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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA

THE SOURCE

COMMUNICATE
ACT
RECRUIT
EDUCATE



VOLUME 33
ISSUE 9
APRIL 2026

Greetings from your Detachment of Florida Commander!

Thank you everyone that is working so hard on our membership. The renewals have been coming in very well in all of the Districts. Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders. Please get in touch with me and let me know who some of the star performers are in your area for getting renewals and recruiting new members.

As we all know, membership is crucial to the future of our organization. Keep reaching out to those that have yet to renew. Text, email and especially important, call your members. Get them engaged and interested in coming to your meetings and events. Let them know you appreciate their continued support. This is a great way to work your "Buddy Checks". Remind them they are a team member of the Worlds' Greatest Veterans Organization, The American Legion. Get them enthused to get involved. Visit the Legion's "Buddy Check" web page to download a toolkit, door hanger and FAQ sheet. As American Legion Family members, we must continue our "Buddy Checks". Resources are available to help show veterans and their families that we C.A.R.E. about their well being.

As Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage, we continue to honor our forebearers' legacy by serving veterans, supporting youth programs and promoting patriotism across our state and nation. Our dedication ensures that the values and sacrifices of America's veterans are remembered and respected for future generations. Our membership will affect our future service to these ideals. Success is the result of hard work and dedication. Our job is to bring in those last few members to reach our goals. We can and will set new membership records this year.

Remember our challenge, to get each Squadron member to recruit at least one new member. This is part of your "WHY". Why did you want to join the American Legion? What were you hoping to accomplish? Now is our chance to give back, to help secure our future. We will show The American Legion Family that we believe in their mission and that we will continue to "Honor our Heritage" of supporting our veterans and communities.

March was another great month for events and travel. Congratulations to Central Area Vice Commander Michael Sherman and his team for a fun filled event, the Central Area Ball in at Post 7 in Clearwater. I attended the District 9 Family Picnic at Post 180 in Plantation. A wonderful event on Saturday the 7th with a generous donation to our charity, C.O.T.A. Sunday the 8th was the return of Squadron 303 horseshoe and cornhole tournament. It has been a year and a half in the planning since the destruction from Hurricane Ian. It ended up being a very successful event. Saturday the 14th was the Oratorical National Contest in Orlando. Wow, talk about some amazing young people, all presenting their take on The U.S. Constitution, it's meaning and influence on our rights as a nation. Thursday the 19th through

Sunday the 22nd, I will be attending American Legion College. I'm looking forward to receiving a lot of useful information from the dedicated instructors. Knowledge is Strength. April will be filled with a lot of events that I will talk about in the next article.

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2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:

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

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

(Detachment Commander Continued)

I hope that all of my travels and meeting you at your events will inspire you and your family , all Legion Family members, and everyone in your circle of community to our mission, " Supporting all of our Veterans and encouraging our Nation's Youth to be Good Citizens'. We are challenging All Americans to Service to their Community, State and Nation. April 25th is American Legion Family Day. I hope there are many Posts, Squadrons and Units having Open House Events to welcome their communities, children and youth.

This would be a great day to pass on the knowledge of flag respect, American history and citizenship. With America's 250th birthday fast approaching, educational outreach is more important than ever. Teach our fellow Americans the proper protocols of flag etiquette and our countries heritage. About all the good we do with our volunteerism. Again, call your members and get them engaged to help on this day. Let them know they are important to the success of our program.

This is an exciting time of year with elections for new and returning officers. Remember to send in your SIR report after your elections. You should all be receiving the packet with all of our report criteria. Lets' work hard on getting 100% reporting this year. The Consolidated Squadron Report(CSR) is one of the most important documents we need to turn in. The information on this report is combined with other squadrons in creating a final report used by The American Legion, forwarded to the U.S. Congress, showing our volunteer hours, donations, and used to apply and verify awards at National Convention.

Get together with your neighboring Squadrons and get these reports done. Help each other, we are a team, and one of the greatest ones. Remember, if your Squadron only does one thing, it needs to be reported on the CSR. What our squadrons do everyday Matters. It needs to be documented. Every volunteer hour and every dollar donated turns good intentions into verifiable proof of impact. The CSR shows how we support our veterans, youth, military families and our communities. This is essential when facing audits, regulatory reviews and public scrutiny. Service that is not documented cannot be defended, validated or verified.

Communication and teamwork is the foundation to our success. The time is now to show our mission is cemented in service, patriotism, kindness and community engagement, honoring all those who served and continue to serve.

Always keep in mind, The Dignity of being a Son of The American Legion is Non-Negotiable. Duty, Honor and Country is what we stand for. It's what we do and are about.

Thank you for all you do to prove The Detachment of Florida is an unwavering force. Please, send me invitations to your meetings and events. As you can see, I like to meet all of our members and will make every effort to attend. Get out and keep the lines of communication thriving. Help promote each others events. **We are a team, We are stronger together.**

For God and Country,

Michael Nigbor

Detachment Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida





CHRISTIAN M RAPP

DETACHMENT ADJUTANT

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WELCOME TO APRIL!

April is a very significant month for us as Sons of The American Legion. It signifies the start of the end of our Service Year. It's time to start our end of the year reporting, hold our elections at the Squadron and District levels and prep for our Annual Detachment Convention that will be held June 11 - June 14, 2026 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista. This month I will, again, provide you with some very important information you need to know. But first....

Cabana Boy's Island Bash | DETACHMENT COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

Commander Nigbor's Homecoming will be held on the **25th of this month** at American Legion Post 323 in BEAUTIFUL Downtown Lehigh Acres. Cost is \$25 per person. Squadron 323 will be handling the funds for the event. You can make checks payable to **Squadron 323** or you can use Venmo or CashApp if you prefer to pay that way. If using Venmo, please use **@Christian-Rapp-3** when using Venmo and **\$CMRweb** when using CashApp.

As of this date, I still don't have many that have RSVP'd for the event. If you're planning on paying cash upon arrival, just text or email me to let me know as soon as you can.

I have secured a group rate with the local hotel which is just around the corner from the Post. They have a block of rooms set aside at \$89/night plus taxes. You can call the hotel directly to reserve your rooms, or you can use this link they set up: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/KL97G5>. The hotel is the Quality Inn & Suites and their phone number is **(239) 491-01049**.

As you can tell, we're running with the 'Cabana Boy' theme. The dress will be tropical/beach casual. Put on your flip-flops / sandals and a Hawaiian Shirt and join the fun! All proceeds from the event will benefit COTA which is the Commander's Charity of Choice this year. If you cannot attend, but would like to make a donation, you can mail a check to Squadron 323 - **payable to COTA** - and it will be presented to the Commander at his event. The mailing address for Squadron 323 is on the flyer at the end of this edition.

DISTRICT & SQUADRON ELECTIONS

According to Article IX (District Organization) Section 8 of the Detachment Constitution: In addition to any other conference that may be held in the several Districts of the Detachment, there shall be held in each District a District Constitutional Conference not more than sixty (60) nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Detachment Convention.

THIS MEANS YOUR DCCs CAN ONLY BE HELD FROM APRIL 12, 2026 - JUNE 1, 2026

Also: in regards to District Elections, voting should be done by Delegate Strength. Prior to your District Elections, please reach out to me and I will provide a Delegate Strength Report based on the current membership report for that time.

According to Article X (Squadron Organization) Section 13 of the Detachment Constitution: *All officers of Squadrons, except the Squadron Adjutant and the Squadron Judge Advocate, shall be elected and certified to the Department Adjutant and Detachment Adjutant, not more than ninety (90) days, nor less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Detachment Convention.*

THIS MEANS YOUR SQUADRON ELECTIONS CAN ONLY BE HELD FROM MARCH 12, 2026 - JUNE 1, 2026

END OF YEAR REPORTING

The Department will be start sending out end-of-year reporting packets this month.

