VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3
OCTOBER 2025



MICHAEL NIGBOR

DETACHMENT COMMANDER
COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG





COMMUNICATE
ACT
RECRUIT
EDUCATE

RID

0

FL

ш

0

Z H

×

ETACH

Z

LEGIO

 \mathbf{Z}

RICA

HE AME

ONSOF

Greetings Team!

I have been busy visiting squadrons and am feeling blessed to have such a great team of dedicated Sons that are taking C.A.R.E. of business and teaching our members all about the good work we do. I attended District 6 meeting in Winter Garden. Detachment District Commander Louis "Sonny" Perchitti ran a very informative meeting and had the MT & D staff present to participate. Chairman Peter Puzzo, PDC George Aichele, Past District Commander David Campbell and District 9 Vice Commander Sam Aloi conducted a very informative session. Thank you to District Commander Perchetti and Area Vice Commander Danny Roe for inviting us. A special thank you to Commander Perchitti for his personal check to our charity, C.O.T.A, and the presentation of another check from the Sons of The American Legion Squadron of The South Lake Memorial Post 55 for C.O.T.A.

On September 11th, there were many Patriot Memorial Ceremonies. On the weekend of the 12th, I spent a few days in District 5 for several events including a fantastic 80th birthday celebration on the pier of the USS Orleck. NEC Bill Kelly represented his Post 137 in the Color Guard and Squadron 137 Commander Jim Steele played taps. Detachment District Commander Darien Smith and his Squadron 9, along with Squadrons 197 and 129, presented the Aisle of Flags for the USS Orleck event. It was a stunning event. I then traveled to Post 137 for their Annual First Responders Dinner. There were more than 200 dinners served and delivered for the event. The last stop was Commander Smith inviting me to his post's annual steak fry and flag retirement ceremony. Several Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts along with their Officers conducted the ceremony. It was a great job by all and it was a very special presentation.

Sunday September 14 was District 5 meeting at Post 88. The S.A.L. was first to present. Commander Smith did a wonderful job talking about our Detachment programs stressing the importance of getting our younger people more involved with The American Legion. I gave a brief synopsis of our goals and expectations and thanked everyone for their support.

Commander Smith and I stayed for the Department meeting. Commander Miguel Garcia gave me an opportunity to speak. I gave thanks from the entire Detachment of Florida to the Veterans for their service and told them how much we honor those dual members that have joined us. Commander Garcia discussed the growing concern on the issue of conflict resolutions and how people respond negatively to it on social media. Though we are all entitled to freedom of speech, it is important that as a member of The American Legion, we have a moral duty to "act" in a way that is considered right or just. Note the word, "Act" from our mission, C.A.R.E. Act nicely. If you are having a conflict at your post, have a civil conversation. If you can't solve the issue, agree to disagree and walk away. As a member of The American Legion, do not post your issue or insult the person on social media. There are possible charges in The Constitution and By Laws that you may face from your Legion Post.

One last item of business is membership. It is the mortar to our foundation and the key to our future. At this point, there should be no Zero percentages. We need to work harder to help these zero squadrons. Let's figure out the problem with these squadrons and find solutions to help them.

HE SOURCE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

INSIDE IHIS ISSUE	
Detachment Commander	1-2
Adjutant's Corner	3-4
Membership	5
Detachment Chaplain	6
Area Commanders	7-9
District Commanders	10
Internal Affairs	11-12
Committees & Commissions	13-14
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER LEGION	15
Letter From The Editor	16
Joyce Cirigliano	17
Announcements	18
MAILING LIST QR CODE	LAST PG

2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:

September 10, 2025	10%	ACHIEVED!
October 15, 2025	25%	ACHIEVED!
November 13, 2025	35%	
December 10, 2025	45%	
January 14, 2026	60%	
February 11, 2026	75%	
March 1, 2026 *	80%	
April 8, 2026	90%	
May 13, 2026	100%	
May 28, 2026**	105%	

(Detachment Commander Continued)

Reach out to your Post Commanders, Area Vice Commanders, and District Officers. This is their job. See how many of their veterans can be dual members. Help these squadrons survive. **C.A.R.E.** Teach them how to recruit, renew, rejoin and retain.

I am sharing this from an email I received. "Every great movement starts with a single step." The Sons of The American Legion was founded in 1932, created to honor the service and sacrifice of American Legionnaires by welcoming male descendants of veterans into an organization rooted in patriotism, duty, and community spirit.

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together". Our mission is more than numbers. It is about supporting veterans, teaching citizenship and patriotism, and helping those in need. **C.A.R.E.** We had a fantastic year last year, let's keep the momentum moving forward.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. I am proud to call us a team. Florida Strong, Sons of The American Legion Strong. **#SALCares.**

For God and Country,
Michael Nigbor
Detachment Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida





CHRISTIAN M RAPP

DETACHMENT ADJUTANT ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

September is here! National Convention is behind us, Installation Season is complete and our winter residents should start returning. We're all going to get into our busy season with our events and membership. My article this month will hopefully provide you some tips to help make your year successful.

