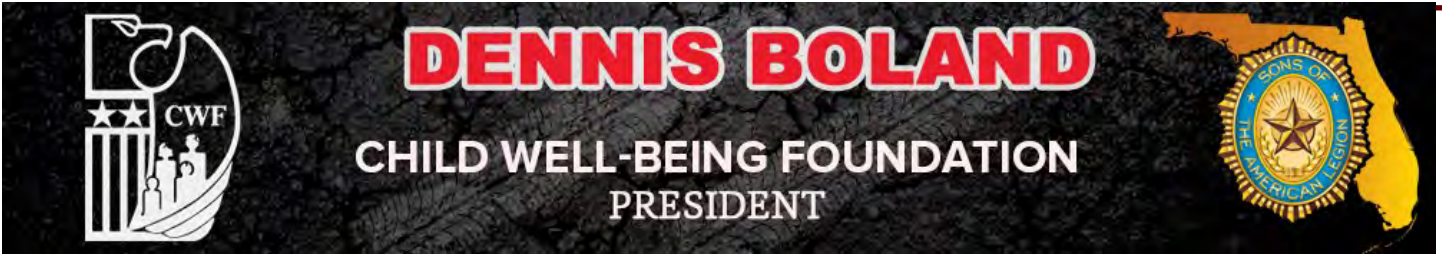
Thank you all for what you do.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Convention.

For God and Country

Steve Gordon

Chairman | Community Affairs Committee
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida Legislative Commission accompanied The American Legion Since its founding in 1954, the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation, Inc. (CWF) has awarded more than \$20 million in grants to improve the lives of children. The foundation's mission is to contribute to the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual welfare of children and youth by awarding grants that support beneficial research, studies, surveys, projects, programs, and other initiatives.

CWF has provided funds to help educate the public about topics such as Huntington's disease, juvenile diabetes, shaken baby syndrome, autism, meningitis, Marfan syndrome, and court-appointed advocates. The American Legion covers the foundation's overhead costs, so 100 percent of CWF contributions go directly to helping Children.

At the regular Board of Directors meeting this past October 2024, we awarded 13 children's organizations \$852,593 for 2025.

The Contributions year runs from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025

CONTRIBUTIONS BY DEPARTMENTS SINCE JUNE 1, 2024

Florida American Legion Family Donations

8/40	\$186.80
Auxiliary	\$17,630
Individuals	\$355
Legion	\$16,218
SAL	\$16,886.5
TOTAL	\$51,276.38

American Legion Department Totals

PLACE	LEGION	AUXILIARY	SAL
1ST	Pennsylvania - \$52,477.58	Florida - \$17,630	Pennsylvania - \$33,462.62
2nd	Massachusetts - \$19,112.14	Minnesota -\$4,557.50	Colorado - \$25,836.00
3rd	Florida - \$16,218.00	Wisconsin- \$4,217.00	Florida - \$16,886.58

All donations calculations time period will end on May 31, 2025

Contributions may be sent to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206





CHRISTIAN M RAPP

CO-EDITOR OF 'THE SOURCE'
THESOURCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

THIS IS THE LAST EDITION OF 'THE SOURCE' FOR THE 2024-2025 SERVICE YEAR. THERE WILL BE NO EDITION PUBLISHED IN JULY. THE DUE DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FIRST EDITION OF THE 2025-2026 SERVICE YEAR WILL BE JULY 15.

The due date for submitting articles for 'The Source' is **the 15th of each month**. This will keep us inline with the Department of Florida and their publication of '[The Legion Link](#)'. Additionally, we're working with the Department to aid in distribution to their members that receive 'The Legion Link'. ***The more people we can cover with our information will make us stronger.***

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 [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!



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION - DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA



THE SOURCE



CLARENCE HILL

THE AMERICAN LEGION
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER 2010-2011
2025 TAMPA CONVENTION CORP PRESIDENT



The latest from Clarence Hill, PNC, 2025 Tampa Convention Corporation President

The Chairpersons of the various committees are as follows: Badges and Packets: Keith Berres; Distinguished Guests: Dennis Boland; Information/Registration: James Burk; Memorial Service/ Special Events: Karen Warren; and Liaison: Don Hinst. The Chairpersons are putting their teams together and will be contacting or have contacted those who have volunteered. I have forwarded to them the volunteer forms submitted thus far and will continue to provide them as I receive them. Most of you volunteered for multiple committees so may be hearing from more than one chairperson.

As of this input, the State Legislature hasn't passed the budget yet, so we don't know the status of our request for transportation money or Boys/Girls State money. Post/Auxiliary/SAL/Riders donations and fundraisers would also be most welcome. The Chairpersons are contacting volunteers to put their committees together. I have forwarded to them the volunteer forms submitted thus far and will continue to provide them as I receive them. Most of you volunteered for multiple committees so you may be hearing from more than one of the Chairpersons. I will meet with the Chairpersons at the Department Convention in June to finalize plans, and the Chairpersons will be meeting with national just prior to the national convention.

