



COMMUNICATE  
ACT  
RECRUIT  
EDUCATE

# THE SOURCE



## MICHAEL NIGBOR

DETACHMENT COMMANDER  
COMMANDER@FLORIDASONS.ORG



### Seasons Greetings from your Detachment of Florida Commander!

Thank you to everyone that attended our 2025 Fall Conference at the Caribe Royal Orlando. This conference was designed to serve as an all-inclusive training opportunity through dynamic lecture series and distinguished guest speakers. This conference was geared toward the needs of our members and officers. I must say, a job well done by MT and D Chairman Peter Puzzo and his staff, Detachment Adjutant Christian Rapp and his team, and of course the powerful insights from Detachment Judge Advocate James Roberts III, Assistant Adjutant John Jennings, and National Assistant Adjutant Ed Sheubrooks. Thank you also to NEC William Kelly and ANEC Gerard Sambets for assisting the National S.A.L. Commander Bill Clancy III and his family while at our conference.



Some very important conversations were discussed about membership. As you are aware, I have put out a challenge for each member to recruit at least one new member. I would like to hear from Area Vice Commanders, District and Squadron Commanders as to which squadrons and members are leading the momentum for this challenge. Membership is crucial for our survival, our future and to support our programs. Our veterans and their families, our communities and our children and youth are counting on us. Remember to concentrate also on getting junior members to join. Contact your members to keep them engaged. A phone call works great. Invite them to your meetings, events, and ask them if they would consider volunteering to help with your programs. Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." We are a team. Let's keep the momentum of PDC Rocky Ciriglianos' fantastic term moving forward.



Christian Rapp receives the 2025 National Children & Youth Best Regional Report Award for Squadron 323 | Lehigh Acres

Recruitment isn't an isolated act. It creates ripples that spread outward, benefiting youth, schools, and civic institutions. Whenever you attend an event or see a flag flying high, remember that each member empowers programs supporting American ideals and patriotic education. Encourage your squadron to focus on inviting just one more member

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Detachment Commander	1-2
Detachment Adjutant	3-4
Membership	5-6
Detachment Chaplain	7
Area Vice Commanders	8-10
District Commanders	11
Internal Affairs	12-13
Committees & Commissions	14-15
<b>JUDGE ADVOCATE</b>	<b>16</b>
Letter From The Editor	17
<b>'THE SOURCE' SPOTLIGHT</b>	<b>18</b>
Officer Endorsements & Announcements	19
<b>MAILING LIST QR CODE</b>	<b>LAST PG</b>

#### 2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:

September 4, 2025	10%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	✓
October 9, 2025	25%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	✓
November 6, 2025	35%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	✓
December 4, 2025	45%		
January 8, 2026	60%		
February 5, 2026	75%		
March 5, 2026 *	80%		
April 2, 2026	90%		
May 7, 2026	100%		
May 28, 2026**	<b>105%</b>		

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

*(Detachment Commander Continued)*

this week. We become a stronger organization and more representative of our great country every time someone steps forward and joins our ranks. As S.A.L. Commander Bill Clancy has said... "Community, State, and Nation; Let's Live Our Obligation!"

The holidays can be a very stressful time for many people. As we reflect on the happenings of the year, it is imperative that you call your members, friends and family. Continue your "Buddy Checks ." Be The One to make those calls to possibly save a life. You have no idea how much it means to someone to hear your voice and know that you actually C.A.R.E.

The heart of the Sons of The American Legion beats with service. Our guiding spirit is giving back to those who gave so much. Our acts of kindness, caring and service are part of our history and define who we are today. C.A.R.E. about the Mission. Help our Veterans and

members throughout our community. Let them know who we are, what we do and what the American Legion stands for. Thank you to everyone in our American Legion Family for what you are accomplishing and your support. We have a great team.

From my family to yours, we wish you all a joyful and blessed holiday season filled with warmth, happiness and peace. May the coming year bring you joy, health, and prosperity.

For God and Country,

Michael Nigbor

Detachment Commander  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



Detachment  
of Florida





# CHRISTIAN M RAPP

DETACHMENT ADJUTANT  
ADJUTANT@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!*

At least it is for me. I'd like to start this article wishing you all the best for the holiday season. I hope your 2025 finishes wonderful and 2026 starts even better!