FALL CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 21-23 AT CARIBE ROYALE ORLANDO

As you start preparing for your new year, do not forget to reserve your rooms for our annual Fall Conference. Fall Conference is an important mid-year meeting for us. Not only do we discuss important business, but it is your chance to get training on various topics both from the Florida Sons of The American Legion and the Florida American Legion. (Yes, the SAL are welcome to participate in some of the American Legion training sessions.). The Detachment of Florida Member Training and Development team has not yet finalized their training sessions. If there is something you would like training on, please reach out to MT&D Chairman Pete Puzzo at mtd@floridasons.org and discuss your needs. The Department of Florida does not have all of their classes set yet, but you can keep an eye on what's offered by checking https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/fall-conference/classes/ periodically before the Conference.

If you or your squadron is planning to attend, don't delay in reserving your rooms. The cut-off date for reserving rooms is **OCTOBER 30, 2025.** You can find up-to-date hotel information on the Department of Florida website at https://www.floridalegion.org/news-events/fall-conference/hotel-information/

COMMUNICATION

Last month, I spoke about the urgent need to strengthen communication throughout our Detachment. This isn't a new topic - leadership has emphasized it time and again. But let me ask: at the Squadron level, what have you done to improve communication?

With the digital age and rising postage costs, many American Legion Families no longer produce monthly or bimonthly newsletters. Instead, they post calendars, news, and events on social media. But social media has its limits. Between politics, negativity, endless ads, and privacy concerns, many people (myself included) are moving away from it. Posting information only at your Post Home isn't enough either - it only reaches members who regularly stop by. What about first-time members we need to retain? Seasonal residents? Or older members who can't visit as often as they used to? They shouldn't be left feeling forgotten.

Email is one of the most reliable ways to stay connected. More people check their email daily than social media feeds. One simple, effective tool you can use is a free Google Group. With the updated membership card forms and applications, we're now supposed to collect email addresses—use them! You can build your Squadron's mailing list quickly.

- Gmail addresses can be added directly.
- Non-Google addresses require an invite.

When inviting members, reassure them that their information is safe and will never be shared with third parties. To make things easier, I've included sample invite messages you can copy and paste.

If you're interested in setting up a group and need help, I'll gladly assist. And if you do create one, please add me: cmrappfloridasal@gmail.com.

District and Area Commanders - consider creating groups for your respective Districts and Areas as well.

EMAIL WELCOME MESSAGES

DIRECT ADD

You have been added to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron XXX email group! We use this group to share our weekly membership reports, monthly newsletter and calendar and to share other important information for the members of our Squadron. We do not share your information with any other parties, nor do we send out spam.

INVITE

You have been invited to join the Sons of the American Legion Squadron XXX email group! We use this group to share our weekly membership reports, monthly newsletter and calendar and to share other important information for the members of our Squadron. We do not share your information with any other parties, nor do we send out spam.

(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

SOCIAL MEDIA

It is important for all of us—especially Detachment Officers—to be mindful of what we post on social media. We must always conduct ourselves in a positive and respectful manner, whether we are wearing the Sons of The American Legion cover, displaying the emblem on our apparel, or representing the organization online.



Social media is a powerful tool that allows us to promote our programs, highlight our accomplishments, and showcase the good work we do. However, one inappropriate post can undo the hard work of many and damage the reputation of our organization.

When posting on any American Legion Family page(s), please keep in mind the following guidelines established by The American Legion:

DON'T:

- Post, share, or tweet any content that does not reflect the mission of the Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion, or the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Post or share content that portrays the Sons of The American Legion or the American Legion Family in a negative light.
- Post or share political advertisements, statements, jokes, or overtly political photos. The American Legion is a non-partisan organization.
- Link to sites or pages that do not support the same goals or mission as the Sons of The American Legion or The American Legion.
- Smear, insult, or otherwise damage the reputation of individuals, public figures, or other organizations.

Finally, we must also be cautious about what we post on our **personal pages.** Even there, our actions can reflect on our Posts and our American Legion Family. Let us all work together to ensure that our online presence upholds the dignity, integrity, and mission of the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family.

SQUADRON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (CBLs)

Every squadron needs to have a set of Constitution and Bylaws. As of Convention in June, only 42/194 Squadrons in the Detachment have a copy on file. Many of these were written years ago (2010s) and never looked at If your Squadron has CBLS, they should be reviewed every five (5) years.



Judge Advocate, Jim Roberts, will be happy to check if Detachment/Department has a copy on file for you. Please email him at **judgeadvocate@floridasons.org**. If your Squadron does not have CBLs, Judge Advocate Roberts has created a template that you can use to get started. This template can be found on the **floridasons.org** website under the **RESOURCES** menu.

DISASTER RELIEF DONATIONS

We are in the peak of Hurricane Season and have been very fortunate for the first half. If you have lived in Florida for any length of time, you know the second half of the season is when the conditions in the Gulf are at the best for sustaining hurricanes. There have been changes at the **NATIONAL LEVEL** last year where the SAL is no longer able to make a claim and get assistance if a disaster strikes. This is not right, as the SAL has donated so much to the program since its inception.



The American Legion Department of Florida has assured us that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida will never be forgotten. We have been assured that, if there is a disaster in Florida, the SAL would be able to get assistance from them. If your Squadron would like to donate to Disaster Relief, please keep it in Florida.

All donations for The American Legion Department of Florida Disaster Relief will be kept in Florida and used to help **OUR** Legionnaires and **OUR** Sons of The American Legion. If your squadron would like to donate, checks should be made out to *The American Legion Department of Florida*. In the memo blank, please be sure to include the words 'Disaster Relief'.