THE PACKETS ARE NEW THIS YEAR. EVERYTHING in the packet has changed - including the reports. Make sure you - especially those of you how fill out the reports electronically - open the packet and read everything. As soon as I have confirmation that the packets have been mailed, I will let everyone know through our outlets. I will also let the Area and District Commanders know so they can follow up with their Squadrons.

REMEMBER that these packets are distributed by The American Legion Department of Florida, not by me personally. While we coordinate to provide the most complete packet possible, there may be occasions when a form is inadvertently missed. If that happens, I will notify all Detachment Vice Commanders and District Staff promptly. It will then be the responsibility of those leaders to ensure the squadrons in their districts are informed and provided with any missing forms.

(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

Your Adjutant Team is here to support and guide you through the process, but squadrons remain responsible for completing their own reporting.

These forms will be posted on our website and included in the end-of-year reporting packets. Please read this issue all the way through as Assistant Adjutant Jennings is addressing reporting in his monthly articles. He will explain why reporting is critical to our mission as Sons of The American Legion and will also provide practical tips for completing the reports accurately.

ONLINE SUBMISSION PORTAL

The portal for submitting reports that I created last year has been updated and is live. If you are computer savvy, you can use the PDF versions of the reports found on our website (see Assistant Adjutant Jennings' article for the URL) and complete them, save them to your computer, and submit them through the portal. The Report Submission Portal can be found at <https://reporting.floridasons.org/>. If you don't use the fillable PDF versions, but you know how to scan your reports - you can also use the portal to submit your reports.

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION CHAIRMEN - you will be receiving the reports when they come in. I will set up email boxes for your committee/commission so the reports will be sent directly to you prior to Convention. You'll need to print out a copy of each report and bring them with you to Convention so your Committee/Commission can judge the reports. I have been told that giving you the reports in advance has been very advantageous in helping your meetings be more productive in the time allotted. **Expect contact from me in the coming weeks.**

54TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Our 54th Annual Detachment Convention will be held June 11 - June 14, 2026 at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista. **THIS WILL BE OUR LAST CONVENTION AT THIS LOCATION.** If you are planning on attending and haven't reserved your rooms yet, you may be out of luck. You can call the hotel at **1-800-782-4414**. Make sure to ask for the Legion Rate. The agenda, training session information and other important information will be released as the time of Convention gets closer. If you would like to get an idea of what the weekend agenda might look like, you can view the Detachment Convention Page on our website and see last year's information.

ENDORSEMENTS FOR OFFICE

Endorsements for office for the 2026-2027 Service Year are starting to come in. 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.

A NOTE ON ENDORSEMENTS:

If you are considering running for a position but notice that someone else has already submitted an endorsement, you are still encouraged to submit your own endorsement letter. An endorsement serves as a letter of intent and simply communicates your interest in serving in that role.

Please remember that under our current Constitution and By-Laws, any member in good standing is eligible to run for any position. In addition, nominations may also be made from the floor at Convention - including for the office of Detachment Commander.

The Sons of The American Legion does not operate with a predetermined slate of candidates. We value member involvement, leadership development, and open participation. Interest in serving and a willingness to step forward are encouraged, and healthy competition through the election process is an important part of a strong and successful Detachment.

That's it for now, I hope to see many of you at the Commander's Homecoming this month! Please reach out to me or the rest of your Adjutant Team if you need help with ANYTHING.

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



Gentlemen,

This is another article on Squadron reporting and its importance. As we move closer to our annual Detachment Convention our reporting process becomes a priority for all Squadrons, large and small.

Vice Commanders, District & District Vice Commanders, this is the time you need to communicate with your Squadrons and give them any assistance they may require. You helping them will help us do our jobs collecting the information and delivering that information to the General Assembly at Convention

ALL Squadrons need to complete **ALL** Detachment required paperwork that reflects the work of your Squadron to be supplied at or before our Annual Detachment Convention **EACH & EVERY YEAR**. This year is no different the any other year. Vice Commanders, District Commanders, and District Vice Commanders, please see that this information is given to all the Squadrons in your areas of responsibilities. Thank you in advance for your help and support. Let's make this year our best reporting year yet!

REQUIRED SQUADRON REPORTS

• SQUADRON CONSOLIDATED REPORT (CSR)

- **NATIONAL CSR** can be completed from two locations.
 - www.MyLegion.org for those in the Squadron with access.
 - www.floridasons.org under the reporting tab and follow the instructions to mail to National Headquarters or use the supplied email.

• DETACHMENT CSR

- www.floridasons.org under the reporting tab and follow the instructions

- **Squadron Information Report (SIR)** – To be completed after Squadron Elections and can also be used for Officer changes during the year.
- **Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR)** - Submit this form **ONLY** if there are changes in dues, address, email, or contact information that has been previously submitted. **If you have no changes, no submission of the form is required.**

ALL SQUADRONS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE OFFICIAL IN THE MAIL TO THEIR SQUADRON MAILING ADDRESS ON FILE. IT CAME IN AS SEPARATE ENVELOPE FROM DEPARTMENT A FEW DAYS AFTER YOUR END-OF-YEAR REPORT PACKETS ARRIVED. WHILE THE ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE SAID POST XXX ON THE MAILING LABEL, THERE WAS A BIG LABEL IN THE LEFT HAND CORNER THE READ SAL. If you haven't see this yet, check with your Post Leadership to see if they have.

- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Report** – This is an individual Squadron Award report that will be graded at Convention.
- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Volunteer of the Year** – This is an individual award to be determined by the VA & R Committee at Convention.

The priority reports are the *National and Detachment Squadrons Consolidated Reports (CSR)*. **BOTH** reports are critical that the Squadrons complete **BOTH** reports and submitted as instructed. These reports are different and the calculations serve to different functions. The Detachment report supplies the Detachment with information so we the Detachment can submit our Detachment report to National. The National report is used to collect all information need to put together information for the American Legion National Commander when he addresses Congress at the Washington Conference. As you see these reports have different importance and both need to be completed.

This is a list of the six possible reports that each Squadron may need to complete. Look at these reports and save your copies for use. If you are completed with a fundraiser complete the required form ahead of time and have it ready to submit. Always remember to count all your support hours to the Post and their functions.

What our squadrons do everyday matters - but if it is not documented, it is

(Detachment Assistant Adjutant continued)

WHY DOES THE CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT MATTER:

The Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) is not paperwork for the sake of paperwork. It is one of the most critical documents a squadron can complete. Information reported by squadrons is combined nationwide, used by The American Legion, forwarded to the U.S. Congress, and relied upon to apply for and verify many awards.

Every volunteer hour served and every dollar donated turns good intentions into verifiable proof of impact. The CSR captures how Sons of The American Legion support veterans, youth, military families, and local communities. When documented, local service becomes part of a statewide and national narrative that proves relevance, effectiveness, and mission execution.

Accurate CSR reporting protects the organization's nonprofit standing. It demonstrates transparency, accountability, and charitable purpose - essential when facing audits, regulatory reviews, or public scrutiny. Service that is not reported cannot be defended, validated, or verified.

CSR data strengthens the organization's ability to secure funding, grants, donations, and partnerships. Grantors, donors, and sponsors expect measurable outcomes. Squadrons that document their service help justify continued support and position the organization for future opportunities.

At the department and national levels, consolidated CSR data drives advocacy, visibility, and influence. Leadership relies on these numbers to speak with authority to legislators, government agencies, and community partners. Real data - not anecdotes - demonstrates the true scope of our nationwide impact.

WHY AWARDS MATTER BEYOND THE CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT

Awards are not about bragging rights, and they are not limited to CSR-based recognition.