### **FALL CONFERENCE FOLLOW UP**

I'd like to thank Assistant Adjutants John Jennings and George Steger for their help in making this Fall Conference run smoother for me this year. It's getting easier each year for me with your help. I'd also be remiss if I didn't thank Ken Arrant and his team of Assistant Sgt-At-Arms, as well as so many others that helped) for their assistance in setup and break down. We had the room broken down in record time. Finally, I'd like to thank "Banner Master" Gary Raymond for once again tackling those pesky stand-up banners. Hopefully we'll have them replaced by Convention.

We had a fantastic turn out for Fall Conference full of great information. It started on Friday with a great presentation by Pete Puzzo and the rest of the Member Training and Development Team. I also made a presentation on a project I've been working on to help with the year end reporting. More on that in a bit. Here's some important Post-Conference tips:

**EXPENSE VOUCHERS** If you are an officer or committee or commission chairman that has a budget, remember that your expense vouchers must be submitted **NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS** from the expense. That means that if you attended Fall Conference, you should have your vouchers turned in to Finance Committee Chairman Ed Sheubrooks no later than **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025** or you may not be reimbursed. It is quicker if you scan your receipts and email them to Ed, rather than snail-mailing the documents, as they will have to be scanned and sent to Department. You can find the expense voucher on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/expense-voucher.pdf>. The email and mailing address to send it to is on the bottom of the form.

**COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION NOTES** In addition to training, Fall Conference is about meeting as a group, as well as Committees and Commissions and discussing important topics as well as how we can address those topics for the rest of the year. I will be scanning and distributing the meeting folders and attendance sheets and sending them to the Committee and Commission Chairmen. **CHAIRMEN:** I would recommend that you take the email addresses and phone number of those on the attendance sheets and build your list of those interested in your respective Committees and Commissions. Keep these people on your contact lists and keep them engaged throughout the year.

**OTHER ADJUTANT FOLLOW UP** During the course of Fall Conference, many of you have asked for certain things. Sometimes my memory is as long as my pinky finger and I don't remember. I do remember asking you to send me a follow up email so I don't forget. Please send me your follow up emails to [adjutant@floridasons.org](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org) and I will work on your request while I am finishing up other items (like transposing and sending out the minutes of Fall Conference). I'll do my best to get to your requests in a timely manner. Remember: It's the Holiday Season and we're **ALL** busy.

### **REPORTING**

If you weren't able to attend Fall Conference, you missed something that I thought was very important when Americanism Chairman Gary Sanderson gave his report. He stated that your Squadron Reporting begins **AT THE START OF YOUR YEAR**. If you start at the beginning of the year and keep record, when it comes time to submit your reports, it will be so much easier and less time-consuming. Gary gave an example of using your Post's monthly calendar and writing on it the number of people and hours that worked an event. Save these calendars and collate the data on them for your reports at the end of the year.

If you need help, tips, etc with reporting (not just Americanism), please reach out to Gary at [Americanism@floridasons.org](mailto:Americanism@floridasons.org) and he will be glad to help you.



(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

Speaking of reporting, I have been working on a web application that can help your squadron simplify the reporting process. It is in beta now, and I will be having a select group of Beta Testers start to check it out very soon. Look for more information on that in upcoming months. **BETA TESTERS:** if you had told me at fall conference that you would like to help, please shoot me a follow up email so I get your correct email addresses and phone numbers. Some of you text me, a couple emailed me, some told me in person. I need to make a central list. You should have access by the end of this month, after I make a few changes. One final note - while working on this application, I've noticed that every report is a bit different at the start. I believe this is due to changing some reports over the years while leaving others unchanged. I will be revamping some of the reports very soon so they are consistent. I will adjust them to be fillable PDF documents for you tech-savvy users. This will be done in the next couple of months.

**NOTE:** Assistant Adjutant Jennings will be addressing reporting in his monthly articles starting in January. Stay tuned for that in upcoming issues.

## SQUADRON AWARDS

There are many awards that your members and your squadron (and members of your Post Family!) are eligible for every year, however it seems many do not know about them. I'm going to highlight a few here that deal with membership, as we are approaching the deadline to renew membership.

### INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD (NATIONAL AWARD) SAL ONLY

This is an award for SAL members that recruit Five (5) **NEW** members in a year. It's super-easy to achieve. The award is a pin that members can wear on their caps or lapels. Multiple people can earn this award for their Squadron. You'll need to fill out the form with the recruiter's name and Member ID # as well as the names and Member ID# for each new member. National will verify the Member ID numbers and send the pins either to the squadron or the recruiter, based on what was checked off on the form. The form will need to be sent to the **Southeast Region Membership Chairman**, Scott Williams, **NOT ME**. The email address for Chairman Williams is on the form. You can download the form here:

<https://www.legion.org/getmedia/5d45c930-82b6-457d-8f74-fee67883f71/sal-membership-recruiter-award-form-2025-2026.pdf>

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD (DETACHMENT AWARD) LEGION FAMILY

This is a Detachment award for **All** Legion Family members in your post that have encouraged four (4) members to renew their membership and encouraged four (4) members to join the Sons of The American Legion. **YOU CAN REQUEST MULTIPLE AWARDS.** Every year I see only one or two of these awards come in, even though a squadron has had record membership. I use these awards at my Squadron to give recognition to my Auxiliary Membership Chairperson who always reminds the Auxiliary Members to have their family pay their dues to the other houses in addition to asking 'do you have children/grandchildren that are eligible for the SAL' when signing up a new member. I use this award to recognize the Post members that do the same. I also use the award to recognize our bartenders, who interact with the members daily. **(Remember, the bartenders are about to get EXTREMELY busy asking for membership cards and encouraging signups and renewals!).**

I will talk more about some other national awards that your Squadron can easily achieve in next month's edition.

## ENDORSEMENTS FOR OFFICE

Now that we are halfway through our service year, we will be accepting endorsements for office for the 2025-2026 Service Year. If you are considering running for a Detachment Officer Position, or a District Commander/Vice Commander position you may now submit your endorsement. All endorsements will be posted on our website at <https://floridasons.org/detachment-officer-endorsements/>, as well as be published in 'The Source' as they come in. There is a format that all endorsements should follow:

- All endorsements must be on Post/Squadron letterhead and must have **two** signatures.
- Signatures can be any combination of Post or Squadron Commander and Post or Squadron Adjutant.
- **YOU CANNOT SIGN YOUR OWN ENDORSEMENT** if you currently hold one of these positions.

That's all for now. Shari and I wish you all the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years!

**Enjoy your holidays full of food, family and love!**

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 welcome to December!**

This ends the beginning of our fiscal year. We now have six months to complete our 2025-2026 year. As a Detachment, We are doing extremely well. We have met each Goal so far this year. I congratulate you on that we are also ahead of the curve to meet our December goal of 50%. I congratulate all of you who reached 35% at Fall Conference. I also want to congratulate our new Squadron in District 12 Squadron# 420 Suntree. They have also reached their 100% goal. In order for us to complete another banner year we must continue at a steady pace each month with at least 530 submittals for membership each week. I know we can accomplish this as we did it last year. Our all time high and commanders goal of 30,000 members is attainable if we continue to work hard and continue to do what we have been doing so far this year.

As for what we need to do better, we still have ZERO Squadrons That we must find a way to bring up. We also have several struggling squadrons who have performed below goal that must be dealt with. As has been said, it is up to the District Commanders and Vice Commanders as well as the Area Vice Commanders to make sure that these Squadrons who are underperforming become successful. You as a Team must find out why these Squadrons are struggling and assist them and their Posts in correcting what is wrong. This is your job. Detachment is here to help you. But if you do not communicate with us what you need then we have no way of being of assistance. As you know, you are our eyes, ears and mouthpiece for the Detachment. I look forward to the new year and watch us continue to grow and reach our goals. God bless the American Legion Family. We will continue as a Detachment to become better and do more for our Veterans.

Remember Commander Michael Nigbor's Theme **C.A.R.E** and his charity of choice **C.O.T.A.**

For God and Country,

Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida

Get 'Er Done Be A Son #SALCares

RENEW NOW: [LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW](http://LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW)

YOUR

MEMBERSHIP

MATTERS

RENEW RECRUIT RETAIN

MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY! RENEW ONE, RECRUIT ONE!

2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:			
September 4, 2025	10%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
October 9, 2025	25%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
November 6, 2025	35%	<b>ACHIEVED!</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
December 4, 2025	45%		
January 8, 2026	60%		
February 5, 2026	75%		
March 5, 2026 *	80%		
April 2, 2026	90%		
May 7, 2026	100%		
May 28, 2026**	<b>105%</b>		

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

RENEWAL POSTCARD MAIL DATE	RECEIVING DATES
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> NOTICE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2025</b>	<b>SEPT 28 – OCT 3, 2025</b>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> NOTICE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026</b>	<b>FEB 22 – 28, 2026</b>
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> NOTICE: APRIL 9, 2026</b>	<b>APR 26 – MAY 2, 2026</b>

# 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



Brothers and friends,

At each Fall Conference and Convention, I find myself looking forward to the Sunday Religious Service, sharing the podium with our American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain, Karen Marks, and our American Legion Chaplain, Barry Roberts.