Mail your checks to:

The American Legion, Department of Florida Attn: Disaster Relief 1912A Lee Road Orlando, FL 32810

Additionally, you can donate online at https://give.floridalegion.org/campaign/622447/donate

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp

Detachment Adjutant

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



PAUL STAWICKI

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MEMBERSHIP@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen.

As we round the corner to the 1st Quarter of our 2025-2026 Year and our 25% Goal for October, we are working our way through the weeks and getting us through to our Goals. We still are not conquering our one Major shortfall and that is of course, **COMMUNICATION!** Currently, there seems to be a mindset within our Detachment with some, that we can coast through and still reach our goal. While this approach may yield short-term results, it is unsustainable for continued success. I have repeatedly requested that you update me via text, email, or phone call, especially regarding squadrons that are lagging or remaining stagnant each week.

To date, I have received a response from only one District Commander in District 9 and one Squadron Commander from Squadron #415 Babcock Ranch. The rest were silent? We have currently 11 Districts with Zero Squadrons and these need to be addressed **NOW!** Not all your conversations with me need to focus on negative issues. Most of the Squadrons are doing a great job. Many squadrons are excelling, and I would appreciate learning about their successful strategies. I would love to know what they are doing to succeed so we can tell the rest of the Squadrons and perhaps help them.

Let us recall a line from our Preamble with explanation:

"To consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;"

'Not only are we here to help each other, we are here to help the men and women who put their life on the line for us. We are here to help others because we can. This is why we joined. This is why we stand and recite the Preamble before every meeting.'

By our October 9th Goal we should be well past our 25% needed. I know we will have another OUTSTANDING YEAR. It will be because The Detachment of Florida Sons of The American Legion is the Best Detachment in the Nation. The last 30 years of Membership growth and Charity money donated speaks for itself.

Get 'Er Done Be A Son

#SALCares

For God and Country,

Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida

YOU	
	BERSHIP
MAT	TERS

10%	ACHIEVED!	
	ACHIEVED!	\bigcirc
25%	ACHIEVED!	Ø
35%		
45%		
60%		
75%		
80%		
90%		
100%		
105%		
	35% 45% 60% 75% 80% 90% 100%	35% 45% 60% 75% 80% 90% 100%

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

RENEWAL POSTCARD MAIL DATE

RECEIVING DATES

1ST NOTICE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

SEPT 28 – OCT 3, 2025

2ND NOTICE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026

FEB 22 – 28, 2026

3RD NOTICE: APRIL 9, 2026

APRI 26 - MAY 2,



RAYMOND LEVENTHAL

DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN CHAPLAIN@FLORIDASONS.ORG



FAITH. FORGIVENESS AND FELLOWSHIP

The rights of free American citizens are granted, as written in our founding documents and known in the hearts of the faithful, by God himself. It was this heartfelt truth that gave our founding fathers and grandfathers the impetus to break away from the monarchies of men and yield to the true King, our Lord God.

Over time, our society seems to have pushed this truth far into the background noise of life and life's demands, but as this happens, we devolve into a society that is farther from Him, rather than one in strict and intimate fellowship with Him. Fellowship with the Creator is what He seeks, and it is what strong, faithful men and women call out for in both public and private. This intimacy, this connection – it cannot be faked and it cannot be denied. Seek in Him through good times and bad, and He will never fail you. This has been the truth from the beginning of time, when mankind and the earth were mere wisps of thought, long before God Himself waved his hand and brought it into being.

Given the tragic death of a young man, father, husband and Christian, we must remember to re-focus on His word and His plan. God's plan for His children is to be forgiving and kind. We must forgive those who transgress against us for our own sake, not the transgressor's. To move on with our lives and to further God's plan, we must free ourselves from the bondage of hatred and revenge and that is done through forgiveness. Remember, however, that God's justice and God's judgment will come. If there is to be vengeance it will be His, as we've read throughout time in all Holy Scriptures.

Now, to forgive does not mean to forget. To forgive does not mean anything more than to free ourselves to move forward. Remember that while lady justice is blind, she carries both the scales and the sword. Punishment to those who violate man's rules in a society is her's to deliver in this life....it is God's to deliver for eternity.

It is with this thought in my heart that I write this. It is with the ongoing prayer that our nation will re-awaken to the one Truth: that God created us, that God loves us, that we are His children and that when we find fellowship with Him, we find peace of heart, peace of mind and most importantly, peace and eternal life of our soul.

America is the greatest country in the world. We, the faithful followers of His word, form His body on earth and must continue to live lives of virtue, faith, honesty and righteousness.

My friends, I pray peace and fellowship with Him to all of you, especially our immediate Past Detachment Commander, Rocky Cirigliano who, last month, lost his life partner, wife and soulmate, Joyce. We are consoled by the knowledge that she rests peacefully in the loving arms of our Lord God and it is my hope that we will all keep Rocky in our prayers, that his soul be comforted by this knowledge and also by the ongoing brotherhood and love we have for him.

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

For God and Country,

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





MICHAEL 'TANK' SHERMAN

VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL AREA VCCENTRAL@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from the Central Area!

It's hard to believe October is here already.

On September 21st, I had the honor of accompanying Detachment Commander Nigbor and several Detachment and District 16 officers to Post 119 in Largo for Squadron 119's meatloaf dinner supporting Commander Nigbor's charity, COTA. It was an amazing event. The band, Time Banditz, played an excellent set and played a variety of music from the 60s to the 2000s (and the bassist was our very own Detachment Assistant Sergeant at Arms Scott Waters!). The meatloaf was amazingly delicious and the camaraderie and fellowship with my fellow Sons was good for the soul. Around \$1,500 in checks were presented to COTA from various people and squadrons in attendance.

