



COMMUNICATE
ACT
RECRUIT
EDUCATE

THE SOURCE



MICHAEL NIGBOR

DETACHMENT COMMANDER
COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings Team!

Wow this year is flying by! I know everyone is doing their best to promote our organization and work on renewals. On September 21st, I was invited to Largo Post 119 by Squadron Commander Michael "Doc" Bowen. Many of our Department and Detachment leaders attended. He and his team planned a wonderful night of camaraderie, dining, fantastic entertainment, and most importantly, all to benefit our Detachment Charity, C.O.T.A. The Children's Organ Transplant Association. The C.O.T.A. representative, Ryan Gallagher was in attendance. Several donations from the guests and squadrons were presented. Ryan gave us information on how to adopt a child in need in our own area. Go to <https://cota.org/find-a-family/>, enter your zip code and see the families near you.

September 27th, I was invited to District 12 for their annual Memorial Run including stops at Posts 117, 163, 81, and 189. Squadron 163 Adjutant Steve Vilgats gave me a tour of his post and introduced me to the Post Commander and her daughter, the Auxiliary President. A great team. October 2nd thru October 5th, I had the honor of attending the NEC Fall Conference in Indianapolis with NEC William Kelly and NECA Gerard Sambets. Some very informative sessions on Member Training and Development, Child Well-Being Foundation Committee reports, 100th Anniversary Committee, Membership and Squadron Activities, Americanism Commission, Mylegion Training, and information on some new resolutions. October 11th was The Gold Star Mothers Monument Unveiling in Tampa. An absolutely beautiful event with some inspiring key note speakers. Events like these remind us of why we became members of The American Legion, and support our Veterans and their families. As usual, many of our Department and Detachment leaders were here to show their support. After this event I headed to Post 7 in Clearwater for the annual S.A.L. family picnic. A very nice venue and lots of activities for the children.

October 13th was a well attended celebration at Post 303 for the Navy Birthday. Squadron 303 served their famous pizzas. October 17th thru 19th, I will be visiting District 11, and will be attending installations on the 17th at Post 268, Riviera Beach. Department Southern Area Commander Geo Bograkovs, Southern Area Detachment Vice Commander Michael Mathias and Department District 11 Commander Stan Brown will also attend. October 25th is the Children and Youth Picnic at Post 103 in Punta Gorda. The day will start with American Legion Family members in their Halloween costumes and having a poker run leaving Post 303, Bonita Springs to Post 274, Fort Myers Beach. Than to Post 136, St. James City and then ending at Post 103, Punta Gorda to spend some time with the children and the activities. Lots of donations have already been coming in to support this District 13 event. November 1st, I will have the pleasure of attending the 3rd District Sons 1st Annual picnic, hosted by Commander Brian Wolfe and his team.

November 11th is Veterans Day. Your Post family will undoubtedly be having a ceremony to honor our military service men and women for their service and sacrifice. What a great day to have an open house for your community to share with them the great things that the American Legion does for our Veterans, their families, our communities and children and youth. Have your local newspaper and social media outlets start promoting this event. Get your members involved. Get them engaged into helping, volunteering. Do your "Buddy Checks". Print the roster out, get a couple people to

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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%		

* Legion Birthday (March 13th)

** Delegate Cut-Off

help you, and call your members. Let them hear your voice. Let them know you appreciate them renewing in a timely manner. Invite them to your events and meetings. Make them know that they are more than just a number. That you truly C.A.R.E. Renewals are the strength of our foundation. Work on renewals constantly. Have a weekly membership night at your post. It Works. People are happy to know they have a special day and people they can count on to be there for them. Ask them if they have any other families members that are eligible to join. So many don't realize, their grandchildren can be members.

Our Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp was provided a list of squadron 9999 members from National. These are members that get moved when a squadron closes and there is no indication of where they " should be placed ". Accordingly, there are 53 members that are in limbo. Area Vice and District Commanders should go through the list and reach out to those members in your area and see if they have a home post yet. If not, invite them to join their nearest squadron. As an idea to promote this, the squadron could offer to pay the expired member's dues for the year, \$11.00, to encourage them to join a local squadron and have a new place to call home. You can reach Adjutant Rapp at adjutant@floridasons.org

Congratulation to District 12 and their new Squadron, Suntree #0420, All American Veterans of Brevard County. Our next goal is 35% on November 6th. How is your squadron doing? Are you meeting your goals so far? Have you had any events to support your post and community? Area Vice and District Commanders, are you making your visitations? Do you see that all your squadrons have turned in current SIR reports?

Gentlemen, we have a goal to reach for the 2025-2026 service year. 30,000 members for the Detachment of Florida. This is attainable with everyone on board doing their part to promote the Worlds Largest and Greatest Veterans Organization, The American Legion. Make it fun. Make the phone calls, send the texts and emails. Use social media in a positive, respectful manner and boost your membership. Renew, Recruit, Rejoin and Retention equals Results. Go after your past members and offer them a deal. Be creative

and have fun with it. Have your "Early Bird" dinners. Get them to come back. Strength in numbers equals influence. Renewals receive public recognition that boosts morale and pride. Reaching membership goals ensures we are ready to support our Veterans, their families and our communities.

Our new goals are just around the corner. I'm sure it will mean moving beyond the 400,000 member mark for the benefit of all our nation's Veterans.

" You are never too old to set a new Goal or to Dream a New Dream!" -C.S.Lewis We are a Team, because we " C.A.R.E."

As always, thank you for all you do and your support. Invite me to your events @ commander@floridasons.org

October 14th was a very sad day for our American Legion Family. We were informed of the passing of Past 4th District Commander John " Jack" T. Bennett. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Arrangements will be forth coming.

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!

November is here! It's time to gather with friends and family and be thankful for so many things. Before this all starts, we'll get to gather as our American Legion Family in Orlando in just a few short weeks!

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**. There **MAY** still be rooms available or there may be availability at an overflow hotel. 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/>

Over the last two months, I've spoken about Commander Nigbor's **C.A.R.E.** acronym. Last month I spoke about the letter **C** (Communication) in depth and gave suggestions on how you could help improve your communication through your areas, districts and squadrons. This month I will be speaking about the letter **A**....