At the Sunday Service during \*this\* Fall Conference we shared the podium with Regan, the American Legion Junior Auxiliary Chaplain and I will tell you that she was a joy to behold, speaking Faith and Love to all who attended.

I find myself feeling overly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Chaplain, and for the wonderful experiences that serving in this capacity has enabled for me.

When we gather as a group of God's faithful children, share moments of worship through words and song, we strengthen our fellowship with God and each other.

Gratitude has been a focus of mine this year, and I feel that we should focus on those things for which we're grateful, each and every day. Be it a glorious sunrise, the smile of a child, the wagging tail of a dog, or the simple truth that we, as God's children, are blessed in so many ways. Feeling and sharing that gratefulness is food for the soul, no matter what things of the world we're currently facing.

With Thanksgiving just passed, this most uniquely American holiday, I trust and pray that you shared time with family and friends. Remember always that not all of us have family with whom to share this season. I pray you'll remember to make calls, reach out to members of your Posts, Units, Squadrons and Chapters, and let them know that you, their American Legion family, are there for them.

As you move through this holiday season, I pray for peace to those who struggle, the joy of God's presence in our lives be felt and shared, and His love to permeate all we do and all we are.

I'm grateful for the American Legion Family, and it's ongoing dedication to our veterans, their families, and our nation's children. Mostly I'm grateful for the gift of freedom that we, as citizens of the most blessed country in the family of nations, get to experience each and every day.

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





# DANNY ROE

VICE COMMANDER EASTERN AREA  
VCEAST@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## Greetings from the Eastern Area!

As I write this article, I have just returned home from Fall Conference. It was great seeing many of you and a great time was had by all. I hope you were able to take part in the training provided by MT&D Pete Puzzo. I always learn something at these conferences.

In the competition between District 6 and District 12, **District 12 has won the race to Fall Conference** and will retain the Golden Gavel. **District 6 @ 52.90%** to **District 12 @ 58.30%**. Sonny will be hanging on to the Golden Throne for another 6 months.

Congrats to **Andy Campbell, District 12 Commander**. Eastern Area is still hanging out in 2nd place barely, but we want the top spot, so we need to buckle down and get that membership in. On a good note, the first postcards from National have gone out and I am seeing an uptick in renewals. Don't forget to remind your people that December 31st is the last date a 2025 card will get you in the door. Let's do all we can to get **Commander Nigbor to his goal of 30,000 members!**

As we are into the Holiday season, let's remember that it is a tough time of year for many people. Let's support the food banks and needs of the people around us. **Let's remember our oath to the indigent and distressed, that no worthy comrade is turned away without full justice.** Let us help where we can if we are able. I am sure you will, because that is what we do.

## DISTRICT MEETINGS:

- **Dist. 12:** Dec 6th Registration 8:30, Meeting at 9:30 Post #117 Palm Bay.
- **Dist. 6:** Dec 6th Registration 9:00, Meeting at 10:00 Post #35 Mount Dora.

*Hope to see you there!*

Please feel free to contact me at [vceast@floridasons.org](mailto: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





***Happy Holidays from the Northern Area!***

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone - Communication is a 2-way street. I know many of our members are regularly sending out emails or texting / calling their friends and family, especially with the holiday season approaching so quickly.

I find that it is not something often thought about – but if the person you are contacting is not responding - are you really communicating? When an email or call is not responded to - we are just throwing the information out there and hoping it is received.?

Most S.A.L. members say that they have an American Legion Family - are these folks also getting information thrown out there? I hope that we are reaching out and truly communicating with our all our friends, Family and American Legion Family. Not just in this holiday season, but all throughout the year.

Hopefully, we can start following up more - If a family member does not respond to an email, maybe it is time to pick up the phone, or drop by. Far too often, we get busy, we get distracted, we have too much going on.

*Let's get better - let's follow up, let's truly communicate. Instead of just "Throwing it out there and hoping it sticks."*

For God and Country,  
 Denton 'Shay' Woods  
 Vice Commander Northern Area  
 Sons of The American Legion  
 Detachment of Florida



***Greetings from the Central Area!***

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break with friends and family! Now it's on to December!