The representative from COTA told us about a feature on the COTA website that allows you to search for COTA families in your area. You can go to https://cota.org/find-a-family/, enter your zip code, and see different COTA families that need support, right in your back yard. I talked with the Detachment Commander about it after dinner and came up with an idea. I am issuing a challenge to every squadron in the Central Area (or any other squadron reading this article). Go to that site. Find a family near you. Have your squadron adopt that family. When you hold events to raise money for COTA, not only can you support the Detachment Commander's charity, but you can also make it personal and put a name and face to your efforts and support a family in your local community. If you do adopt a family, all the money you raise in their name goes directly to them. Depending on the family and their situation, you may be able to have them in attendance at your events by coordinating with COTA. If you choose to accept my challenge, or have any questions about it, please reach out and let me know. I would love to hear about the family you decide to support and would love to attend any events you plan to hold for them.

On September 27th, I was able to attend the quarterly 16th District meeting at Post 252 in Seminole. 13 out of 14 Squadrons were in attendance with around 36 total members present. They had a special guest speaker, Esther Valiente, from STEPS to Recovery, Inc., which is 16th District Commander Rob Huddle's charity of choice this year. She talked about how STEPS is a 501(c)3 located in New Port Richey whose mission is to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans dealing with substance abuse and mental health issues. I commend Commander Huddle for his choice of charity and encourage you to check them out at www.stepsfl.com and support them if you can.

As I mentioned in last month's article, the Central Area ball will be on Saturday March 7th at Post 7 in Clearwater in District 16 this year. It will be a Margaritaville themed casino party with a Jimmy Buffet inspired buffet! You can check out all the details on the attached flyer or on Facebook! We'll once again be splitting the proceeds between the Department Commander, Detachment Commander, and Department President's charities, Special Olympics, COTA, and Florida ALA Disaster Relief. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or to RSVP. We will be reaching out to our posts, squadrons, and units for volunteers, donations, and raffle baskets at a later date, and there will also be sponsorship opportunities announced later.

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!

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





VOLUME 33, ISSUE 2 Page 7 (Vice Commander Central continued)



VOLUME 33, ISSUE 2 Page 8



DANNY ROE

VICE COMMANDER EASTERN AREA VCEAST@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello from the Eastern Area!

Wow, what a busy month it has been. I ended the month of August attending the National Convention. Great job to the Detachment of Florida for hosting such a great Convention. It was my first time at a National Convention, and it was a fantastic experience. Welcome to our new S.A.L. National Commander, William "Bill" Clancy III from New York. Congratulations to Rocky Cirigliano on all the awards he received for the Detachment, especially the coveted Triple Nickle award.

District 6 just had a great meeting on Sept 6th at Winter Garden Post 63. Thank You to Commander Michael Nigbor for attending. It was a pleasure having you at the meeting. Special Thanks to Pete Puzzo and his group (George Aichele, Dave Campbell, and Sam Aloi) for the training they presented. It was very informative.

Then on to District 12 meeting at Melbourne Post 81 on Sept 13th. Great turn out with 11 Squadrons represented. Thanks again to Pete Puzzo for the MT&D contribution. If you have never had Pete at your meeting, I encourage you to do so. It is always great to hear from him. Andy had a great meeting also and it was good to see and be able to visit with everyone.

The new membership year is starting to kick in and Andy is off to a great start for District 12 and is leading District 6 - 23.6% to 21.29%. It will be exciting to watch Andy and Sonny battle to see who is ahead at Fall Conference and gets the Golden Gavel. I encourage both Districts to get your membership renewals processed as soon as possible. Eastern Area is doing better this month in 3rd place, but we want the top spot, so we need to buckle down and get that membership in.

Also, the first District 12 Picnic for Boys and Girls State will be on October 11th at Post 81 in Melbourne. Band starts at noon. Hope to see many of you there.

Please feel free to contact me at vceast@floridasons.org for any needs you may have and to invite me to your events.

For God and Country, Danny Roe Vice Commander Eastern Area Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida

SONS OF THE





SAM ALOI

DISTRICT 9 VICE COMMANDER DISTRICT9VC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from District 9!

We are extremely proud of our Squadrons as we continue to be in 1st place for Membership in the Detachment of Florida. We may not have huge numbers in our Squadrons, what we have is active and informed Members.

We have finished all Post Installations new officers are starting to be a bit more comfortable in their new positions. The District is currently working on the details for our 9th District Ball being held on November 8,2025 at Post 304 Dania Beach, we also have The Southern Area Ball in January. February we have our Four Chaplains Ceremony.

We like to keep ourselves busy, the events I mentioned are added to all the Posts individual events. I would like to say it takes **All** the 9th District Family, The Legionaries, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders to work together to get these things done

#SALCares

For God and Country,

Sam Aloi District 9 Vice Commander Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida



MITCHELL PACE

13TH DISTRICT COMMANDER DISTRICT13@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from the Mighty 13th District!

We have just held our first 13thd District meeting of the year. Thank you to Post 103 for allowing the 13th District to hold there meeting there. For the SAL, attendance was good, but it can always be better. Please make sure to come to the next one to find out what's going on in our Mighty 13th District and to share your events.