Awards establish standards of excellence across membership growth, retention, engagement, leadership, administration, and community service. They define what "good" looks like and push squadrons beyond minimum compliance toward continuous improvement.

- **Recognition drives member engagement and retention. Members are more likely to remain active when their service is acknowledged, when they see tangible results from their efforts, and when their squadron takes pride in striving for excellence.**
- **Awards build credibility and trust. Squadrons that earn recognition are viewed as organized, accountable, and effective - by members, donors, sponsors, community partners, and the public. That credibility attracts new members and strengthens long-term support.**
- **Pursuing awards develops future leaders. It requires planning, coordination, delegation, accountability, documentation, and follow-through - the same skills required to lead at the district, detachment, and national levels. Awards programs are, in practice, leadership development pipelines.**
- **Many awards rely on CSR data to validate service and impact, but many others recognize leadership, innovation, growth, professionalism, and excellence that cannot be captured by any single report. Together, these programs ensure well-rounded, mission-focused squadrons.**

When squadrons participate, the benefits extend beyond the local level. Strong participation elevates the Detachment, strengthens the Department, and presents a unified, professional organization nationwide. One Squadron's excellence strengthens the credibility of all.

When squadrons fully document their service through the Consolidated Squadron Report and actively pursue available awards, they are not checking boxes.

More to come in the future month articles. Any questions please contact me at fl.johnjennings@gmail.com , I am here to help, always.

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,

Gentlemen, We have now reached the end of our fiscal year yes, we still have a way to go but for those who have worked hard all year and made all the goals, 90% doesn't seem like such a stretch like it did back in July.

Those of us that have done the work, those of us that continue to do the work and those of us that will close out the year successfully will see the fruits of our labor. It will show in our consolidated reports with hours donated the total dollars donated and of course our successful membership percentages. This is what we do every year and each year we start all over again from individual member to the Detachment level this is our focus along with helping get legislation passed to better serve our Veterans.

How is it that we get our message across to the community? Do you utilize the local paper or social media or The Source? Do all your members even know what goes on each week at your Post or do they have to walk in to find out? When they do walk in and find out do you ask them to volunteer?

Get them engaged into what you are excited about, a successful event no matter how big or small. This is one of the ways that you will keep your membership at a higher level than if you let the same three people do all the work because eventually you will wear those people out. Detachment is here to help all of us. If you have problems or concerns or questions on what you should do This is why we are here.

If we are not contacted, sometimes it takes a while for us to see a problem it has already formed. This is why we have the hierarchy of Squadrons, Districts and Area level Vice Commanders. This gives us eyes and ears at every level. Even then, however, we don't catch everything This is why we need everyone from membership and their input is all important so do not hesitate to voice your concerns. The only bad question there is the one you did not ask.

As far as numbers are concerned Nationally, we are doing very well. At the time of this writing, Florida is in 6th place we are at 91.58% of Goal and 78.31% for Renewals.

We need to keep a constant push of 500 transmittals weekly to achieve our ultimate Goal of 30,000 membership this year. This can only be attained with your diligence and hard work getting the transmittals in.

Let's show everyone how Florida gets things done!
#GetErDone #CARE

For God and Country,
 Paul Stawicki

Membership Chairman
 Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida

2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES:		
September 4, 2025	10%	ACHIEVED! ✓
October 9, 2025	25%	ACHIEVED! ✓
November 6, 2025	35%	ACHIEVED! ✓
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January 8, 2026	60%	ACHIEVED! ✓
February 5, 2026	75%	ACHIEVED! ✓
March 5, 2026 *	80%	ACHIEVED! ✓
April 2, 2026	90%	✓
May 7, 2026	100%	
May 28, 2026**	105%	

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

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

RENEWAL POSTCARD MAIL DATE	RECEIVING DATES
1 ST NOTICE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2025	SEPT 28 – OCT 3, 2025
2 ND NOTICE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026	FEB 22 – 28, 2026
3 RD NOTICE: APRIL 9, 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

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A TIME TO REMEMBER, A TIME TO RENEW

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, we find ourselves standing at a remarkable cross-roads - one that invites both reflection and renewal. Two and a half centuries ago, a bold experiment in liberty was launched by a generation of men and women who believed deeply in principles greater than themselves: freedom, responsibility, faith, and the inherent dignity of every human life.

For those of us who serve within the Sons of the American Legion this milestone is more than a historical marker. It is a call to remember who we are, where we came from, and what we are entrusted to carry forward.

Though our nation was founded on the principle of religious liberty, it is impossible to overlook the profound influence of Judeo-Christian values on its formation. All of our Founding Fathers spoke of Providence, moral law, and the belief that rights come not from government, but from God.

In the Declaration of Independence, we read that all are '*endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.*' This is not tied to a single denomination or doctrine. Rather, it reflects a shared understanding that human dignity is sacred - an echo of ancient truths that humanity is created with purpose, value, and responsibility.

As patriots and members of this great organization, we strive to uphold these truths in a way that unites rather than divides. Our role is not to elevate one tradition over another, but to recognize the shared moral foundation that has guided generations of Americans: love of neighbor, commitment to justice, humility before God, and a willingness to serve others.

The Founding Fathers were not perfect men, but they were men of conviction. They risked everything - fortune, reputation, even their lives - to establish a nation grounded in liberty and self-governance. Their courage was not born of convenience, but of deep belief.

Many understood that freedom requires virtue. John Adams wrote that our Constitution was made '*only for a moral and religious people.*' Whatever one's interpretation, the underlying idea remains: a free society depends on individuals guided by conscience and character.

As we reflect on their legacy during this 250th anniversary, we are reminded that patriotism is not merely celebration - it is participation. It is not just waving a flag, but living in a way that honors the sacrifices that made that flag meaningful.

The American Legion's Four Pillars - **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth** - are not simply organizational priorities. They are expressions of our national character and our ongoing responsibility. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation reminds us that those who have worn the uniform carry burdens we may not always see. Scripture teaches us to 'bear one another's burdens,' and this pillar calls us to do exactly that. Through advocacy, support, and simple presence, we honor our veterans not just with words, but with action.

National Security reflects the reality that freedom must be protected. While we pray for peace, we also recognize the need for vigilance. There is a moral dimension to this work - defending not just territory, but the ideals that define us. Liberty is precious, and each generation must safeguard it.

Americanism speaks to the heart of our identity. It is about fostering a love for country that is informed, respectful, and active. True Americanism is not blind allegiance, but thoughtful commitment. It encourages us to learn our history, participate in civic life, and strive to live out the principles upon which this nation was founded.

Children & Youth looks to the future - and in many ways it is the most sacred of our responsibilities. The values we pass on today will shape the nation of tomorrow. Young people need guidance and examples of integrity. They need to see in us a faith that is lived out, a patriotism that is genuine, and a hope that is enduring.

Patriotism is sometimes misunderstood as mere sentiment, but at its core it is an act of service. It is found in the quiet moments - helping a neighbor, mentoring a young person, supporting a veteran in need. It is present when we choose unity over division, truth over convenience, and compassion over indifference.