ACTION

Throughout the year, many members reach out to leadership at the District, Area, or Detachment level for advice or guidance on how to handle various situations. Leadership always makes it a priority to research the matter and provide thoughtful suggestions or possible solutions. However, what we've often seen is that the information provided isn't being acted upon.



Your leaders are here to support you, guide you, and help you grow — but leadership isn't about doing the work for you. It's about empowering you to take the next step yourself. When you reach out for help and receive direction, the next important step is to **TAKE ACTION**. Follow through. Implement what was shared with you. That's how we grow stronger — individually and as an organization. Our goal as leaders is to help you develop into leaders as well.

A perfect example of this comes from last month's article, where I outlined how to create a free Google Group for your Squadron. I even included a sample welcome message you could send when inviting members to join your list. If you read that article, let me ask: have you set up your group yet? If not, what's holding you back?

Setting it up takes only a few minutes, and once it's done, maintaining it is simple. Just update your list when new members join, and once a month, share your Post's calendar or newsletter. This one small action can make a big difference in keeping your members — both old and new — informed and engaged with what your Post Family is doing.

Another important **action** item is encouraging members to join our Detachment of Florida email group. Assistant Adjutant Jennings goes into more detail in his article, but I've included a page in The Source (since the very first edition this year) with a QR code that allows members to sign up instantly. I've also asked that each Squadron print out that page and display it at your Post. Please take a few moments to do this and invite your members to sign up — it truly takes just seconds and helps us strengthen communication across the Detachment.

As we move past Fall Conference, we'll officially be halfway through our service year — and that means reporting season is right around the corner. This will require action from everyone. Department will distribute reporting packets in March, and your Detachment staff will be in regular communication to help guide you through the process. We'll also provide updates on which Squadrons have and have not submitted their reports.

Area and District Commanders will be asked to **take action** and work closely with their Squadrons to ensure reports are completed and submitted on time. Your Membership, Training & Development (MT&D) Team will also be available to host reporting workshops in your Districts — so please take the initiative to schedule these sessions.

Last year, the national reporting rate for the Sons of The American Legion was around 40%, and our Detachment fell short of even that number. This year, we're determined to improve. Steps are already being taken to make the reporting process simpler and more accessible, and we'll be sharing more information about these improvements after the first of the year.

(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

Let's make this the year where we all take action — *not just in words, but in follow-through*. Together, we can make a measurable difference for our members, our Posts, and our mission.

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 now in the final month of Hurricane Season and have been very fortunate so far — every storm that seemed to be heading toward our state has turned away. That's a blessing, because nobody wanted to deal with Hurricane Karen!

If you've lived in Florida for any length of time, you know that the latter part of the season often brings the most favorable conditions in the Gulf for hurricane development.

Even though Florida has not experienced any major storms or disasters this year, we still need to help rebuild the Department of Florida Disaster Relief Fund. Hurricanes Ian, Milton, and Helene have placed a significant strain on these resources. It's up to all of us to help replenish — and hopefully grow — this important fund.

The American Legion Department of Florida has assured us that the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida, will never be forgotten. Should a disaster strike here at home, the SAL will have access to assistance from them.

If your Squadron would like to contribute to Disaster Relief, please keep those donations here in Florida to help strengthen and sustain the fund.

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>

VISITATION REPORTS

Every District Commander is required to make an official visit to each squadron in their district a **minimum** of two times per year. These visits aren't social calls, installations or Squadron functions - these are OFFICIAL visits to the Squadron during their regular meetings. After each visit, the District Commander is required to send in a Squadron Visitation Form. These forms were included in your District Commander Guide you received with your budgets at Convention. They are also available on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/svr-02-19-25.pdf>. With Fall Conference (our halfway point for the year) a few weeks away and installations behind us, District Commanders should have had some visitations and have submitted their reports to me by now. Sadly, I have only received reports from **FOUR** District Commanders. These reports are to be sent in **RIGHT AWAY**. They are not to be sent in bulk at the end of the year. **IT IS TIME TO START EARNING YOUR BUDGETS AND DOING YOUR JOBS**. Expect more on this subject at Fall Conference.

JOHN 'JACK' BENNETT

We lost an amazing friend, Legionnaire and Son. Jack was an active member for both the American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. My deepest condolences go out to Lynn, Daniel, Travis and the rest of the Bennett family and friends. Jack will truly be missed. Please keep the Bennett family in your prayers.

There is a page dedicated to Jack at the end of this edition. Please take a moment to read that. When more information becomes available, we will relay that through our shared channels with the Department of Florida.

SEE YOU SOON!

I can't wait to see you all at Fall Conference in a few weeks. If you can't make it this year, I hope you all have a blessed Thanksgiving and a joyous Holiday Season.

For God and Country,

Christian M Rapp

Detachment Adjutant | Sons of The American Legion | Detachment of Florida



JOHN JENNINGS

DETACHMENT ASSISTANT ADJUTANT
ASSTADJ3@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

Greetings everyone. I hope that everyone is working hard at work planning their family Thanksgiving events. It is truly a time to be thankful and Christmas just around the corner. What a wonderful time of the year.

I am writing this article to just put the though process in place as we navigate this year. I have heard conversations about different things within the Detachment which I will have bullets for, for your reading pleasure.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Commander Nigbor has a very aggressive target of 30,000 members. Yes, this is an aggressive number but also reachable. How some may ask. It will take the work of every Squadron, every District staff officer, every Detachment officer to be on board and willing to put forth the hard work to reach 30,000 members is going to take. The Squadrons short of target are where our numbers are at, work those numbers. I know Membership Chairman Stawicki is also talking this same message weekly. This message and communications must reach everyone, and everyone must buy in, or we will not reach Commander Nigbor's target of 30,000.

I have heard that membership is self-sustaining. I am here to tell everyone that membership is not self-sustaining. If we take the attitude that will be ok at the end, we will fail and fail drastically. Membership must be worked and worked hard. Always work your membership, every day.

COMMUNICATIONS

Great communication is key to the success of any organization. We are no exception! We must have great communication in both directions. We need great communication from the Squadrons up, and great communication from the Administration and Leadership down to the Squadrons. We as the Detachment can't expect our Squadrons to do great things when we fail to supply them with communication and the tools to do great things.