Here are some of the upcoming events discussed at the meeting - make sure to mark your calendars:

- District 13 Riders Annual Teddy Bear Run for Golisano Children's Hospital December 20, 2025
- Squadron 415, Babcock Ranch, Car & Bike Show November 8, 2025
- District 13 Children & Youth Picnic at Post 103 October 25, 2025
- Post 103, Punta Gorda Trunk or Treat October 25, 2025
- Post 312, Oneco Arcadia Snow Ball December 20th 2025
- Post 110, Port Charlotte Trunk or Treat October 25, 2025
- Post 303, Bonita Springs Pizza Party to celebrate their new pizza oven October 13, 2025
- Post 110, Port Charlotte Annual Breast Fest October 11, 2025
- Post 323, Lehigh Acres Annual TuTus for Tatas Luau October 4, 2025
- Post 103 Craft/Rummage Sale November 1, 2025

If your Post Family is hosting an event, please share it with me so I can make plans to attend. Make sure you are also submitting your events to the Detachment Adjutant for inclusion in 'The Source' and the Detachment of Florida Facebook Page.

For God and Country,

Mitchell Pace

13th District Commander | Sons of the American Legion | Detachment of Florida



ROCKY CIRIGLIANO

INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN IA@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings!

At the Sons of the American Legion 53rd National Convention held in Tampa, the Detachment of Florida was presented with the following awards:

- The Child Well-Being Foundation Highest Donation for the Southeast Region
- National Children & Youth report for conducting & promoting C&Y Activities Squadron 323 Lehigh Acres
- Largest Squadron Membership Award Squadron 273 | Maderia Beach
- National Detachment Recruitment Award for recruiting the highest number of new members (Category IX)
- Arthur D. Houghton Award which on Jan 1 of each year, has attained the greatest membership percentage increase over the previous year.
- THE TRIPLE NICKEL AWARD 105% membership, 85+% Renewal Rate and 5 new squadrons!

I couldn't have been more proud of the Detachment of Florida than I was going onstage and accept these awards. I am honored to have been elected as your Commander for this amazing time in our history. Now let's do it again and help Detachment Commander Nigbor achieve these same feats and more!

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 Fall Conference. 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.

DETACHMENT EMAIL GROUP

All Squadrons and Squadron Officers should have an email and should be signed up to our Google email group and have been receiving the Detachment communications. 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 infor-

mation 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 helping them to help us get the much needed information distributed. This is another item that needs great attention and correction.

A full page version of the QR code you to the right is available at the end of this edition of 'The Source'. Print it out and display it at your Post!

MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

MT&D continues to work on training needs for our Detachment. Please Contact the Detachment Member Training & Development Chairman Peter Puzzo, on your interest to hold training classes for your Squadron, in your District or Area. You can email him at

Scan to join our mailing list!

mtd@floridasons.org. We need to make every attempt to educate our members to support our growth and development. Also, please contact him if you have any suggestions as to specific training needs.

MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Paul Stawicki, thank you for your untiring efforts in reporting membership. We have a lot going on with membership as our numbers continue to grow. It is becoming increasingly important that everyone participates in membership and that the growth of our Squadrons and Detachment gets the attention of everyone. We now begin our quest for our 31st consecutive all-time high. **#SALCares**

(Internal Affairs Cont'd)

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.





PETE PUZZO

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT MTD@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Fall Conference Training

The year is underway fully. The National Convention is finished. We turn our attention to the Fall Conference in November.

Membership Training and Development kicks off the Conference on Friday afternoon from 1-4 pm. While there are classes for specific categories, I invite ALL to show up, stay, and learn something.

The Committee has been hard at work trying to get the foundation built for our revival of The Florida SAL Community College (we don't want to steal National's thunder). MT & D has now become a mobile force. We will make every attempt to get the training where it's needed most.

Just ask the Eastern Area...we have bought our Dog & Pony Show to both Districts this year and it's only September. We will be unwrapping our Catalog of Training Sessions at the Conference. There will be enough copies for every District & Area. Those DCs & AVCs should be sure to get one and bring it back to give to your Squadrons as you visit.

Training is set for ALL Commanders and Vice Commanders. ALL Adjutants and Finance Officers. ALL Chaplains, Sgt-At-Arms, Historians & Judge Advocates. That means Squadrons, Districts and Areas. The job description at each level is basically the same. Since we each need to know what is expected of us, it helps to know what the other jobs entail.

If Squadron members would like to attend, please let them know about the Friday Training as they need not be an Officer to attend.

District Commander Guides are available on the Detachment website (www.floridasons.org). Look under Reporting and Detachment Forms. End of Year Report Training will begin after the Holidays. *Ciao for now!*

For God and Country,

Peter Puzzo

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



DANNY ROE





Hello from Your Children and Youth Commission Chairman!

I would like to say what an honor it is to represent Children and Youth for the Detachment of Florida. I would like to reach out to everyone and ask that you keep me informed of any Children and Youth events you are having. It is my desire to attend and support as many local events as possible. I encourage you to post your events on social media and here in The Source.

Save the Dates: More info to come as we get closer to the events

April 11th: Department C&Y Picnic, Hosted by Palm Bay Post 117, Great venue and always a great time raising money for C.O.T.A (Childrens Organ Transplant Association)

April 26th: District 13 C&Y Picnic, Hosted by Post 323 Lehigh Acres.