(Detachment Chaplain continued)

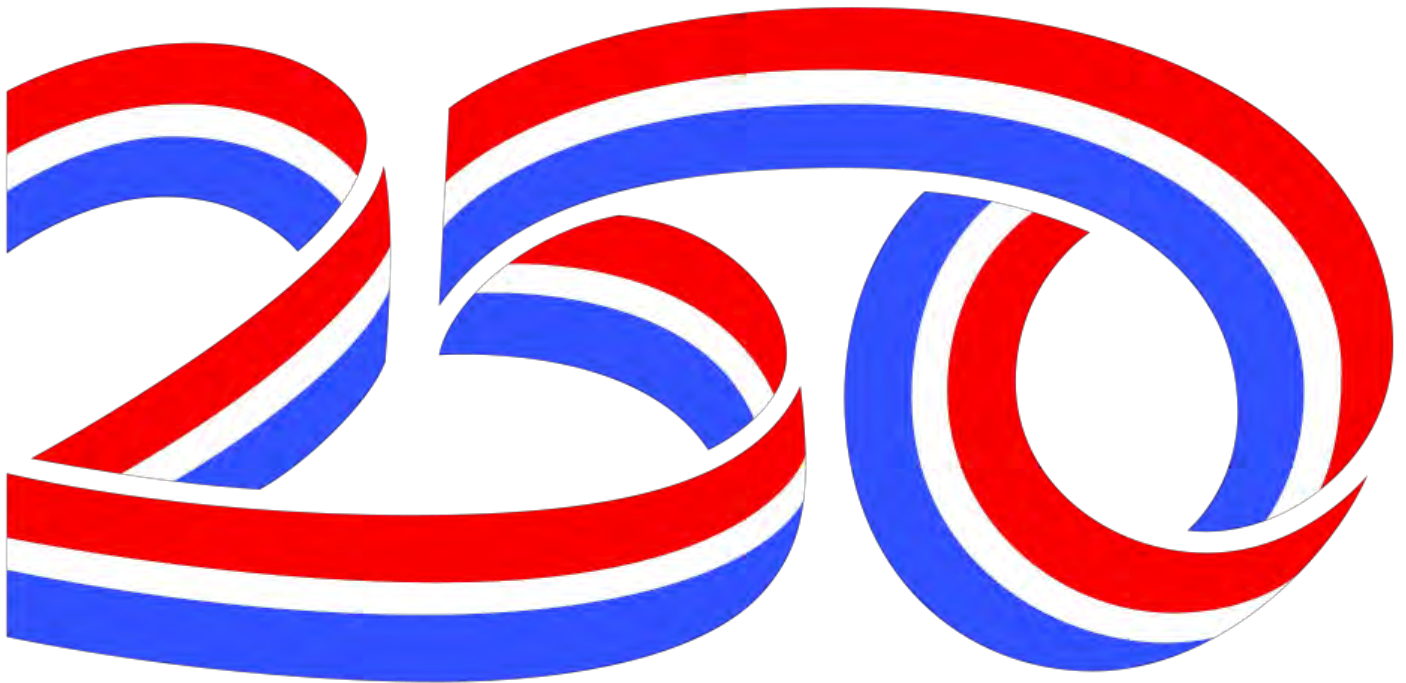
The teachings of our traditions consistently point us toward service. We are called to seek the welfare of our communities, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly. These are not abstract ideals; they are practical guides for daily living. As members of the Sons of the American Legion, we have a unique opportunity to embody these principles. We stand in the legacy of those who served before us, and we carry forward a mission that is both civic and spiritual in nature. At 250 years, the United States is still young in the grand scope of history. We are still learning, still growing, still striving to live up to our highest ideals. This anniversary is not just a time to look back, but to look ahead.

What kind of nation will we be in the next 50 years? The answer depends, in no small part, on us.

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

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

AMERICA





DANNY ROE

VICE COMMANDER EASTERN AREA

vceast@floridasons.org



Greetings from the Eastern Area!

Welcome to April! Now that the weather is better, there are a lot of events going on across the area. If there is an event close to you, I am sure they would love to have your support. Let's keep watch for those that are struggling and do what we can to help them. Sometimes just a phone call or a card may make the difference in their lives. Let's always look out and be there for each other.

The competition between District 6 and District 12 continues to Convention. **Andy Campbell, District 12 Commander**, is running away with the lead over District 6 Commander Sonny Perchitti! As of 3/15/26, District 12 is 96.94% to District 6 at 89.73%. Great Job! Congratulations, Andy on your hard work. Eastern Area is in 3rd place. It is a very tight race. The next goal is 90% on April 2nd. I am happy to report that most of you have already achieved that goal, but if we are going to get **Commander Nigbor to his 30,000 Member goal**, we must all work to get him there. Let's do all we can to help **Commander Nigbor reach this milestone**.

On Saturday, February 28th I attended the District 12 meeting at Post #40 in Ft Pierce. Great job Andy for putting together a great meeting. Also, on March 7th I attended the District 6 meeting at Post 347 Lady Lake. Nice Job Sonny, it was a very informative meeting. **You guys Rock.**

When this article comes out, I will have already attended **The Eastern Area Wrangler Ball** held at Post #1 Titusville and District 6 Picnic on March 21st at Hickory Point Park in Tavares. Both are great causes to raise money for the Department Commander's charity and Boys and Girls State Transportation. Looking forward to great success at both events. Also, the District 12 Picnic for Boys and Girls State Transportation will be April 18th, at Post 189 Sebastian following the District DCC meeting at Post 81 in Palm Bay.

Please support your District's meetings. I encourage every Squadron to send representatives to the meetings.

**It is also very Important to attend District Constitutional Conference (DCC) Meetings.
DCCs are where District Officers and National Convention Delegates will be Elected!**

Next District meetings:

District 12: Saturday, April 18th, Registration 8:00 AM meeting at 9:00 AM, **Post 81 Palm Bay.**

District 6: Saturday May 9th, Registration 9:00 AM, Meeting at 10:00 AM, **Post 80, St Cloud.**

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 | Detachment
of Florida



Greetings from the 12th District !

First and foremost, thanks to all the squadrons for getting their membership renewals and new members in thus far! We have 6 Squadrons over 100% which are 420, 39, 318, 189 and 200 , and 348 as of the date I am writing this article.

We have 8 squadrons that are below the goal at his time Let's continue to get those memberships in so we can take first place in the race to the finish. We are currently in Second place and right behind District 8 at the time of this letter.

District picnic will be held on the 18th of April at Post 81. We need to have a good turnout so please plan on attending. The District 12 DCC will be on the same day with Registration at 8am and the meeting will start at 9am also at Post 81 By now you should have done your first round of nominations and on your way to finding those new folks that are interested in being officers for 2026-2027.

We should also be thinking about reporting that will be due in May. I sent out that spreadsheet to fill out last year that makes it super easy at the end of the year to do your reporting. Hopefully all our squadrons are using that. If you need help, please feel free to call me. I will be reaching out next month to make sure all of you have your reporting in. This is so important for us to do so we can show Congress what we do thru out the year.

I have sent my endorsement in for Eastern Area Commander for the coming year and look forward to helping all of our Squadrons in the Eastern Area next year!

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

For God and Country,
Andy Campbell
12th District Commander
Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Florida



Greetings from the Mighty 13th District !

First and foremost, thanks to all the squadrons for getting their membership renewals and new members in thus far! We have 6 Squadrons over 100% Most of the other squadrons are over 90%. We are at 96% for the district. Great job lets keep up the great work!!

We should also be thinking about reporting that will be due on May 1st. You should have received your end of the year packet by now. If you need help, please feel free to call or email me. I will be reaching out next month to make sure all of you have your reporting in.

Also, as you read in Adjutant Rapp's article earlier in this edition, it is now time for your Squadron Elections. Once you hold your elections, you need to send in your **Squadron Information Report (SIR)**. This allows Department to update your membership processing abilities in the myLegion system and also allows them to build a directory for the upcoming year. The form was included in your end of year packets and can also be found on the Detachment of Florida website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/03-SIR-0525.pdf>. If you know how to use a fillable PDF, you can complete the form online and send it electronically to the Detachment Adjutant. Please send this form right away, and don't wait to send it in with the rest of your end of year reports.

For God and Country,
Mitchell Pace
13th District Commander
Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Florida



SAM ALOI
9TH DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER
 district9vc@floridasons.org



Greetings from the Mighty 9th District!