The Squadron Officers and the leadership within their Districts must help and support the need for this communication network. Our Google Group is just one of those tools and it is utilized by less than 3% of the Detachment, with 27,000 members, you do the math. It's less than 1,000 members and we wonder why we have members that don't understand what, and why we do what we do. *Just plain amazing!*

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

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT (MT&D)

The MT & D Committee and Chairman Puzzo are hard at work putting together training classes for you the membership with little to no input from you about your needs. An information class is being planned for our upcoming Fall Conference in November, and I am sure information will be made available ahead of time. The MT&D Committee is there to help you the Area, District, and Squadron do a better job. It is just one of the many tools available. His contact information can be found on our website www.floridasons.org.

SOURCE

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

SOURCE

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SQUADRON REPORTING (More to come at a later date)

While you have heard us speak about the use of acronyms and how we should reduce their usage, they are still being used. Here are some of the reporting acronyms you may still hear about. Please familiarize yourself with them and get to know the reports they are associated with.

SDR – Squadron Data Report

CSR – Consolidated Squadron Report - Detachment

CSR – Consolidated Squadron Report - National

SIR – Squadron Information Report

We will be discussing the importance of these reports and the timing. They are online, but check if they have been updated.

For God and Country,

John Jennings

Detachment Assistant Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida





PAUL STAWICKI

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
MEMBERSHIP@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

We are now in the thick of the Holiday season. I hope all is well with your family and friends. I hope all the Posts are bustling with activities that are being enjoyed by all. Hopefully Membership is moving ahead steadily as there are more people in and around the Posts.

We have an important Goal this month of 35% due in by November 6th.. After that, is Veterans Day on November 11th and then of course Thanksgiving on November 27th. Those that attain 35% will receive a Certificate of Achievement. We can all have another GREAT year if we all strive to get there. Please get help if you have problems. Do Not hesitate to ask for help. This is what District and Area officers are for. If you can't get them to help you, contact Detachment and we will get you the help you need. If you don't try, however, you will never know what you can achieve.

As of article submittal we are at 8377 membership our goal is 27,427 for 32nd All-time High and 30,000 for Commander Nigbor's Goal. Nationally we stand at 30.54% and in 25th Place. **Let's push hard through the Holidays.**

Please note the data below the table on this page. The first round of renewal notices have been sent out. Each squadron should now be receiving renewals from our members by mail. Membership chairman should actively be checking their mail at their Post Home. If you aren't used to checking for mail, it is time to start making that a habit now.

God Bless our Veterans and Happy Thanksgiving Everyone,

For God and Country,

Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida

Get 'Er Done Be A Son #SALCares



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May 13, 2026	100%		
May 28, 2026**	105%		

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

RENEWAL POSTCARD MAIL DATE

1ST NOTICE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

2ND NOTICE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026

3RD NOTICE: APRIL 9, 2026

RECEIVING DATES

SEPT 28 – OCT 3, 2025

FEB 22 – 28, 2026

APR 26 – MAY 2, 2026

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION WHY MEMBERSHIP GOALS MATTER

RENEW EARLY - HELP US HIT OUR TARGETS!

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS = INFLUENCE

Meeting our Detachment & National goals shows that the SAL is **large, united & active**. Strong membership means having a **louder voice** for veteran causes across the country.

FUNDING & PROGRAM SUPPORT

Membership dues help fund our scholarships, youth programs & veterans assistance. **Strong membership numbers** help ensure these important programs are fully supported all year long.

RECOGNITION & PRIDE

Squadrons & Detachments that lead the way in renewals receive **public recognition** that boosts **morale & pride**.

MOMENTUM MATTERS

Our goals have specific checkpoints to keep our momentum going (30% by Oct. 1; 60% by Dec. 31, etc.). Hitting targets early in the year makes it **easier to reach 100%** by the end.

UNITY ACROSS THE LEGION FAMILY

Strong SAL numbers show that we are **active partners** in the **Legion Family** & ready to serve.

MISSION READINESS

Reaching membership goals ensures we're **ready to support** our **veterans**, their families & our communities.

"But I paid my dues for the whole year, and I want my money's worth"

If you renew early, you can get an entire 1½ years out of your membership!

EVERY RENEWAL HELPS US HIT OUR GOALS - DON'T WAIT TO RENEW FOR 2026!

[LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW](https://legion.org/sal-renew)



RAYMOND LEVENTHAL

DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN
CHAPLAIN@FLORIDASONS.ORG



FAITH, DUTY AND UNITY IN OUR TIME

Brothers and friends,

As Sons of the American Legion, we inherit more than a name - we carry a living legacy of service, remembrance, and hope. Our fathers and forefathers stood in the breach for liberty. Many of them drew strength from a humble faith in something larger than themselves - faith in God, in the dignity of every person, and in the promise that right can prevail when good people stand together.

Our nation's founding generation often acknowledged the necessity of divine guidance. In our earliest days, leaders turned to prayer in moments of crisis, seeking wisdom and courage. Their writings speak of Providence and moral accountability; they believed that a free people must be a virtuous people, and that virtue thrives when we honor God through our words and deeds. This heritage is not about one denomination or doctrine—it is about recognizing that reverence, humility, and moral clarity make a nation stronger.

Today, our times demand the same steady virtues. We face division, uncertainty, and fatigue. We see neighbors struggling with isolation, families bearing heavy burdens, communities wrestling with loss, and veterans still carrying unseen wounds. In such a moment, faith is not an escape—it is an anchor. It calls us back to what is lasting and good: gratitude, service, integrity, compassion, and unity.

- Gratitude reminds us that freedom has a cost and that we are stewards of gifts we did not earn alone.
- Service points us outward, teaching us to love our communities not only with our words but with our hands.
- Integrity keeps us honest when it would be easy to cut corners or feed resentment.
- Compassion softens our hearts toward those who see the world differently and compels us to show up for those in need.
- Unity does not erase our differences; it elevates the mission above them.

As chaplain, I invite us all - regardless of tradition - to cultivate three daily practices rooted in our shared heritage:

- 1) Remember: Take a quiet moment each day to acknowledge God's presence and give thanks—for life, for liberty, for those who served before us. Gratitude clears the fog and sets our compass.
- 2) Repair: Look for one small breach you can mend. Make a call to someone you've been meaning to reach. Apologize where needed. Offer help without being asked. The smallest repairs often prevent the largest breaks.
- 3) Rekindle: Renew your commitment to the mission of the American Legion Family—supporting veterans, strengthening families, serving youth, and lifting our communities. Bring your faith to life by mentoring a young person, volunteering at a post event, or lending your skills to a community need.