May 16th: C&Y Golf Tournament, Hosted by Lady Lake 347 Family (Will go on sale early 2026)

Please plan to support these events. Feel free to contact me at childrenyouth@floridasons.org for any needs you may have and to invite me to your events.

For God and Country,

Danny Roe

Children & Youth Commission Chairman | Sons of The American Legion | Detachment of Florida



BOB O'NEAL

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHAB CHAIRMAN VAR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

Volunteer hours are critical and deserve to be recognized. This past year only about 20% of our squadrons submitted VA&R reports. Encourage your members to track and turn in their volunteer hours monthly to your adjutant, so your squadron gets proper credit at the end of the year, with a possibility of recognition at the convention in June.

WHAT COUNTS AS VA&R HOURS?

- 1) Time spent helping out at the Post, such as the kitchen, food drives, charity events
- 2) Helping Veterans with meals, transportation to appointments, building access ramps
- 3) Making "buddy calls" to Veterans; interacting one-on-one; be a good listener
- 4) Volunteering at a local VA facility

There are most likely members in your Squadron, District or Area who are active in volunteering and squadrons are not getting the full credit due to a lack of reporting. **Remember that each volunteer hour equates to \$34.79/hr.**

The more we report, the better the report to Congress regarding our support of Veterans. If you need assistance in filling out the VA&R form or the Volunteer of the Year form (Yes, you may have, at the end of the year, an outstanding volunteer who deserves to be recognized at the Detachment level), please contact me by email (var@floridasons.org)

We can definitely improve our reporting; lets make this the best yet!

For God and Country,

Bob O'Neal

Chairman | Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



BOB O'NEAL

PROJECT: VETRELIEF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
PVR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Suicide prevention is one of the main challenges of project Vet Relief.

Strategies to prevent suicides include (1) Improve household financial security and (2) Stabilize housing. Post are encouraged to display the PVR Emergency Contact List.

Also, Posts are encouraged to complete the Legion District Commander Post report and forward to Jenniver Cooper at Department Headquarters.

Forms for all types of Veteran assistance can be found on the Project: VetRelief website at https://projectvetrelief.org/emergency-assistance-request/.

For God and Country,

Bob O'Neal
Chairman | Project: VetRelief Committee
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida





Jessica Moore, Commander

commander@floridalegion.org



Brothers and Sisters - welcome, October! As we move into this new month, let's stay united, stay safe, and keep serving our communities with pride. This month we celebrate our membership win, continue Commanders Tour, and remain vigilant through hurricane season. Forward updates, needs, or wins to your district leadership.

We did it. We've hit our first membership goal. Thank you to every member, leader, and volunteer whose effort, outreach, and enthusiasm made this possible. This milestone proves what we can accomplish together

Our mission took an energizing step forward as the Commanders Tour began in the 7th District. The event drew an engaged crowd, with many Legion Family members in attendance. The spirit of camaraderie and fellowship was inspirational and uplifting, creating positive momentum we will carry into the coming weeks.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this successful start

Stay vigilant: review your post and district emergency plans, confirm nearest shelter locations, and assemble or refresh emergency kits with water, medications, flashlights, chargers, and important documents. Check on members and pair them with a buddy volunteer for welfare checks, secure loose outdoor items, and keep vehicles fueled. Report urgent needs to your district leadership and follow official evacuation orders and safety guidance.

By remaining vigilant, united, and committed to our #OneTeamOneDream, we'll weather any storm and uplift our communities with unwavering strength and spirit. Here's to an October filled with purpose, progress, and pride - together, we move forward!

For God and Country,

Jessica Moore

Department Commander The American Legion Department of Florida



HONOR SERVICE **INSPIRE FUTURE**

www.floridalegion.org legionlink@floridalegion.org

2025-2026 COMMANDER JESSICA MOORE



CHRISTIAN M RAPP

EDITOR OF 'THE SOURCE' THESOURCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Since last month, we've had **only 4 new members subscribe to our mailing list**. That's 491 out of 27,041 members **- just 1.82% of our membership**. Each article submitted represents time and effort from members who want to share information they feel is important. On top of that, it can take up to two weeks to put together and proof one edition of The Source.

We also rely on our email group to distribute membership reports and other vital updates. But with such a small portion of our membership receiving these communications - and with some of those subscribers being Legion and Auxiliary members or SAL members from other states - the actual percentage is even lower. This has led many of us to question whether maintaining the email group and investing the time to create a monthly newsletter is truly worth the effort.

I ask everyone reading this, including Legion and Auxiliary members, to print out the last page of this newsletter with the QR code and display it in your Post. Help YOUR Sons of the American Legion extend the reach of their communications.

Again, my goal this year is to have every Area Commander, District Commander and Committee and Commission Chairman submitting articles every month. Ideally, I'd like Squadrons submitting articles regularly as well. 'The Source' is **FOR EVERYBODY**, not just Detachment Leadership.

EMAIL GROUP SUBSCRIPTION PROGRESS METER 9/29/25

491 of 27,041 Subscriptions

The due date for submitting articles for 'The Source' is **the 15th of each month.** This will keeps us inline with the Department of Florida and their publication of <u>'The Legion Link'</u>. Additionally, we're working with 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 <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 ReportDetachment Email List Subscription
- Article Submission Form for *The Source*

Thank you for what you do and for helping to keep The Source focused on what we do and who we are!