We hit the ground running on November 1st, with 3 events on the same day in the 16th District! First up, Auxiliary Unit 238 hosted a Juniors and Young Sons Flag Etiquette and flag folding class organized by Unit 238 Juniors Chair and Unit 238 & District 16 National Security Chair Dede Walker. Post 238 Commander Bob Allen gave a very informative brief on flag etiquette, including the proper care, display, and disposal of our Nation's flag, and then Auxiliary District 16 President Cheryl Adams and District 16 Sergeant at Arms Dee Touhey proceeded to demonstrate how to properly fold the flag while Commander Allen explained the meaning behind each of the 13 folds.

I think the small group of Juniors (and even some of the more senior members present) learned something. Thank you, Dede, Commander Allen, President Adams and Dee, for a wonderful training class. Teaching the future of our organizations while they're young is so important.



*(Vice Commander Central Area Continued)*

After the flag etiquette training, I rode down to Post 273 for the annual District 16 SAL Picnic. It was great seeing everyone and having a couple hours of camaraderie while raising money for a great cause. From there, I tried to make it to Squadron 125's Ribfest but unfortunately, I arrived just a touch too late. Thankfully, they still had plenty of delicious ribs left... Super tender and falling off the bone, my hat's off to the chef. I wish I could have been there for the event while it was going on, but I'm glad I was able to support it anyway.



The following Wednesday, I travelled over to Squadron 119 in Largo, Largo for their meat bingo. The place was packed, and everyone had a fun time. Commander "Doc" Bowen even had me come up and be a guest caller for several games. Looking forward to doing it again soon!



On Saturday, November 8th, Squadron 173 in Holiday hosted a mini cornhole tournament supporting District 16 Commander Rob Huddle's charity, Steps to Recovery Inc. Nine teams participated and competed while raising over \$500 for an amazing cause. Congrats to Bob and Ed for securing the win!



Veteran's Day this year found me at my home post, Post 138 in Port Tampa, where Auxiliary Unit 138 was selling luminary bags to honor a veteran's service. My daughter, Unit 138 Little Miss Poppy (and reigning Junior Member of the Year) Paige, decorated several luminary bags honoring not only my service, but other veterans as well. There was a short ceremony inside where Paige read In Flanders Fields. I am so very proud of my little girl and everything she does to honor my fellow veterans.



As I mentioned last month during Fall Conference, 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.

It's getting closer! TAL Central Area Commander Rick O and I just did a walkthrough at Post 7 in the 16th District in preparation for the upcoming Central Area Ball. 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!

***I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
See you all in 2026!***

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





# MITCHELL PACE

13TH DISTRICT COMMANDER  
DISTRICT13@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## **Greetings from the Mighty 13th District!**

*I would like start my article by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

I hop you had a Great Thanksgiving and enjoyed your time with family and friends. I was excited to see everyone at the Fall Conference. Membership wise we are doing ok but we can always do better. Remember if you were at DCC ( I have huge Crocs to fill) don't let me down guys It is all about membership. Keep making your goals and lets get District 13 in first place again.

Squadron visits are going great, and I would love to attend your meeting or just come for a visit, please let me know - just text, call or email me.

It's my honor to represent District 13 this year.

### **#SALCares**

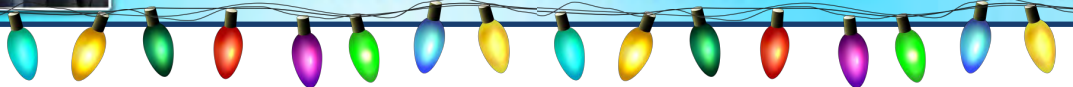
For God and Country,

Mitchell Pace  
13th District Commander  
Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



# ANDY CAMPBELL

12TH DISTRICT COMMANDER  
DISTRICT12@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## **Greetings from the 12th District and Happy Holidays!**

With the cooler temps coming in I hope everyone stays safe during the holiday season.

Let's all keep in mind the homeless folks and less fortunate people that are in your area and provide them with warm clothes and food this holiday season. Not too mention the kids in those families if you are doing and angel tree this holiday season for them.

Our District 12 meeting will be on December 6th at Post 117 at 9:30am.

I encourage all our Squadrons to participate. Our last District meeting we had 11 squadrons attend!

Thanks to all our Squadrons in the 12th District that participated in the Fall Conference it was good to see everyone there!