Let us also be people of prayer—prayer that is spacious enough to welcome everyone and strong enough to steady us all:

"God of all wisdom and mercy, look kindly upon our nation, our veterans, and our families. Grant us courage to do what is right, compassion for those who struggle, and unity in the service of peace and freedom. Keep us humble in prosperity, steadfast in trial, and faithful in the duties entrusted to us. Strengthen the bonds of our American Legion Family and guide our steps so that our words and deeds honor You and bless our neighbors. Amen."

Brothers, the same light that guided our founders can guide us now. If we walk with humility before God and with honor toward one another, we will strengthen the fabric of our nation—one act of service, one word of encouragement, one faithful day at a time.

I pray for the family of one of our own, Jack Bennett, who was called home this month, and for God's blessings to be on the family that mourns his loss, but at the same time I pray that we all recognize that he rests in God's loving arms in the one place we'll all meet again when we, too, are called home.

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



WILLIAM D KELLY, JR

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

NEC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) Fall Meetings, 2025

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) National Executive Committee (NEC) held its annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana, from Friday, October 3, through Sunday, October 5, 2025. The meetings primarily took place at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. Since I will not be seeking reelection as your National Executive Committeeman's (NEC) my intent is to supply as much background information concerning the job of NEC so you as officers and members can provide oversight of the National Organization. These meetings occur 4 times a year, 1 in October (Fall) Meetings, 1 in May (Spring) Meetings, and 2 in August 1 Before (Pre) Convention Meeting, 1 (Post) Convention Meeting.

Purpose of the Meetings: The NEC Meetings serve as a critical opportunity for the SAL to review progress, plan future programs, and pass resolutions that guide the organization's efforts across the country.

Key Activities:

- 1) **Commission and Committee Sessions (Oct 3-4):** Various national commissions and committees (such as Americanism, Children and Youth, CWF), Internal Affairs (Convention, MT&D, Membership & Squadron Activities), Legislative, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Finance met to discuss their specific initiatives and compile reports.
- 2) **NEC Review and Voting (Oct 4&5):** The commissions and committees presented their reports and proposals to the full National Executive Committee. The NEC then reviewed and voted on resolutions covering organizational matters, finance, and programs supporting veterans and children.

General Focus Areas (Based on NEC Mandates): The NEC traditionally focuses on strengthening the core missions of the organization as a program of The American Legion,

- **Veterans and Children Foundation & Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation :** Allocating funds and planning initiatives to support veterans, military families, and children's well-being.
- **Children & Youth & Child Well Being Fund Committees** Continuing to promote The American Legion Family's mission caring for Veterans Children and Children's Programs. .
- **Membership and Youth Engagement:** Discussing strategies for growing membership and involving younger SAL members in programs with community service.
- **Legislative** Reviewing and adopting resolutions related to legislation for our veterans.

Our Meetings kick off Friday afternoon/evening 6 Committee & 1 Commission Meetings CDR Nigbor, ANEC Sanbets, and I split them up and I was off to the, **Member Training and Development Committee**. The MT&D has prepared a Training Course consisting of 12 Modules with six being submitted to the American Legion internal affairs. These modules consist of for example Squadron Management, Officers, Advisor, Membership, Leadership, Team Bldg, etc, and reporting. When approved they would like them to be available on line for all to access.

Leadership Training Class. Similar to NMI. Only a 1 year Class. Conducted at Fall Meeting Class 1 Spring Meeting Class 2. In Indianapolis. These are still in the planning stage There was discussion on the National Legion Training Conferences in Indianapolis and Atlanta with emails to follow. One of the discussions revolved around Training The Trainer to take back to their detachments.

Membership & Squadron Activities Committee The National Theme this year is set to the Jackson 5 song A B C Easy as 1 2 3, One Recruit 1 New Legion Member. Two Renew one Member. Three Recruit One Legion 1 Auxiliary 1 SAL Member and receive a 3 Family Pin. EASY as 1 2 3 Don't forget to use the Regional Membership Pin. Retention in 2026 is the FOCUS this year

Open More Squadrons, Fifty Two Percent (52%) of all American Legion Post do not have SAL Squadrons let's see if we can increase that. Get involved and use all The American Legion Programs, Boys State, Jr Shooting, Oratorical, Boy Scouts. All of these programs have the opportunity to introduce you to new potential members.

Saturday Began with ANEC Sanbets and I attended the **Convention Committee** meeting. The feedback from the Tampa Nation Convention was very positive, except for SAL Convention being held outside the Convention Center and a few bussing problems. The discussion also dealt with ways of streamlining the agenda. Louisville Ky where the 2026 National Convention will be, unveiled their 2026 SAL National Convention pins and coins.

Internal Affairs Commission at National has 3 subcommittees and as NEC Liaison to IA my duty is to attend the subcommittees as reported previously and the IA meeting begins with those reports and acceptance. The 100th Anniversary Ad-hoc Committee was moved to a standing subcommittee under IA. Bill Towns is working to collect history from Detachments for the 100th Anniversary. He is also working with MT&D and IA to review the criteria for judging the National Scrap Book & History Book contest and update if needed.

These are the Commissions I attended and personally reported on. I will now review the rest of the Commission and Committee notes presented to The Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee on the meeting floor.

Americanism Commission Recap of the Sub committees

Child Well Being Committee This year's Theme "It Will Be Heaven When We Reach Eleven" \$177 Thousand raised this year \$30 Thousand above last year with 35 Detachments submitting donations.

(National Executive Committeeman continued)

Children & Youth Committee The American Legion National C&Y Chairman Mark Avis greeted the SAL Meeting. He asked to make all youth programs a priority this year because of the value to the participants. He went on to explain that some of the programs are down since COVID and encouraged Detachment and Squadrons to prioritize youth activities. The Youth Academy was successful with their flag etiquette, flag folding, and the Tampa PD SWAT Team, Harbor Patrol & SCUBA Teams.