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp

Editor of 'The Source', the Detachment of Florida Newsletter

Joyce Eileen Cirigliano



Joyce Eileen Cirigliano was someone who would do anything for those she loved. She lived a long prosperous life being a wife, mother, nannie/grammy, great-grandmother, and a fellow rider. She is leaving her beloved ones behind but is no longer having to battle cancer; she was a true fighter to the end. She is survived by her husband: Rocky, six children: Alicia, Melissa, Joyce, Shelley, Steven and Scott, sixteen grandchildren: Aria, Hannah, Amanda, David, Shelleen, Hailie, Nichols, Michael, Heather, CJ, Liz, Steven, Katie, Marianne, Suzanne and Kaitlyn, and five great-grandchildren Carter, Gabby, Cameron, Ivy and Jerome.

She enjoyed making her grandchildren laugh by playing games, dancing with them, trying to keep up with the latest moves and trying to talk the latest "lingo". Those were some of the most memorable times with her. She also loved making the holidays special as well by making sure they all had their special chocolate candy (especially lollipops), cookies and fudge.

She would want to be remembered as a person that did many things not only for her family but for others as well, no questions asked. She helped with rider runs to make sure children did not go without Christmas. She even did fundraisers for children with the Women's Auxiliary to get school supplies.

Now she flies high with her angel wings watching over all her loved ones that have passed before her. This is not good-bye; this is until we meet again. Rest in peace mom!

A Celebration of Life will be held on October 26, 2025, at 1:00 pm at the American Legion Post - 81, located at 2909 South Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne, Florida, 32901.

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3 Page 17



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CALLING ALL CRAFT- ARTISANS VENDORS

10X10 SITE - \$10

JOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY FOR OUR FALL FESTIVAL
TO SELL YOUR CRAFTS



SATURDAY OCT 18

699 S HICKPOCHEE AVE - LABELLE



VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3 Page 18

The Sons of The American Legion

& The Sports Car Club of America present a Veteran-Experience

ROAD RALLY

Sat. Oct. 18, 2025 9:00a.m.



BUCCANEER REGION

OF THE SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA

Teams consist of two persons per vehicle: a driver and navigator. Driving on public roads. Speed limits obeyed. Competition based on navigation, timing, and speed control.



Start: American Legion Post 9
6242 Old Soutel Ct, Jacksonville
All Proceeds to Benefit
Special Olympics Florida

Pre-registration required at: https://www.motorsportreg.com (Lunch provided)

Get ready to embark on a rally with a purpose!

The Buccaneer Region SCCA is proud to partner with the Sons of the American Legion for an event that combines the thrill of a road rally with a meaningful journey through Jacksonville's rich history. This isn't just about speed; it's about strategy, navigation, and timing as you follow a set of predefined route instructions. Using the Richta Road Rally mobile app, teams will be scored on their precision in arriving at checkpoints located at various American Legion posts and other historically significant sites around the greater Jacksonville area. From our start at American Legion Post 9 to the finish at American Legion Post 316, you'll be competing for victory while supporting a cause that truly matters.

All proceeds will benefit **Special Olympics Florida**, so every turn you take helps make a difference. Join us for a day of fun, friendly competition, and community as we navigate for a cause. New to road rally or unsure what this is all about? Check out this (somewhat lengthy) <u>video explanation</u>. **Click here to register**.

Any car/truck/van/etc. is allowed, such that it meets all Florida state laws and is insured to meet the state's minimum requirements (sorry, no motorcycles or trikes). A valid driver's license and proof of insurance will be required at on-site registration. Each car is allowed as many people as there are seat belts in the vehicle, but each car is required to have at least 2 people, a driver and a navigator. There will be a starting location, several unmanned checkpoints, followed by a finishing location. Team numbers will be assigned, but the starting order will be determined at random.

There are three available classes for this rally: Stock, Limited, and Seat of Your Pants. Visit https://www.scca.com/pages/roadrally-rules for official class descriptions and rules. Below are some examples of the types of setups used in each class.

- Stock: Using your vehicle's stock trip/odometer, smartphone as a calculator, and a stopwatch (perhaps the same or another smartphone). This is the most common class and recommended for novices.
- Limited: Using the car's built in navigation system to show distance traveled, a 3rd party GPS tracking system via mobile app (i.e. Richta Odometer, Maps, or a Odometer/Trip app), as long as that information isn't transferable to the calculating device (i.e. can't be the same smartphone running the app and calculations).
- SOP: Just your odometer, pens/pencils, stopwatch, and gut instincts. No calculator of any kind.





VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3

1 for \$20 and 6 for \$100



ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

MILITARY/VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS

Sunday, November 2, 2025 9:00am - 12:00pm

2.2 MILE WALK & VETERANS EXPO

Join Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County for a community walk to Let's help END Military/Veteran Suicide!

REGISTER NOW!





Riverside Park

Registration at the Grand Pavillion - Opens at 9:00am

\$35 / person online ~ \$40 / person - day of walk

DJ * Gift Raffle * 50/50 Raffle * Wall of Valor

T-SHIRTS: Available for the First 200 walkers who register

EARLY SHIRT PICK UP: (if you registered online)
Thursday 10/30 from 10am-3pm at American Legion Post 39 • 1535 Old Dixie Hwy

Proceeds to Benefiting:







- michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com
- @ircgoldstarmoms
- www.ircgoldstarmoms.org
- 570-885-2811
- Please note our new mailing address: 7855 14th Lane, VB 32966

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Registration #DTN3348471. American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. is a non-profit tax-exempt organization as described under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)3. Federal ID #85-0621175.