I also encourage all our Squadrons to keep up to date with their monthly reporting so it will be easier to do the Year end reporting in May. Let's get that 100% reporting in at the end of this fiscal year again!

***I will be out of the state for the holidays visiting family. Please contact Gary Raymond with any issues while I am gone December 19th thru January 4th***

***Hope everyone is ready for a cooler weather and the holiday season.***

For God and Country,

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



Hello All!

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

Fall Conference is now behind us, and the 2025-2026 year is in full swing. We had a very well attended Conference with great classes presented by Membership Training and Development.

A legal opinion prepared by the National Judge Advocate regarding The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and the four rules of an American Legion Program was forwarded by Bruce Comer, Department Adjutant, to all Post Commanders and Post Adjutants.

For us, the SONS, it is business as usual, keeping in mind the requirements a program of the American Legion must adhere to:

**“Leadership”** – All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization after each selection, or as needed.

**“Rules”** – All bylaws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and approval prior to use.

**“Reports”** – The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities reports; (b) quarterly financial reports; (c) an annual financial statement; and (d) any additional report(s) requested by the parent organization.

**“Controls”** – The parent organization may provide the program with the employer identification number (EIN) and the tax-exemption status, with the necessary financial controls over their usage. All program financial accounts must have a minimum of two (2) signatories appointed by the parent organization.

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

In closing, I leave you with the Preamble. I believe, as we all should, these words are meaningful for you as a member and us as a Veteran Organization.

For God and Country,  
Rocky Cirigliano  
Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission  
Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment of Florida



## 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:**

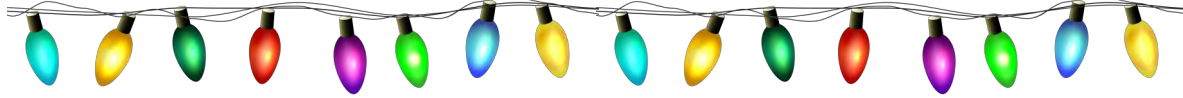
- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America,
- to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism,
- to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in all wars,
- to inculcate a sense of 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.





# DANNY ROE

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR  
CHILDRENYOUTH@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## HELLO FROM YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN!

As we enter the month of December, let's remember Holidays can be a tough time of year especially for less fortunate children. Let's do what we can to help those in need and put a smile on a child's face.

There are lots of events going on around you, please take time to support those events.

One such event is sponsored by **Sonny Perchitti and Squadron 55 in Clermont**. They have a Christmas party for Special Olympics athletes from the South Lake Bowlers. The event runs from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, at Clermont Art and Recreation center, 3700 S. Hwy 27, Clermont, FL 34711. Stop in, have a bite to eat and support approximately 65 Athletes and see how excited they get when Special Guests arrive from the North Pole. I will be stopping by after the district 6 meeting that day.

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)*

**March 23rd at 8:00 AM**, Golf Tournament: Post 8 Winterhaven (See Source flyer in January for details)

**March 27th at Plantation Palms golf course**. Golf Tournament: Post 108, Land of Lakes, (See Source flyer in January for details)

**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](mailto: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  
Detachment of Florida





# BOB O'NEAL

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHAB CHAIRMAN  
VAR@FLORIDASONS.ORG



## **Hello Sons!**

The consensus of the Veterans Administration & Rehabilitation Commission's breakout session at the Fall Conference was that we need to get all the Squadrons to report their volunteer hours.

ANY hours spent on activities which benefit Veterans count. Also, cash donations and Squadron budgeted amounts count.

"Buddy checks" are a key activity which everyone can do. Put together a list of Veterans in your Post and assign members of your Squadron to make phone calls or make visits to those who can use a friendly ear to make those Vet's lives better.

The Holiday season is an especially good time to make these calls and visits, particularly to veterans who live alone and appreciate hearing from someone who is willing to spend time with them.

***We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.***

***Please Note that the current rate for volunteer hours is \$33.49 per hour if you are starting your reports.***

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



The holidays are upon us! We just celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here soon. As we celebrate with friends and family, let's not forget those less fortunate who are out there and in need of help.

Help can come in many forms, including financial and emotional. This is where Project: Vet Relief comes in. We learned at the Fall Conference special meeting of the PVR, which included several of the support groups which PVR funds, that the way to help Veterans who are struggling is to interact with them and offer support as they work through their issues.