On March 7th the 9th District had our Annual Picnic. Hosted by Post 180. Fun was had by ALL in attendance, including our own Detachment Commander Mike Nigbor. Here are a few photos from the event.



THIS MONTH WE WILL FEATURE ANOTHER TRAINING: THE EMBLEM”

- The design of the SAL emblem was taken from the emblem of our parent organization, but is oval in shape so as to be easily distinguished.
- The blue of the emblem, like the blue of our flag, stands for justice. The two stars in the blue border stand for freedom and democracy.
- The sun in the background represents the Sons of The American Legion and the rays represent the loyalty of its membership.
- The wreath below the star is in memory of our comrades, and those of our fathers who willingly gave their lives for their country.
- The star in the center represents our country, and the five points of the star represent the Five Point Program of the Sons of The American Legion.

These are the Basic Components to the 5-Star Program.

- 1) Patriotism 2)Citizenship 3) Discipline
 4) Leadership 5)Legionism**

- The 10 points of the emblem represent the Ten Ideals of every American Legion son.
- The 10 Ideals, like the 5 Star Program, cover many important and sometimes forgotten ideals & skills that help us better understand what true Americanism is and give us a better working knowledge of U.S. History, Civics, Legionism and assist the development of leadership skills that help to forge a well-rounded person & citizen.

These are the Basic Components to the 10-Ideals Program:

- 1)Patriotism 2) Comradeship 3)Courtesy 4)Faith 5) Health
 6) Honor 7) Helpfulness 8)Knowledge 9) Reverence 10)Training.**



For God and Country,
 Sam Aloï

9th District Vice Commander
 Member of the Member Training & Development Committee
 Sons of the American Legion
 Detachment of Florida



ROCKY CIRIGLIANO

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION CHAIR

ia@floridasons.org



Greetings All,

The strength of the Sons of the American Legion has always come from one source: our members. Here in the Detachment of Florida, we are proud to be recognized across the nation for our commitment, leadership, and record-setting achievements. But behind every milestone, every program, and every hour of volunteer service stands a dedicated member whose loyalty keeps our organization thriving.

Over the past years, the Detachment of Florida has celebrated remarkable membership success. We have grown, served, and inspired at levels that place us among the top Detachments in the country. This record-setting progress is more than a statistic - it is a testament to the passion, unity, and resolve of our members at every Squadron.

But success brings responsibility. As we continue to grow, we must not lose sight of the foundation that brought us here: retaining our current members. Recruitment gains attention, but retention builds legacy. Every longtime member carries experience, knowledge, and an unbreakable connection to our mission of honoring veterans, strengthening our communities, and supporting The American Legion Family.

Now is the time for each Squadron to double down on engagement. Reach out to members you have not seen in a while. Offer meaningful opportunities to serve. Celebrate achievements - large and small. When members feel valued, they remain active, proud, and committed.

The Sons of the American Legion does not succeed because of buildings, programs, or awards. We succeed because of you - our members - the true backbone of the Detachment of Florida. Together, we will continue to uphold the ideals of service, dedication, and patriotism that define our organization and inspire future generations to join our ranks. Let's build on our momentum, honor our legacy, and ensure that every member - new or longtime - knows they are essential to our mission and our future.

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



SONS OF THE
 AMERICAN
LEGION

Detachment
of Florida

(Membership Chairman continued)

As a standing tradition, we include the Preamble to the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution in every Internal Affairs article. Members are encouraged to read and reflect on its powerful words. This is more than a statement, the foundation of why we serve.

Consider taking a minute at your next Squadron meeting to read the preamble together. Use it as a training tool and a reminder of the duty and sacrifice of the veterans who made our freedom possible.

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 CHAIRMAN
vchildrenyouth@floridasons.org



HELLO FROM YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN!

Here we are in April already. Lots of events are going on as we enter Spring. Please make yourself available to help if you see a Children and Youth event near you. Most will jump at the chance to have your help. From experience, I will tell you that helping children and adults that are less fortunate than many of us can be heartwarming and extremely gratifying.

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. As always, I am including C&Y events that are happening around the state. If you have an event or my information is incorrect, please let me know. I do like to put the events out there for you to be able to support them.

I am looking forward to the Department C&Y Picnic. It is always a Great time, and I hope to see many of you there on April 11th.



(More info to come as we get closer to the events)

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)

May 16th: C&Y Golf Tournament, Hosted by Lady Lake Post 347 Family (See Flyer and let me know if you want to bring a team to represent your Post or Squadron.)

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
Detachment of Florida



Children and Youth Committee
Tasks and Goals
2025-2026



Assist the Americanism Commission with development of guidelines for Detachment level Youth Academy

Distribute and promote digital materials to plant a Victory Garden

 **Children's Organ Transplant Association.**

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 **AMERICAN**
LEGION

Increase donations by 10% for the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA)

Increase donations by 10% for The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF)

Increase donations by 10% for Children's Miracle Network (CMN)

Increase donations by 10% for Ronald McDonald House

BOB O'NEAL
VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHAB CHAIR
 var@floridasons.org

I really think it's important to encourage any Veteran you know to sign up for the VA Healthcare system. I'm a member myself, and I can share that a close friend of mine didn't join, and when his health took a turn for the worse, he left his wife with a huge debt. I knew him well, but I was not aware of the "Buddy Call" system that we now encourage our members to use.

If you have questions about health benefits, you can call 1-800-222-VETS (8387) or visit the website www.va.gov/healthbenefits. Also, there's a Veterans crisis line available at 1-800-273-8255.

Please make a list of Veterans you know and stay in touch with them. Encourage them to share their service experiences, especially anything related to combat or other traumatic events. By doing this, you'll soon discover which individuals (men or women) might be struggling and need a way to express those hidden feelings.

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 CHAIR
 pvr@floridasons.org

Project Vet Relief is a Florida-based initiative that provides emergency assistance and support services to veterans and their families facing financial hardships. Examples of financial assistance needs are shelter, food, utilities and emergency transportation.

The program is designed to help veterans navigate the challenges they face during their transition to civilian life and to assure they have access to the benefits they have earned through their service. The PVR tagline is ***"They fought for us. We fight for them"***

The initiative fosters a supportive community where Veterans can connect and help each other, reducing isolation and promoting mental health.

To determine eligibility for assistance, Veterans can go to <https://projectvetrelief.org>.

For God and Country,
 Bob O'Neal
 Chairman | Project:VetRelief Committee
 Sons of The American Legion
 Detachment of Florida





Greetings from the MT&D Committee!

As we prepare for the Convention Training, I would like to point out that it will be held on Thursday, June 11th from 1-4 PM. Please talk to your Officers, and likewise members about attending the Training & Convention. Each year we 'preach to the choir' about different topics. I am pretty sure that most of the discussion does not get back to the Squadron level.

Let's talk about what is necessary in order for a Squadron, District, Area & Detachment to have a successful year.

Everyone in the groups I mentioned above MUST be pulling in the same direction. If 195 Squadrons make their Goals, that means that all 6 Areas, 16 Districts & our Detachment will be very successful that year. Communications drives everything. Here's a thought to ponder...at Fall Conference, I gave out information packets to all the Districts & Areas in an effort to get it pushed to the Squadron level. How many Squadrons saw any of it? I am not pointing fingers, but, if the Squadrons received those packages, I would think that at least 1 Squadron out of 195 would have contacted us for some form of training. Not 1 did. Only 2 Districts asked MT & D to come to a District meeting and conduct training...6 & 12 (Eastern Area).

The District Commanders have (in my opinion) the toughest job in that they need to be out there among the Squadrons pushing the goals & meeting requirements for the Detachment.