I have stressed that this is an immense project that Florida has taken on, and the importance of your support, donations and volunteering will be critical to its success. We'll probably need between 50 and 100 volunteers. Deadlines will start moving faster as we get closer. 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. This is a great opportunity to showcase Florida. If you can help in any way or have any ideas, please provide them. If you can volunteer in any way, we need you. **The volunteer form is on Floridalegion.org.**

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

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

SIGN UP AT floridalegion.org/volunteer2025 OR page 24

2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE



The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida
2025 Tampa National Convention Committee
Chairman Bill Kelly

Committeeman Ed Sheubrooks, Jim Roberts,
Gerard Sambets, Christian Rapp & Detachment Commander Rocky
Cirligiano

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.

If any Squadron in the Tampa Area near the Convention Center would like to do an event for the Convention attendees, Please Contact the Committee.

 AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE



SPOTLIGHT

'The Source Spotlight' is a feature of our newsletter where members have an opportunity to highlight something special that has happened at their posts, districts or areas. All members are encouraged to submit items for this feature.

Article by Paulie Micieli, Squadron Commander of Squadron 305 | St Pete Beach:

On a bright sunny Sunday afternoon this past April 27th, the American Legion Post 305 in Sunny St. Pete Beach hosted a fund raiser event to help with donations to rebuild their American Legion Post 158 in Treasure Island. Post 158 was totally wiped out due to the heavy flooding from Hurricane Helena back in Late September of 2024.

It was truly a great day where both legion families of Post 305 and Post 158 came together to coordinate a huge fund-raising event on that day. Post 305 was filled to capacity with many American Legion family members and officers from our 16th district along with many officers from Our S.A.L. Detachment of FL. The S.A.L. Squadron 158 donated the food, and they were behind the grill cooking up some great burgers and brats! The S.A.L. of Squadron 305 donated some great live music with having some of the local bands entertaining with some awesome Classic Rock!

A huge Thanks goes out to many of our S.A.L. Detachment officers that attended the event as they helped with donations for the cause. This fund-raising event was truly a demonstration of how great our American Legion Family, along with many of our Florida Department and Detachment Officers that attended this great event on that day to help assist an American Legion Post in need.

A special thank you to Christian Rapp from Squadron 323 in Lehigh Acres, located in the 13th District. He presented the Post and Squadron Commanders from Post 158 a check from his squadron to help with the Hurricane Relief Efforts.



 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
FAMILY

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY

 **SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
RIDERS





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

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

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

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

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



OFFICE OF:	CANDIDATE
DETACHMENT COMMANDER	Michael Nigbor Squadron 303 – Bonita Springs
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER WEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER NORTH	Denton ‘Shay’ Woods Squadron 77 – Inverness Arthur Palecek Squadron 383 – Old Town
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER EAST	Danny Roe Squadron 347 – Lady Lake
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL	Michael ‘Tank’ Sherman Squadron 138 – Tampa
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTHWEST	Robert ‘Buzzard’ Medley Squadron 312 – Oneco
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTH	Michael Mathias Squadron 164 – Boynton Beach
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN <small>2 YEAR APPOINTMENT</small>	William D Kelly, JR Squadron 137 – Jacksonville
ALT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN <small>2 YEAR APPOINTMENT</small>	Gerard Sambets Squadron 275 – Dunedin
DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN	Raymond Leventhal Squadron 323 – Lehigh Acres
DETACHMENT HISTORIAN	Brian R Patt Squadron 158 – Treasure Island
DETACHMENT SEARGENT-AT-ARMS	Stanley Borowy Squadron 103 – Punta Gorda Ken Arrant Squadron 119 – Largo

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

DISTRICT VICE COMMANDERS

DISTRICT 1		
DISTRICT 2		
DISTRICT 3	Brian Wolfe Squadron 57 – Lake City	Delbert ‘Stan’ Gaddis Squadron 383 – Old Town
DISTRICT 4	Steven McKim Squadron 77 – Inverness	John ‘Jack’ Bennett Squadron 284 – Belleview
DISTRICT 5		
DISTRICT 6		
DISTRICT 7		
DISTRICT 8	Mark Kahn Squadron 69 – Avon Park	Richard Butler Squadron 113 – Rotonda West
DISTRICT 9	Jesse Bogle Squadron 180 – Plantation	
DISTRICT 11		
DISTRICT 12	Andy Campbell Squadron 117 – Palm Bay	Gary Raymond Squadron 394 – Palm Bay
DISTRICT 13	Mitchell Pace Squadron 323 – Lehigh Acres	Christopher Ellsworth Squadron 323 – Lehigh Acres
DISTRICT 14		
DISTRICT 15	Eric Rikansrud Squadron 138 – Tampa	Victor Kelly Squadron 138 – Tampa
DISTRICT 16	Robert Huddle Squadron 173 – Holiday	
DISTRICT 17	David Campbell Squadron 115 – Bunnell Mark Wiemelt Squadron 120 – Holly Hill	Michael Cheverier Squadron 120 – Holly Hill

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
53RD ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA**



This is a tentative schedule with meeting locations. Locations and times are subject to change.