Socializing is a powerful means to help those who might be contemplating suicide. Call a Veteran to see how he or she is doing, and give them a chance to open up and discuss their feelings. It is very therapeutic and just might help bring them back from the brink.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!***

For God and Country,

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





# 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 were discussed when we met at the fall conference. These amendments were not be read in their entirety unless there are specifics that needed 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](mailto: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**

**491 of 27,041 Subscriptions**

**EVERYBODY**, not just Detachment Leadership.

### **EMAIL GROUP SUBSCRIPTION PROGRESS METER 11/30/ 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



# SPOTLIGHT

*Submitted by Paul Micieli, Commander of Squadron 305 St Pete Beach*

## **The American Legion Post 305, St. Pete Beach, and All of the American Legion Family, Welcomes and Congratulates Our newly formed American Legion Riders, Chapter 305!**

At the beginning of November, our American Legion Post 305 received from The Department of FL our American Legion Riders Charter for our newly formed American Legion Riders Chapter 305.

Our post had a very nice Ceremony on November 15th as we celebrated A hearty welcome to our A.L.R. Chapter 305. We celebrated with a nice congratulations cake, and Our Squadron awarded all the ALR 305 Charter Members with an S.A.L. / Legion Riders Challenge coin, and in addition Our Squadron 305 donated \$1,000.00 to the Chapter as A "Kick Start" to help them with supporting their programs.

We are all very proud of these A.L.R. 305 Charter members, they worked very hard to receive their Charter. I'm glad to say 5 of the Charter members are current S.A.L. Squadron 305 Members, 2 Charter members are currently 305 American Legion Auxiliary, and 2 A.L.R. Charter Members are currently Legionnaires.

I'm sure in the future Our A.L.R. will be signing up many Legionnaires, S.A.L, and A.L. Auxiliary Members to join our A.L.R. Chapter 305.

In addition, at the "ALR Charter presentation ceremony", many of Our S.A.L officers of Squadron 305 joined as "A.L.R. Chapter 305 Supporters", and 6 of our 305 Legion Family Members also joined up to become "A.L.R. Chapter 305 Supporters", now that's what I call Getting Involved!

Our A.L.R. Chapter 305 is very excited to start networking with many of the 16th District A.L.R. Chapters, as they all are currently diligently working with the "Wreaths Across America" program, and also helping out with the "Toys for Tots" Program.

***So, Everyone... Let's All Welcome Our American Legion Riders of Chapter 305!***



OFFICE OF:	CANDIDATE
DETACHMENT COMMANDER	Michael Nigbor   Squadron 303 – Bonita Springs
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER WEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER NORTH	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER EAST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTHWEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTH	
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN <small>2 YEAR APPOINTMENT</small>	
ALT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN <small>2 YEAR APPOINTMENT</small>	
DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN	
DETACHMENT HISTORIAN	
DETACHMENT SEARGENT-AT-ARMS	

## DISTRICT COMMANDERS

## DISTRICT VICE COMMANDERS

DISTRICT 1
DISTRICT 2
DISTRICT 3
DISTRICT 4
DISTRICT 5
DISTRICT 6
DISTRICT 7
DISTRICT 8
DISTRICT 9
DISTRICT 11
DISTRICT 12
DISTRICT 13
DISTRICT 14
DISTRICT 15
DISTRICT 16
DISTRICT 17

This listing as well as guidelines for endorsements can be found on the Detachment website at:

<https://floridasons.org/detachment-officer-endorsements/>

All endorsements must be sent to the Detachment Adjutant at [adjutant@floridasons.org](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org)

# Vegas Night at The American Legion sponsored by



Why go to Vegas when you can play your favorite games at the American Legion, Post 275?

Blackjack, **Roulette**, 3 Card Poker, **Let It Ride**, Craps

**\$20 = \$1000 play money/\$40 = \$2500 play money**



*Chips and play money can only be redeemed through bidding on prizes at the live auction or purchasing raffle tickets (\$100 play money = 1 ticket)*

**WHEN: Saturday, January 10, 2026 6:00pm—10:00 pm**

**WHERE: American Legion Post 275, 360 Wilson St., Dunedin**

Open to the public \* Food available for purchase

**All proceeds go to**



# Raffles ★ Live Auction ★ 50/50's



## 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](http://floridasons.org))
- The Detachment of Florida's Facebook page ([facebook.com/FloridaSAL](https://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](mailto:adjutant@floridasons.org)

*The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 185 Squadrons and over 25,000 members this year donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and hours to the many programs of The American Legion Family.*