We are now at the point where the End of Year Reports (EOY) have been sent out. How many of the Squadrons have some form of listing their accomplishments so that they can be translated into the proper forms?

Learning starts by understanding what is required to be accomplished. From there, we can teach you how to 'walk the walk' and 'talk the talk'. This is why I put the Officer Position Training so high on my list. It all starts there. If the Officer doesn't understand his job, then it cannot get done with any certainty. I implore new Officers to come to the Convention & Fall Conference Training Sessions. It is there that you will learn what goes on, and why certain things are important to the Organization. Good luck in your elections, see you at Convention!

For God and Country,

Pete Puzzo

Chairman | Member Training & Development Committee



WASHINGTON CONFERENCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida were well represented at The American Legion Washington Conference February 28th through March 4th 2026 at the Washington Hilton in the District of Columbia.

The Sons of The American Legion National Legislative Commission sponsored a Bus Trip on March 1st around Washington DC to pay respects to our Fallen Heroes. The Detachment/Department of Florida Delegation consisted of 13 Florida members who presented our Memorial Wreath at The Vietnam Memorial Wall on the Mall. This year our trip included 4 buses with over 200 American Legion Family Members made a stop at The World War I Memorial for the 1st time due to closure of The World War II Memorial. We moved on to the Women's Vietnam Nurses Memorial and over to the Korean War Memorial.

The Highlight of the Day was the presentation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery by The Sons of The American Legion National Commander William Clancy and tour of ANC. On behalf of The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida I would like to give a Big Shout Out to The American Legion Department of Florida, Commander Moore for assisting with the wreath presentation, Adjutant Comer for all the logistics, Chairman Scott for his Legislative insights, all the Officers, and the entire Florida Legislative/Delegation.

Monday we attended The American Legion National Legislative Commission Meeting in the morning and in the afternoon we had The Commanders Call featuring all our National Leaders TAL CDR. Wiley, ALA President Ray and SAL CDR Clancy,

(Legislative Commission Chairman continued)

encouraging all our members to speak out and present TAL Legislative Agenda session 2 to our Senators and Representatives. The keynote speaker was Cabinet Secretary of The Department of Veteran Affairs Doug Collins who is in the process of revitalization of the Department.

Tuesday we went to the Capitol, Longworth House Office Building to present TAL Agenda. We went as a group to FL-19 Representative Donalds Cape Coral, FL-3 Representative Kat Cammack Ocala, and F-4 Representative Bean Jacksonville.

We presented The 119th Congress's 2nd session of The American Legion Legislative Agenda. The Highlight is The Major Richard Star Act HR 210 & S1032 to allow disabled veterans compensation for combat related disability for retirement and the obvious Pay The U S Coast Guard.

Wednesday as I prepare for my afternoon flight back to Florida I watched TAL National CDR Wiley Testativity before a Joint Session of the Armed Services and Veteran Affairs on www.legion.org streaming, no available tickets this year. This is where all those reports we ask you to do end up, all your hours helping veterans, all your money helping veterans, and children. Please Get Your Consolidated Squadron Reports Done. We'll See everyone at the CDRs Homecoming this month. May's travels take us to Indianapolis for the National Executive Committee Meetings.

For God and Country,

William D Kelly, Jr

Chairman | Legislative Commission
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida



 AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE



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 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/>.

THESE AMENDMENTS WILL ALSO APPEAR AT THE VERY END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. THESE WILL REMAIN IN 'THE SOURCE' UP UNTIL OUR ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION IN JUNE. PLEASE READ THESE AMENDMENTS AND SHARE WITH OTHERS IN YOUR SQUADRON.

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 **four** new members subscribe to our mailing list. That's a start, but still only equals 502 out of 25,905 new/renewed members - just **2.20%** of our membership. ***Are the Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders not encouraging our members to sign up when they hold visitations?*** 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 as many of our submitters forget the deadline.

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

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

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



EMAIL GROUP SUBSCRIPTION PROGRESS METER 3/30/26

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

OFFICE OF:	CANDIDATE
DETACHMENT COMMANDER	MICHAEL NIGBOR SQUADRON 303 – BONITA SPRINGS
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER WEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER NORTH	DENTON 'SHAY' WOODS SQUADRON 77 – INVERNESS
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER EAST	ANDY CAMPBELL SQUADRON 117 – PALM BAY
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL	ERIC RIKANSRUD SQUADRON 138 – TAMPA
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTHWEST	
DETACHMENT VICE COMMANDER SOUTH	MICHAEL MATHIAS SQUADRON 164 – BOYNTON BEACH SAM ALOI SQUADRON 321 – COOPER CITY
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN <small>2 YEAR APPOINTMENT</small>	GERARD SAMBETS SQUADRON 275 – DUNEDIN
ALT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN <small>2 YEAR APPOINTMENT</small>	
DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN	RAYMOND LEVENTHAL SQUADRON 323 – LEHIGH ACRES
DETACHMENT HISTORIAN	
DETACHMENT SEARGENT-AT-ARMS	KEN ARRANT SQUADRON 119 – LARGO

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

DISTRICT VICE COMMANDERS

DISTRICT 1		
DISTRICT 2		
DISTRICT 3		
DISTRICT 4	STEVE MCKIM SQUADRON 77 – INVERNESS	
DISTRICT 5		
DISTRICT 6		
DISTRICT 7		
DISTRICT 8	RICHARD BUTLER SQUADRON 113 – ROTONDA WEST	
DISTRICT 9	MARTIN KRAEMER SQUADRON 310 – HALLANDALE BEACH	
DISTRICT 11		
DISTRICT 12	GARY RAYMOND SQUADRON 394 – PALM BAY	
DISTRICT 13	MITCHELL PACE SQUADRON 323 – LEHIGH ACRES	CHRISTOPHER ELLSWORTH SQUADRON 323 – LEHIGH ACRES
DISTRICT 14		
DISTRICT 15		VICTOR 'SCOTT' KELLY SQUADRON 138 – TAMPA
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



Cabana Boy's Island Bash

Homecoming Celebration & BBQ



The Beach Is Coming Indoors!

CELEBRATE OUR DETACHMENT COMMANDER **MICHAEL 'CABANA BOY' NIGBOR** AT CABANA BOY'S ISLAND BASH, A TROPICAL HOMECOMING FILLED WITH BBQ, ISLAND VIBES, AND AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY FELLOWSHIP.

TROPICAL ATTIRE ENCOURAGED.
FLIP-FLOPS OPTIONAL. **FUN REQUIRED.**

Saturday April 25, 2026 12pm - 4pm

AMERICAN LEGION POST 323 | 1124 ASHLAR AVENUE | LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33936



Event Highlights

Entertainment by A Lil' Mixed Up
Raffles / Games
BBQ & More
Dress: Tropical / Casual



Proceeds Benefit

**Children's Organ
Transplant Association.**



Payment Info

Cost: \$25 Per Person

Checks Payable to Squadron 323
(mailed to the above address)

Venmo: @Christian-Rapp-3

Contact:

Christian Rapp
adjutant@floridasons.org
(239) 243-2205



Hotel Information

Quality Inn & Suites

1320 Business Way
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
(239) 491-0049

You're invited to District 13's

BARBECUE PARTY

To benefit Legion Family Charities
at Lehigh Acres Post 323
1124 Ashlar Ave, Lehigh Acres

4

APRIL

SATURDAY

STARTING 2 PM

MUSIC | GRILLED GOODIES |
COLD DRINKS | GOOD VIBES
RAFFLE BASKETS & 50/50
BEER PONG TOURNAMENT



Made with PosterMyWall.com

American Legion
Department of FL
Presents

CHILDREN & YOUTH PICNIC

Music by
Doc Holiday

Raffle Baskets
50/50
Carnival Games
+ More!