Thursday, June 12, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Delegate Registration** **Grand 5-8**

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **MT&D Training Sessions**

Leadership Training – Communication/Chain of Command – Mentoring – Hallowed Ground – Flag Etiquette

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **2025 Legion Family Kick-Off Party** **Poolside**

Celebrate our convention with free beer, wine, and refreshments while supplies last. A cash bar will be available. DJ MJ will provide music. All American Legion Family members are invited to attend.

Friday, June 13, 2025

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Delegate Registration** **Grand 5-8**

8:00 am. - 9:00 a.m. **Detachment Executive Committee Meeting** **Grand 5-8**

9:00 am. – 10:30 a.m. **Detachment Commission and Committee Meetings** **Grand 5-8**

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Opening Session** **-**

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1:00pm – 5:00pm **Session Resumes** **Grand 5-8**

Committee and commission reports and awards. Session resumes Saturday, June 15 at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 14, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Delegate Registration** **Grand 5-8**

8:30 a.m. **Session Resumes** **Grand 5-8**

Memorial service, completion of committee and commission reports, general business, area caucuses

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch Break** **-**

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Election and Installation of Detachment Officers** **Grand 5-8**

2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Post Detachment Executive Committee Meeting** **Grand 5-8**

3:00p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Leadership Workshop / Ambassador Instruction** **Grand 5-8**

Sunday, June 15, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Religious Service** **Palm 1-2**

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA 53RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO, FL



DETACHMENT COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2025-2026



Name: _____ Squadron: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DELIVERY METHOD

☐ Pick Up at Legion HQ Orlando ☐ Pick Up at Dept Convention ☐ Delivery*

**An additional shipping fee of \$10 is required for delivery.*

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. You will be notified before shipment.

Shipping Address (If Delivery): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SHIRT OPTIONS Enter Quantity for each style/size.

Style	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty	Size	Qty
Men's	XS		S		M		L		XL		2X		3X		4X	

TOTAL

Shirts are **\$38 each*** with two lines of personalization** included. See next page for options.
If tax-exempt, provide an exemption form if not already on file.

***Extended sizes:** 2XL +\$2.00 ea., 3XL +\$5.00 ea., 4XL +6.00 ea.

****Up to 20 characters per line, including spaces and special characters.**

☐ Check here
if tax exempt.

Subtotal \$ 0.00

Tax (6.5%) \$ 0.00

Delivery \$ 0.00

Grand Total \$ 0.00

PAYMENT

Please return form and payment to Department Headquarters: **Email** (emblemsales@floridalegion.org) | **Fax** (407-299-0901)
Mail (The American Legion, Dept of FL; Attn: Emblem Sales, PO Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854)

☐ Cash

☐ Check # _____

☐ Credit Card

Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Holder Name: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

P.O. BOX 547859
ORLANDO, FL 32854-7859

www.floridalegion.org

TOLL FREE (800) 393-3378
FAX (407) 299-0901



DETACHMENT COMMANDER SHIRT ORDER FORM 2025-2026

PERSONALIZATION You are allowed up to **two lines** of personalization, with up to **20 characters** on each line, including spaces and special characters. (Line 1 example: First Name Last Name. Line 2 example: Squadron # Title)

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

Style: Men's ST361 Line 1: _____

Qty: _____ Size: XS Line 2: _____

By signing below, I agree that I have verified the information provided as correct and free of errors. I acknowledge that The American Legion, Department of Florida is NOT responsible for incorrect information provided.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

P.O. BOX 547859
ORLANDO, FL 32854-7859

www.floridalegion.org

TOLL FREE (800) 393-3378
FAX (407) 299-0901

1940s BIG BAND PARTY

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

1940s STYLE DINNER SERVED 5-7PM

1940s SNACKS AND FINGER FOODS ARE WELCOME!



MUSIC 6PM - 9PM BY

Bouncer
entertainment

BASKET
RAFFLES

50/50
RAFFLE

DRESS IN
40s ATTIRE

TICKETS
\$10



AMERICAN LEGION POST 323
1124 ASHLAR AVENUE | LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33936
(BEHIND BURGER KING)



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 25,000 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 15th of every month.***

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