Finance Commission Met with a short presentation of the 2024 Actual vs 2025 proposed but no budget was presented for 2026. Legislative Commission Continues to ask all of our members to join Voters Voice and contact their Congressman and Senators and ask them to open up the government support veteran programs. Washington Conference will be March 1-4 2026, with the SAL Wreath Laying Bus Trip scheduled for March 1st 2026.

Public Media & Communications Commission

Increasing the Facebook followers by approximately 200 followers a month
The MILLENNIUM our National Newsletter distribution rate is about 89,000 and is seeking to increase its rate of distribution.
The new 250th Anniversary of America ad-hoc is seeking detachment participation in this celebration. The Commission invites everyone to participate in The American Legion USA 250 Challenge

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission While the Commission no longer meets at the Fall & Spring NEC meetings it is nevertheless a very active Commission of the SAL.
Chairman Williamson wants everyone to be aware of the VAs Compassionate Contact Corp and volunteer you time to support the VA.
Please continue to support the Honor Flights in your Detachments.
The Commission asked all SAL Squadron Members to help out and support The American Legion to honor all our Veterans on Veterans Day November 11th.

Resolution

SAL Resolution #1 Fall 2025

Rename the Public & Media Communications Commission to Media and Communications Commission. PASSED

For God and Country,

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





DANNY ROE

VICE COMMANDER EASTERN AREA
VCEAST@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello from the Eastern Area!

First, I would like to welcome Squadron #0420 at Suntree in District 12. Good luck in getting your programs started and remember that District Staff and myself are only a phone call away for any help or advice you might need.

The competition between District 6 and District 12 is firing up for this membership year. This past month Sonny was able to take the lead for a moment, but Andy came screaming back and is leading once again. District 12 is leading District 6 - 33.38% to 29.60%. As we come down the stretch to Fall Conference, it looks like Sonny will need to pull out all the stops if he wants to get the Golden Gavel. I encourage both Districts to get their membership renewals processed as soon as possible. Emails and calls seem to be working for Andy. Eastern Area is still hanging out in 3rd place, but we want the top spot, so we need to buckle down and get that membership in.

I just attended the District 12 Fall Picnic for Boys and Girls State transportation on October 11th at Post 81 in Melbourne. What a fantastic event and great time. There were a lot of things going on that weekend, but many found time to come out and support this event. It was great to see and visit with everyone.

DISTRICT MEETINGS:

District 12 Nov Date and location TBD. Check District 12 Face Book Page.

District 6 Dec 6th Registration 9:00, Meeting at 10:00 Post #35 Mt Dora.

Hope to see you there!

On a sad note, I hate to inform you that Past 6th District Commander, Peter Gregory lost his battle with cancer. Peter was one of my favorite people and I always enjoyed working with him at Installations and chatting with him. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Also please keep Past Detachment Commander Rocky Cirigliano and his family in your thoughts and prayers on the passing of his wife, Joyce.

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



AMERICAN LEGION



MICHAEL 'TANK' SHERMAN

VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL AREA
VCCENTRAL@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello from the Central Area!

Where has this year gone!? It's already November and Fall Conference and the holidays will be here before you know it!

On October 11th, I accompanied Department Commander Jessica Moore, Detachment Commander Nigbor, 15th District SAL Commander Eric Rikansrud, 15th District Auxiliary President Andrea Sherman and several other members of the Legion family to the Hillsborough Veteran's Park in Tampa for the dedication of the newest Gold Star Families Monument. Andrea started the ceremony with the National Anthem and was followed by a variety of speakers, from City Councilmen and County Commissioners to Annette Kirk, the National President of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. It was a very moving ceremony paying tribute to those left to carry on when their loved one gave the ultimate sacrifice. If you've never been, I highly recommend next time you're in the Tampa area, go to the Hillsborough Veteran's Memorial Park on US 301 in Tampa and check it out.

I was invited to the 7th District meeting at Post 4 in Lakeland by District 7 Commander Dan Heier, so on Wednesday the 15th, I made my way east. It was a small group of Sons, but it was a productive meetings with an eye on the future of the District and supporting each other's Squadrons. I look forward to attending more events in the 7th District and seeing the good that comes from their future cooperation.

That Saturday, October 18th, I was invited down to St. Pete Beach to attend Squadron 305's Authentic Italiano Dinner. Commander Paulie and his crew put on an amazing dinner. The tableside salad service was top notch, and the lasagna was out of this world. My compliments to the chef! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your fundraiser for your charities! And any time you're serving lasagna, let me know. I'll be there!

On Tuesday October 24th, I joined several members of the Post 238 family, including Unit 238 President Skylar Heyward, Squadron 238 Historian Ryan Nadig, and Past 16th District SAL Commander Gary Sanderson at St. Pete Clearwater Airport to welcome home Honor Flight Mission 55 from their trip to Washington, DC. Squadron 238's own Commander was serving as a Guardian on this particular mission, escorting U.S. Navy veteran Frank Madera to our Nation's Capital to visit the various monuments dedicated to our Nation's servicemembers' service. When they returned, the veterans and their guardians were greeted by color guards, bagpipe corps, police and military veteran organizations, JROTC cadets, and many members of the local community showing their support. I had the honor of saluting every veteran on that mission and shaking their hands, welcoming them home and thanking them for their service, including Post 238 member and 100-year-old WWII veteran Frank Wellman (who is also a former POW and Purple Heart recipient) who walked the entire length of the concourse on his own and greeted supports with a firm handshake. Frank was escorted on this mission by Squadron 238 member Rick Lederman. If you ever have the opportunity to support Honor Flight with a donation or go to an airport to welcome a mission home, please do. It's a great way to support our veterans.

Sunday October 26 was a somber one, as I rode across the Florida peninsula to Post 81 in Melbourne to celebrate the life of Joyce Cirigliano, late wife of PDC Rocky Cirigliano. Even though it rained off and on all day, it was a beautiful celebration with good food, good music and good fellowship. I wish the circumstances had been happier, but it was nice catching up with some of the Detachment leadership and some of my fellow Vice Commanders.