Saturday, November 8th "Open to the Public"

Boats available for Veterans
Doors open at 9:00am
Ceremony at 10:00am
St. Andrew's Pipes & Drums
JROTC Color Guards
Food & Drink Specials
Raffles & 50/50 Drawing
Music from 2:00pm to 10:00pm
Boat Registration & Sponsors at:

veteransboatparade.org Captains Meeting: November 5th at 6:00pm

call 727-398-5680 ext. 6

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3 Page 23





Mini Cornhole Tournament

The Sons of the American Legion are sponsoring an Indoor Mini Cornhole Tournament.

All proceeds go to Steps to Recovery, Inc.

Teams will compete for a cash prize!

Prize amount determined on the number of teams entered.

When: November 8th, 2025 – Begins at 3pm Where: American Legion Post #173 – Holiday, FL

Who: Tournament is open to all Members and Guests

How much: \$20.00 per team (2 players per team)

Standard Cornhole play and scoring apply!
Mini Boards are 16" x 24" placed 15 feet apart!

Live Music from 4 to 7pm 50/50 Drawing ~ Basket Raffle ~ Bottle Raffle Kitchen will be open from 8am to 8pm!

See a SAL Officer or drop your info in the SAL mailbox! Entry fee due upon signup!







Mark your calendars for November 8, 2025! The American Legion, Babcock Ranch Post 415, in collaboration with Kitson & Partners and the Babcock Ranch HOA, is excited to host the First Annual Veterans Day Golf Cart Parade, Car, and Motorcycle Show!







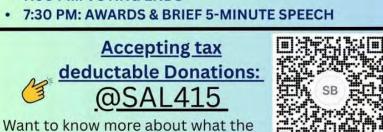




Location: Babcock Ranch Founder Square EVENT TIMELINE

- 1:00-3:00 PM: CARS AND MOTORCYCLES SET UP IN THE **FOUNDERS SQUARE LOOP**
 - 3:00 PM: GOLF CART PARADE LINE-UP AT FIELD HOUSE
- 4:00 PM: GOLF CART PARADE BEGINS AND CONCLUDES **BACK AT FOUNDERS SQUARE**
- 5:00 PM: FOOD TRUCKS OPEN & CAR SHOW OFFICIALLY BEGINS
 - 6:00 PM: FAMILY BAND JACKSON
 - 7:00 PM: VOTING ENDS
 - 7:30 PM: AWARDS & BRIEF 5-MINUTE SPEECH





American Legion does, Click Here



participate in the show. Participants will be judged by the audience and will win 1st, 2nd & 3rd place for "Best in Class" and strictly for bragging rights.



Best decorated Golf Cart wins bragging rights Car show Registration Register for the Golf Cart parade



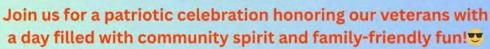














Please follow the links to register



VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3 Page 25



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.

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3 Page 26

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 (<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 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:

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

Scan the QR Code below to visit our website





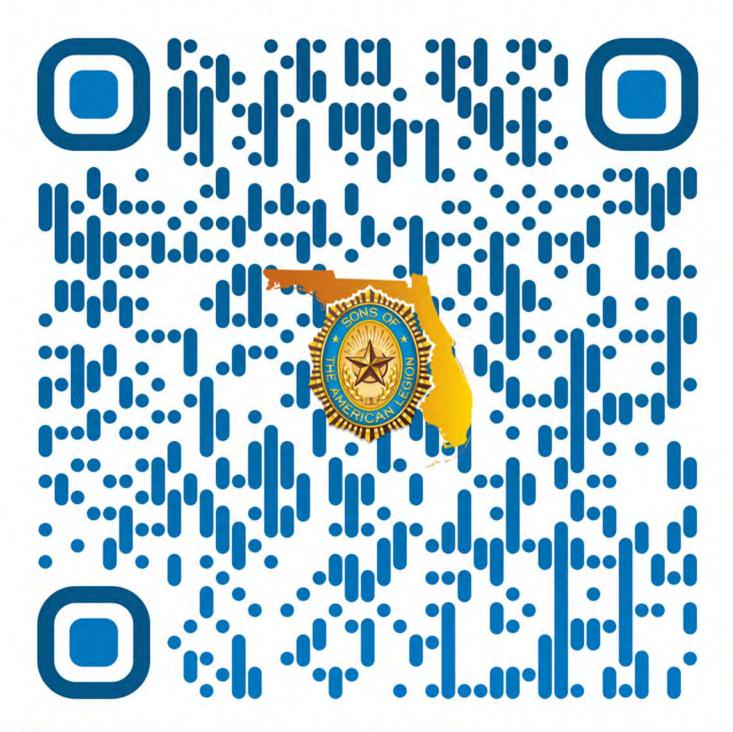
Source Articles

We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and or meetings!!!! This is your newsletter. Please send all articles to the Editor by the 15th of every month.

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

STAY INFORMED!

JOIN THE DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA EMAIL GROUP!



SCAN THIS CODE AND CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR A CONFIRMATION MESSAGE. IT'S THAT EASY!

THE DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA VALUES YOUR PRIVACY.
WE WILL NEVER GIVE OR SELL YOUR INFORMATION TO ANOTHER PARTY.

HTTPS://GROUPS.GOOGLE.COM/FORUM/#!FORUM/FLORIDA-SONS/JOIN