Poker Run

Registration
10am
KSU 11am

Location:
American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Drive
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Saturday April 11th 2026 12-5PM

1/3 Pound Burger or, 1/4 Hot Dog \$10

Kids Under 12 1/4 Burger or Hot Dog \$5

All Meals Served with Sides

Questions: Contact

AL Dept C&Y Chaiman Chris Hamerick 321-313-3469

MaryAnn Spellman 917-834-5763

All Proceeds go to
Commander Charites



Questions: Contact

AL Dept C&Y Chaiman Chris Hamerick 321-313-3469



Special Olympics

Fundraiser

American Legion

Family Fun Day

**Fun
Food
Games
and
Vendors**

PLEASE JOIN US ON

APRIL 25, 2026

11:00 to 6:00

Hosted by

American Legion Post 321
9081 SW 51st Street
Cooper City, Florida 33328



**Raffle Baskets
Silent Auction**

All proceeds
benefit the Special
Olympics



MUSIC:
Southern Blood
Plays from 1:00 to 5:00



**Special Olympics
Florida**



American Legion Family at Post #347 Charity Golf Tournament

May 16, 2026



EVENT INFORMATION

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

- Shotgun Scramble – Start at 8:00 AM
- Cost per Golfer - \$100
- Coffee & Breakfast snacks 7:30 AM
- **Double-Flight Scoring - Allows average groups a better chance to win on score.**
- Longest Drive Contests - Men/Women
- Hole-in-One Contest - Men/Women
- Hole #15 PRIZE: Golf Cart
- Closest-to-the-Pin - Men/Women
- Many Prizes & Surprises!
- Purchase Mulligans for Charity

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

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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Golf Foursome Registration Starts
February 1, 2026

Make all Checks payable to:

Squadron #347

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

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



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 347
CHILDREN & YOUTH CHARITY
GOLF TOURNAMENT - May 16, 2026**

Golf Foursome Registration Starts February 1, 2026

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

Golfer (\$100) _____

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Attention: C&Y Golf Tournament

If you have any questions, please contact:

Danny Roe – (317) 508-6465

dannyroe@prodigy.net



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)
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There's only one thing you have to do: Let Us Know!

Visit the Detachment of Florida's online events calendar at

<https://floridasons.org/detachment-events-calendar/>, and click the button labeled 'Click Here To Submit Your Event'.

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Florida

Department Headquarters
PO Box 547859
Orlando, FL 32854
(407) 295-2631

Detachment Adjutant
Christian Rapp
215 Greenwood Ave
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-1452
adjutant@floridasons.org

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

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Source Articles

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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.

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article V Detachment Convention, Section 2

Section 2 - **In the event it becomes impractical because of travel restrictions lawfully imposed by the State or National Government to hold the Annual Department Convention at the time or place designated, or if by lawful authority of the State or National Government attendance at the convention would be limited to less than the number of authorized delegates, then the place, the time, and the manner, of holding the Annual Department Convention during such emergency shall be determined by the Department Executive Committee.**

If approved all subsequent sections will change in sequence.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strikethrough~~

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<p>APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____</p> <p>FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____</p> <p>FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____</p> <p>CONSOLIDATED WITH _____</p> <p>OTHER ACTION _____</p> <p>SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)</p>	<p>_____ DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT</p> <p>_____ PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-01</u></p>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article VII Detachment Executive Committee, Section 6

Section 6 - In cases of emergency, **as provided** elsewhere in this Constitution ~~provided~~, the Detachment Executive Committee may provide a method and procedure for a special convention in lieu of the regular Annual Convention to elect officers, to make proposals for legislative enactment, to adopt and promulgate essential programs and to enunciate and proclaim matters of policy.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strikethrough~~

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<p>APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____</p> <p>FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____</p> <p>FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____</p> <p>CONSOLIDATED WITH _____</p> <p>OTHER ACTION _____</p> <p>SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)</p>	<hr/> <p>DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT</p> <p>PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-04</u></p>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article VII Detachment Executive Committee, Section 13

Section 13 - The Detachment Executive Committee without meeting may transact business by mail, ~~telegraph~~ **e-mail**, telephone **or other virtual platforms** on matters of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting. Thirty (30) days shall be allowed for the return, by mail, ~~telegraph~~ **e-mail**, telephone **or other virtual platforms**, of the votes ~~thereon by~~ **to** the Detachment Adjutant. The Detachment Adjutant shall notify the Detachment Commander of the results of the vote taken. The Detachment Executive Committee may also meet on the call of the Detachment Commander or on the written request of five (5) Squadrons in the Detachment of Florida, at any time during the year for sufficient reason ~~to it appearing~~.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strikethrough~~

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<p>APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____</p> <p>FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____</p> <p>FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____</p> <p>CONSOLIDATED WITH _____</p> <p>OTHER ACTION _____</p> <p>SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)</p>	<p>_____ DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT</p> <p>_____ PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-07</u></p>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article IX District Organization, Section 1

This provision outlines the boundaries for the Districts as amended by The American Legion Department of Florida within their Constitution. As a result, this is an automatic revision to the Detachment Constitution.

Section 1 - The Detachment shall be divided into Districts bounded as follows: District 1: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington. District 2: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla. District 3: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Baker, Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwanee and Taylor. District 4: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion and Union. District 5: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. District 6: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter. District 7: This District shall embrace all of Polk County and that portion of Pasco County East of Interstate 75 (The American Legion Highway). District 8: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Sarasota, Manatee, Highlands, DeSoto and Hardee. District 9: This District shall embrace all of Broward County. District 11: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Palm Beach, Okeechobee and Clewiston from Hendry County and Indiantown from Martin County **and that part of Martin County south of the St. Lucie River**. District 12: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Brevard, Indian River, Martin (except for Indiantown **and that part of Martin County south of the St. Lucie River**) and St. Lucie. District 13: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry (except Clewiston) and Lee. District 14: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Miami-Dade and Monroe. District 15: This District shall embrace all of Hillsborough County, that portion of Pasco County, except New Port Richey, Hudson, Holiday, and Seven Springs West of Interstate 75 (The American Legion Highway), and all of Hernando County. District 16: This District shall embrace all of Pinellas County and New Port Richey, Hudson, Holiday and Seven Springs from West Pasco County. District 17: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Flagler, Putnam and Volusia.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strike through~~

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APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____ FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____ CONSOLIDATED WITH _____ OTHER ACTION _____ SIGNATURE _____ <p style="text-align: center;">(CHAIRMAN)</p>	DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-08</u>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article IX District Organization, Section 3

Section 3 - When a vacancy in the office of District Commander occurs in any District, the Detachment Commander shall appoint his successor **as provided in Article VII, Section 7, of this Constitution.**

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strike through~~

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<p>APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____</p> <p>FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____</p> <p>FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____</p> <p>CONSOLIDATED WITH _____</p> <p>OTHER ACTION _____</p> <p>SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)</p>	<hr/> <p>DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT</p> <p>PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-09</u></p>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article X Squadron Organization, Section 9

Section 9 - Such charter may be suspended or revoked by the Detachment Executive Committee for the reasons and in the manner provided in Article VII, **Section 10 of this Constitution** hereof.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strike through~~

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<p>APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____</p> <p>FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____</p> <p>FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____</p> <p>CONSOLIDATED WITH _____</p> <p>OTHER ACTION _____</p> <p>SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)</p>	<hr/> <p>DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT</p> <p>PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-10</u></p>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article XI Finance, Section 3

Section 3 - The annual dues, both National and Detachment, shall be collected by each Squadron or Post and transmitted within thirty (30) days after receipt to the ~~Department Finance Officer~~ **Department Headquarters and/or National Headquarters, as appropriate.**