As I mentioned last month, I'm challenging every Squadron in the Central Area, or any other Squadron that wants to join in, to go to <https://cota.org/find-a-family/>, enter your zip code, and find a COTA family that need support, right in your back yard. Give your support of Commander Nigbor's charity a personal touch and put a name and face to the mission by supporting someone in need right in your local community. 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.

As I have mentioned in my last couple articles, 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!

For God and Country,
Michael 'Tank' Sherman, Jr
Vice Commander Central Area
Sons of The American Legion





SAM ALOI

DISTRICT 9 VICE COMMANDER
DISTRICT9VC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from District 9!

9th District is still kicking butts and taking renewals. October is breast cancer awareness and 9th district family has been having all kinds of fundraisers to help. With installations in the rearview mirror, we can concentrate on improvements of our post in our communities.

The Riders had several ride ins to help our posts as well as the community. Our Auxiliary is supporting with projects and their charities. The family are always there when help is needed. As I close I am proud to be the VC of the 9th District SAL and as you know humbled by the support and love.

#SALCares

For God and Country,

Sam Aloï
District 9 Vice Commander
Sons of the American Legion



ANDY CAMPBELL

12TH DISTRICT COMMANDER
DISTRICT12@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from the 12th District!

Hurricane season has come and hopefully gone for 2025 and we have been extremely lucky this year. While I know there are still a lot of posts on the west side of the state are still recovering and I hope this break gives them a good chance to get back to normal.

With Fall Conference coming up it looks like the 12th district will get to hold on to the golden gavel. As of this communication we are 3% ahead of them!

We are still working on our District meeting dates for November as it has been busy over here this year but will communicate that date to you as soon as I confirm a post to have it at.

Hope everyone is ready for a little cooler weather coming soon and see you at Fall Conference!

For God and Country,

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





BILL TRAINOR

DISTRICT 1 VICE COMMANDER
DISTRICT1VC@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Greetings from District 1!

Some of you may already know, but for those who don't, Detachment Commander Mike Nigbor asked our District Commander, Troy Touchton, to step up and assume the vacant Western Area Commander position. Of course, Troy accepted, and this resulted in me moving up from District Vice Commander to the position of District Commander. I hope everyone reading this will vote for ratification of this appointment at Fall Conference later this month.

That did leave the District Vice Commander position open, and I expressed my desire to find a willing candidate from the Panama City area to the Detachment Commander and new Western Area Commander. Well, word must have gotten out because I've already had one interested party contact me! Many of you may remember Henry Richards. He served as the District 1 Commander in the past and possesses the necessary experience to support District 1 in the coming months. I also hope that Henry's ratification as District 1 Vice Commander will happen at Fall Conference.

We had a great turnout at the last District meeting that I unfortunately missed due to work commitments. I am hoping to see that again at our next **District 1 meeting on November 8th** at the American Legion Rogers-Hinson Post 235 (105 Hollywood Blvd NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL). Doors open at 10 am and the meeting begins at 11 am.

My goal is for Henry and I to conduct as many Squadron visits as possible in the few weeks left before the District 1 meeting and Fall Conference, where I hope to see some of those Squadron members in attendance. After Conference, we'll pick-up where we left off. I'm looking forward to visiting as many of the District 1 squadrons as I can in the coming months. #SALCares

For God and Country,

Bill Trainor
District 1 Vice Commander
Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida



One of our biggest annual events, the Sons Turkey Shoot is scheduled for Sunday, November 16th. It begins at Noon and runs until 3 pm. The event is open to the public. Kids and adults shoot at targets for \$3/\$5 for the chance to bring home a turkey for Thanksgiving Dinner!



Squadron 382 members raised \$700 in donations grillin' burgers and dogs at the Be the One event on October 20, 2025



ROCKY CIRIGLIANO

INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN

IA@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello All!

I AM OVERWHELMED for the outpouring of kind wishes and prayers for my wife and best friend who passed in September. Thank you all so much

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT (MT&D)

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome new Squadron in District 12, Suntree #420, All American Veterans of Brevard County! Congratulations! 100% Membership reached. Membership is off to a great start and Chairman Paul Stawicki has reached out to those who are having problems. Please contact him with any membership questions you may have.

The "SOURCE"

What is it? It is the newsletter for the Detachment of Florida that is published monthly. The Source is not just for the Detachment Officers, Commission, and Committees 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 an effortless process through www.floridasons.org under the administration tab. Let us spread the word to everyone about the wonderful things that are happening within the Detachment of Florida. All Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairman should be submit-



Scan to join our mailing list!



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



Hello All!

As we rapidly approach the Fall Conference, I want everyone to understand what you'll be learning as you listen. We're not here to tell you what to think - we're here to open the doors of information so that you can think for yourself.

The programs we're creating are designed to serve as a **Guide** - built on facts, established protocol, and best practices. What you do with that information is entirely up to you and your membership. There's no "one size fits all" approach, as each Squadron operates under its own Constitution and Bylaws (C&BL) and is overseen by its Post.

The Info-Grams we're developing are meant to educate Officers and Members about our Organization and how we can collectively make it stronger.

All of our training programs are created by reviewing previous materials and updating them with newer, more efficient, and streamlined policies.

Please remind your members that they're welcome to attend the Fall Conference training session on Friday from 1-4 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

For God and Country,
Peter Puzzo

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



STEVE GORDON

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR
COMMUNITY@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Gentlemen,

Commander Nigbor is off to an amazing start. He has been traveling all over the Detachment. If you would like to have your Commander at your Squadron or District function, please reach out and invite him. Invitations are extremely important so that Commander Nigbor can have the opportunity to schedule a visit.

Please remember to keep track of your hours and donations in order to complete the year end reports. Let's show Commander Nigbor that we can reach 100 % reporting for the 2025-2026 year.

If there are any Squadrons that need help filling out the year end reports, you can reach out to the members of the MT&D Committee, District or Area Commanders, the Assistant Adjutants or myself. One of us will always be available to help you.

There's no reason why you can't fill out the reports. I know that every Squadron is having some type of function, even if it's just your Squadron meetings.

For God and Country,
Steve Gordon

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

AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE



DANNY ROE

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR
CHILDRENYOUTH@FLORIDASONS.ORG



HELLO FROM YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN!