***For More Information about the  
Florida Sons of The American Legion,  
visit us on the Internet at:***

[www.floridasons.org](http://www.floridasons.org)  
Or e-mail us at [floridasons@floridasons.org](mailto:floridasons@floridasons.org)

## Source Articles

Scan the QR Code below to  
visit our website

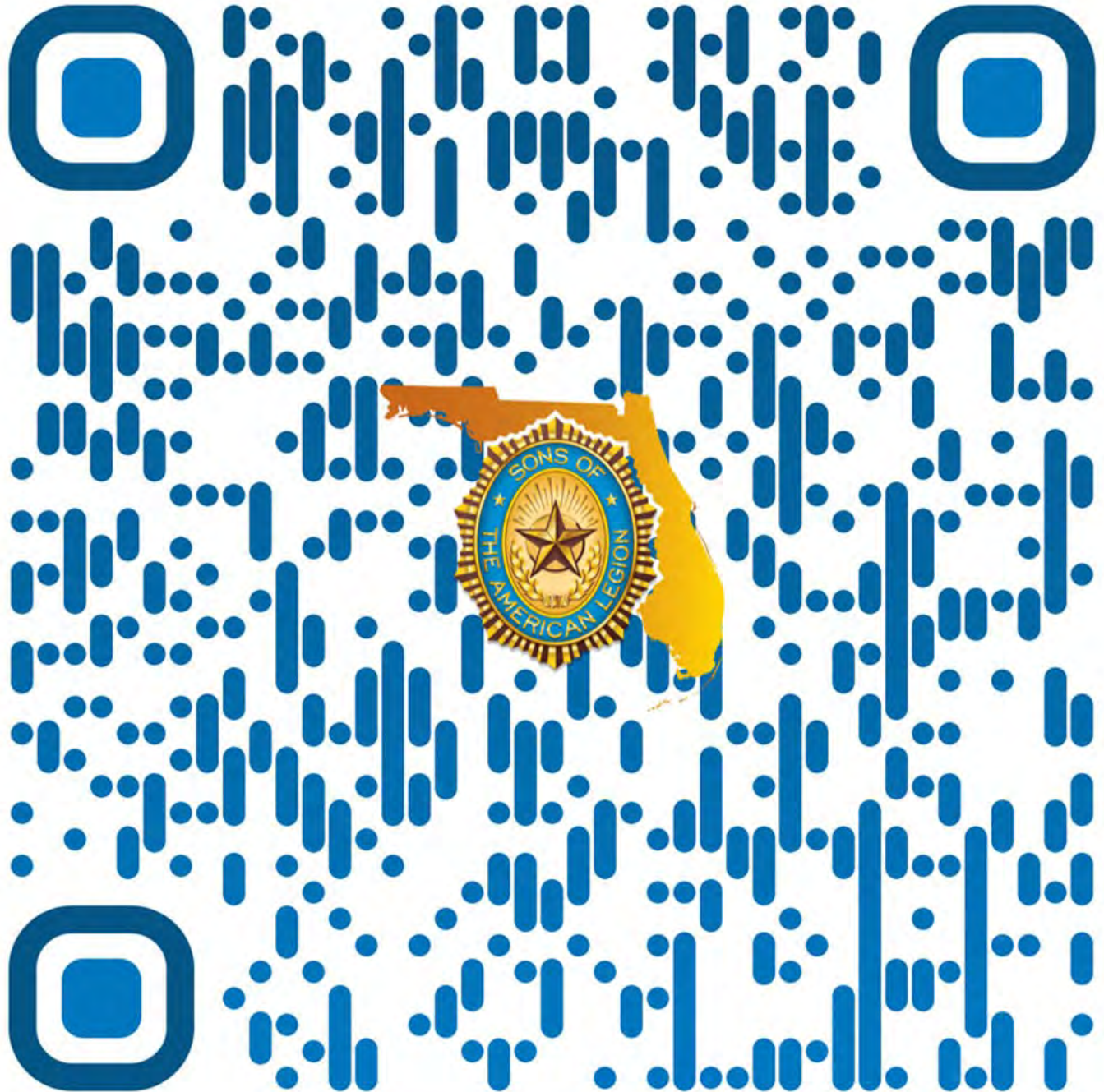


We are looking for your input and help to keep this newsletter going. We are looking for articles from the Squadrons, Districts, or Areas. Let us know what is happening in your Squadron, District & Area and we will inform the rest of the Detachment. It could increase attendance at your functions and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