This past month I had the honor of attending the Combined Americanism Conference in Indianapolis Indiana. I attended the Children and Youth segment, and it was very informative. It is good to see what other Detachments are doing and making contact with others that work with Children and Youth. I was able to meet the National Sons Children and Youth Chairman Jeff Trout, and he invited me to participate in their periodic zoom calls which will help me to stay informed and represent the Florida Children and Youth program.

One thing that New Jersey has done is a program called Pizza Garden, aimed at junior members. It teaches the kids to plant and care for a garden with items you might find on a pizza. At National Convention in Tampa a basket of vegetables was presented to National Commander Navarrete from this New Jersey junior group. They encourage squadrons with active juniors to participate. If you are interested in this program, let me know and I can hook you up on how to run the program. This year's program is called Youth Garden.

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 4th: SW Area C&Y Picnic

April 11th: Department C&Y Picnic, Hosted by Palm Bay Post 117, A 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 Post 347 Family (Will go on sale early 2026)

Please plan to support these upcoming 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

Chairman, Children & Youth Commission
Sons of The American Legion





BOB O'NEAL

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHAB CHAIRMAN
VAR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



Hello Sons!

WHAT COUNTS AS VA&R HOURS?

- 1) Volunteering at your Post
- 2) Assisting Veterans with transportation, meals, helping with chores, etc. One Squadron built access ramps for handicapped Veterans.
- 3) 3) "Buddy Check" is one of the most important and satisfying activities which you can do. If you don't know a Veteran who might need help, talk to your Post Commander, 1st Vice or Adjutant for their input, since they know who would benefit from this type of contact. Everyone knows, or should know, a Veteran or two who would welcome the opportunity to spend one-on-one time for conversation about their issues, whether they be service related such as PTSD, Agent Orange related illness (s) etc. or personal issues.
- 4) 4) Volunteering at a local VA facility. Recent budget cuts have increased the importance of volunteers.
- 5) 5) Donations of items such as toiletries and games to VA hospital patients.
- 6) 6) Cash donations to help struggling Vets.

Your Post Service Officer is a good resource for identifying Veterans who need assistance.

NOTE: The current rate for volunteer hours is \$33.49 per hour.

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



Project:Vet Relief is a 501(c)3 charitable organization within the Department of Florida American Legion.

PVR's primary initiatives are:

Emergency Assistance: This program is designed for Florida resident active-duty military personnel, and their dependents who can demonstrate financial hardship and require assistance with essential needs or medical expenses. The Emergency Assistance Request Form may be obtained by email: applications@projectrelief.org or phone at (407)295-2631.

Suicide Prevention: PVR's focus on suicide prevention aims to raise awareness within the community about the alarming suicide rate among veterans (22 suicides per day). Additionally, the organization collaborates with mental health facilities and provides referrals to these facilities as necessary.

Since the organization's founding in 2014, more than 2,000 families have been helped with over \$2,000,000 distributed.

The 12th Annual PVR Golf Tournament at the Golden Bear Club in Windermere September 22nd raised \$96,932 for PVR.

For God and Country,

Bob O'Neal

Chairman | Project:VetRelief Committee





JAMES K ROBERTS III

JUDGE ADVOCATE

JUDGEADVOCATE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



My Fellow SAL Members,

The Department of Florida made several changes and updates to their Constitution and By-Laws over the last couple of years which has necessitated that we conduct a review of our documents. Over the course of the last few months, I have reviewed all the information and began preparing the items in our Constitution and By-Laws that would need to be updated and more in line with the Department of Florida and to make sure our documents do not conflict.

There are numerous amendments that I am proposing to the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the Department of Florida to be discussed when we meet at the fall conference. These amendments will not be read in their entirety unless there are specifics that need to be addressed with the membership or if requested by the membership until we get to the Detachment Convention where they will be voted upon. Each of these amendments will require a 2/3 vote of the Convention delegates present to be adopted and the changes to be made. These changes will become effective immediately upon approval.

Only one of these amendments is considered as an automatic update and that is the one that provides an update to the district boundaries for Districts 11 and 12. It is still published for everyone to understand the update. Be advised that this revision will not be updated in the document until after the 2026 Detachment Convention.

Please understand that these are updates to our Detachment Constitution and By-Laws and that everyone needs to be aware of the changes even though as of now none of these should impact our Squadrons. However, we want to make sure this information is shared with you so you can share amongst your members. This is the most amendments that we have had since our Detachment Constitution and By-Laws were first adopted in 1984.

Should you have any questions or comments, please attend the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee Meeting at our Fall Conference and the Detachment Convention. You may also contact me by email at **judgeadvocate@floridasons.org** or by phone at **(863) 559-1748**.

All amendments have been sent out to the Detachment Executive Committee, which includes the Area Vice Commanders, District Commanders and District Vice Commanders. The all have been charged with making sure each squadron receives a copy of the amendments for review. Additionally, they have been posted to our website, You can view each on in its entirety by visiting **<https://floridasons.org/cbl-amendments/>**

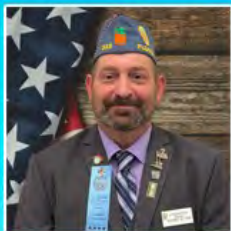
Thank you for what you do and for helping to keep The Source focused on what we do and who we are!

For God and Country,

James K Roberts III

Judge Advocate
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida





CHRISTIAN M RAPP

EDITOR OF 'THE SOURCE'
THESOURCE@FLORIDASONS.ORG



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Since last month, we've had **ZERO new members subscribe to our mailing list**. That's still 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.

491 of 27,041 Subscriptions

EMAIL GROUP SUBSCRIPTION PROGRESS METER 10/16/25 - **NO NEW SIGNUPS LAST MONTH!**

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 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 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

John 'Jack' Bennett



With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Past 4th District Commander John T. “Jack” Bennett, Jr. of Ocklawaha, Florida. Jack passed away on the evening of Monday, October 13, 2025, at the age of 63. He was a proud member of Belleview Post 284.

Jack is survived by his beloved wife, Lynn Bennett; two sons, Daniel and Travis; and three grandchildren, Mason, Morgan, and Molly. Service details are not yet available; updates regarding arrangements will be shared on the Department’s website as they become available.

A U.S. Air Force veteran of the Lebanon & Grenada, Persian Gulf, Panama, and Global War on Terrorism eras, Jack proudly served from 1981 to 2001, dedicating 20 years of honorable service to his country. A devoted Legionnaire, he held 25 years of continuous membership in The American Legion and 15 years of continuous membership in the Sons of The American Legion. His extensive leadership and service reflected his deep commitment to both organizations.

Within the Sons of The American Legion, Jack served as Squadron Commander (2012–2018 and 2023–2025) and District 1st Vice Commander (2024–present).

Within The American Legion, he served as Post Chaplain (2013–2017 and 2025-present), Post Vice Commander (2017–2018), and Post Commander (2018–2021). At the District level, Jack served as 4th District Vice Commander (2019-2021) and as 4th District Commander (2021-2023).

Those wishing to extend their condolences may do so through his wife at:

Lynn Bennett
c/o Travis Bennett
9 Pine Track Pass
Ocala, FL 34472

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Wreaths Across America in Jack’s memory.

Please keep Jack’s family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

FOR
**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!**

**SCAN QR
CODE**



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](https://www.facebook.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

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

Accepting tax deductible Donations:



@SAL415

Want to know more about what the American Legion does, Click [Here](#)



Accepting registration for the First 30 Cars & Motorcycles that want to 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



Motorcycle Registration



Join us for a patriotic celebration honoring our veterans with a day filled with community spirit and family-friendly fun! 😎



Please follow the links to register





The 15th District
**BOYS & GIRLS STATE
PICNIC**

SAT. NOV. 15TH, 2025

**THE ANNUAL
PICNIC BENEFITS
THE 15TH
DISTRICT BOYS
& GIRLS STATE
TRANSPORTATION**

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
FAMILY

Please make checks payable to:
15th District American Legion Department of
Florida & "Picnic" in memo.

Mail to:
Post 148
Attn: Kevin O'Donnell
7240 US 301
Riverview, FL 33578

WHERE: American Legion Post 138
5535 W Prescott St.
Tampa, 33616

TIME: 1-4pm

COST: \$12 per ticket
(children 10 & under free)

MENU: hamburgers, hotdogs, sides

- Dessert Bake Sale
- Basket Raffle & 50/50 raffle
- "Adult Beverage" raffles
- Games for young & old & more!
- Boat Rides
- DJ

**Please RSVP with your
ENTIRE POST attendance
district15@legionmail.org**



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

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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

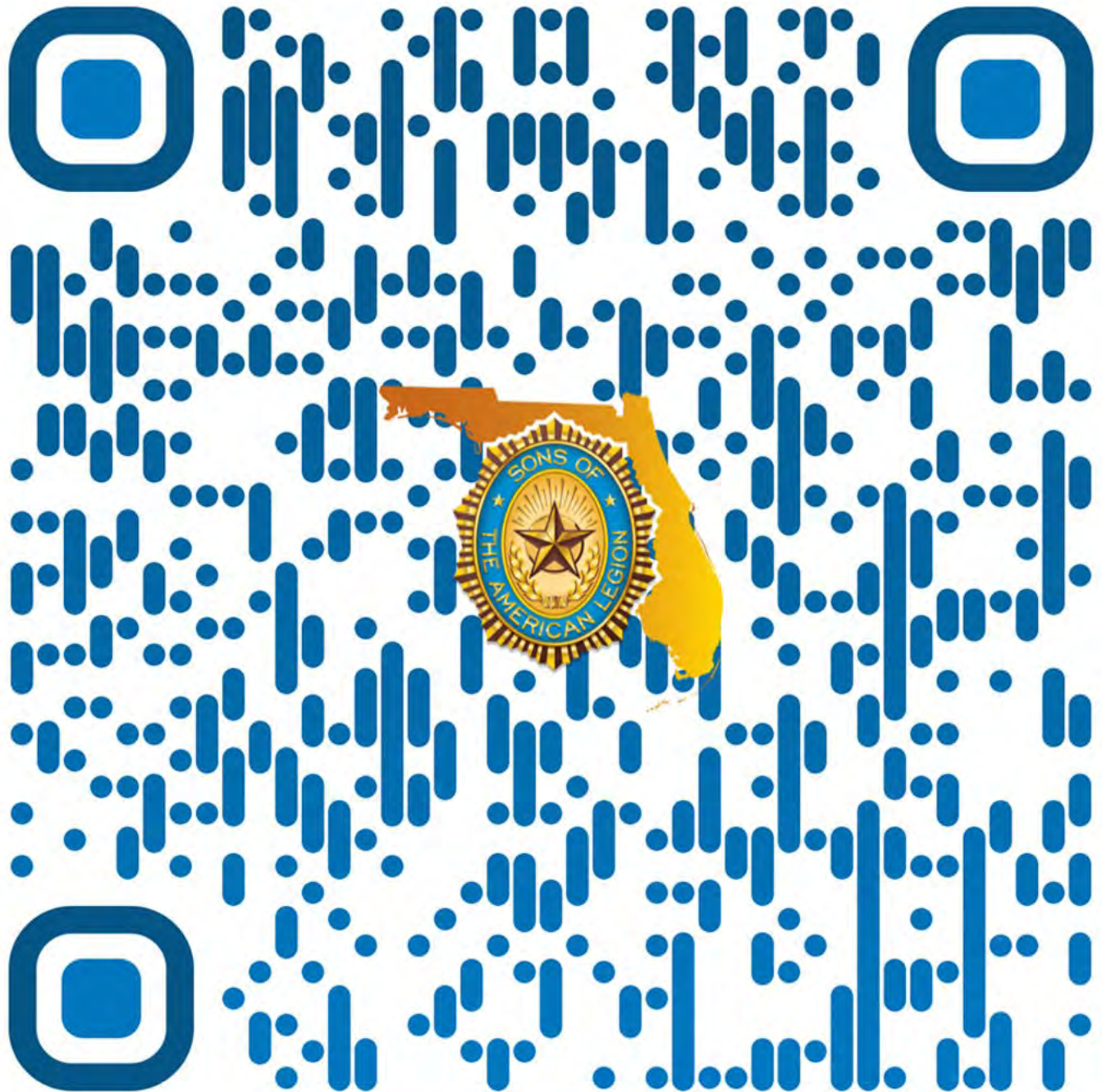


We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and 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.

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](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/florida-sons/join)