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strikethrough~~

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APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____	DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-12</u>
FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____	
FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____	
CONSOLIDATED WITH _____	
OTHER ACTION _____	
SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)	

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article XI Finance, Section 7

Section 7 - There shall be a **Financial Review** ~~complete audit~~ of the finances, accounts, property and business affairs of the Detachment **made annually** at the same time as the Department of Florida ~~has its audit, in the same manner as provided in the Department Constitution, Article XII, Section 7.~~

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strikethrough~~

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APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____	DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-13</u>
FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____	
FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____	
CONSOLIDATED WITH _____	
OTHER ACTION _____	
SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)	

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment Constitution, Article XII Delegates to the National Convention, Section 1

Section 1 - Representation at the Sons of The American Legion National Convention shall be as follows:

- (a)** Delegates and Alternates nominated by the District Conferences as provided in Article IX **of this Constitution**, and elected at the next Convention.
- (b)** The **Immediate** Past Detachment Commander, by virtue of his office, shall ~~automatically~~ be a Delegate to the National Convention, and shall be the Chairman of the Delegation. ~~In the event the Immediate Past Detachment Commander cannot attend, the delegation will elect a chairman.~~
- (c)** The Detachment Adjutant, **by virtue of his office**, shall be an ~~Alternate~~ delegate to the Chairman of the Delegation to the National Convention and shall be the Secretary ~~to~~ **of** the Delegation.
- (d)** **The Detachment Commander, by virtue of his office, shall be a Delegate to the National Convention. In the event the Immediate Past Detachment Commander cannot attend, the Detachment Commander shall be the Chairman of the Delegation.**
- (e)** **The National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman, by virtue of their office, shall be delegates to the National Convention.**
- (f)** **All current National Officers (elected or appointed), by virtue of their office, shall be delegates to the National Convention.**
- (g)** **All current National Commission and Committee Chairmen and members, by virtue of their office, shall be delegates to the National Convention.**
- (h)** **All Past National Commanders, by virtue of their office, shall be delegates to the National Convention.**
- (i)** **All other Delegates and Alternates to which the Detachment is entitled, after the Districts have been allotted their quota, shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Delegation.**

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strikethrough~~

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APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____ FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____ CONSOLIDATED WITH _____ OTHER ACTION _____ SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)	DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-14</u>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment By-Laws, Article I Detachment Convention, Section 12

Section 12 – Each officer to be elected at the Detachment Convention shall be voted on separately except that the election of the Detachment Vice Commanders may be elected collectively, **and the District Commanders, and District Vice Commanders may be ratified collectively.**

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strikethrough~~

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APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____	DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-17</u>
FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____	
FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____	
CONSOLIDATED WITH _____	
OTHER ACTION _____	
SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)	

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment By-Laws, Article I Detachment Convention, Section 13

Section 13 – The final official tally sheets and the ballots shall be retained as permanent record of the Detachment for a period of two (2) years. **To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast.**

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strikethrough~~

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APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____	
FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____	DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT
FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____	
CONSOLIDATED WITH _____	
OTHER ACTION _____	
SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)	PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-18</u>

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment By-Laws, Article II Detachment Executive Committee, Section 5

Section 5 – Detachment and District Officers may be reprimanded, suspended, or removed from office on charges based upon disloyalty to Sons of The American Legion or the National Government, neglect of duties, dishonesty, and conduct unbecoming a member or officer of Sons of The American Legion. All charges shall be made in writing by an accuser, and no officer shall be reprimanded, suspended, or removed from office until given a fair trial. The charge shall be filed forthwith at Detachment Headquarters and shall be referred to the Detachment Executive Committee by the senior qualified Detachment Officer not under charge. A copy of said charge shall be served on the accused officer. Within thirty (30) days thereafter the Detachment Executive Committee shall convene in special session on call of the senior qualified Detachment officer not under charge and shall try the charges against the accused officer. The accused officer shall have the right to appear in person and defend himself and may be attended by any member of the Florida Detachment of the Sons of The American Legion, **Detachment of Florida**, in good standing **or a Florida licensed attorney, or both**, as counsel. The Detachment Judge Advocate, if available and qualified, shall prosecute the charges, and if the Detachment Judge Advocate ~~be~~ **is** unavailable or fail to act or be disqualified, the senior qualified Detachment Officer not under charge shall appoint some member of the Detachment to prosecute the charge. The decision of the Detachment Executive Committee may be acquittal, reprimand, removal from office, or suspension, and shall be forthwith reported to the next Detachment Convention. The Detachment Convention, except in the case of an acquittal by the Detachment Executive Committee, may affirm, modify, or revoke the finding and sentence of the Detachment Executive Committee. The Detachment Convention shall conduct its hearing upon the transcribed testimony heard by the Detachment Executive Committee or oral testimony, or both. In case of acquittal the decision of the Detachment Executive Committee shall be final, and its decision in any event shall be final unless **written** appeal be made to the **Annual** Detachment Convention within forty-five (45) days, and in event of appeal to the Detachment Convention its decision shall be final. Pending the appeal from a conviction, the ~~accused~~ **convicted** Officer shall not act in an official capacity as a member of Sons of The American Legion, ~~of the Detachment of Florida~~.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strike through~~

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____ FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____ CONSOLIDATED WITH _____ OTHER ACTION _____ SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)	DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT _____ PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-19</u>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment By-Laws, Article III Duties of Officers, Section 14

Section 14 – **District Commanders** – The District Commanders shall be the representative of the Detachment Commander on all matters referred to him, in his District and as outlined in Article IX of the Detachment Constitution. Additionally, the District Commander serves on the Detachment Executive Committee as a representative of his respective District.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the District Commander at all times to cooperate with officers of the Squadrons in his District.
- (b) The District Commander shall visit each Squadron in his District at least twice each year.
- (c) The District Commander shall lend his best efforts to stimulate growth; to investigate all new applications of new Squadron Charters and to recommend the granting or refusal of such application to the Detachment Executive Committee; to recommend the revocation of existing charters for good and sufficient reasons; to encourage the revitalization of weak Squadrons into strong and representative Squadrons; to promote inter-Squadron activities; to promote a spirit of cooperation among the Squadrons in his District for the development of the principles of Sons of The American Legion.
- (d) The District Commander or his designated representative shall install the Squadron Officers of all Squadrons in his District.

(e) The District Commander shall perform any other duties the Detachment Commander, their Detachment Vice Commander, the Detachment Executive Committee, and the Constitution and By-Laws may assign.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
Deletions to the original text are shown by ~~strike through~~

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APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____ FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____ CONSOLIDATED WITH _____ OTHER ACTION _____ SIGNATURE _____ <div style="text-align: center;">(CHAIRMAN)</div>	<hr/> DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-26</u>
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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The amendment below was submitted by the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee in a regular meeting dated Saturday, November 22, 2025.



SIGNATURE DETACHMENT CBL COMMITTEE CHAIR

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be filled out in triplicate.

Proposals must arrive in Detachment Headquarters no later than forty (40) days prior to Detachment Convention.

A M E N D M E N T

Amendment to the Detachment By-Laws, Article V Membership Arrears and Dues, Section 1

Section 1 – Applications for Squadron membership shall be verified by the **Post Adjutant or** designated officials of the sponsoring Post of The American Legion having jurisdiction over the squadron.

Note: Additions to the original text shown by bold underline
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APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____	DATE RECEIVED BY DETACHMENT PROPOSAL NUMBER <u>2026-27</u>
FOR DETACHMENT ACTION _____	
FOR NATIONAL ACTION _____	
CONSOLIDATED WITH _____	
OTHER ACTION _____	
SIGNATURE _____ (CHAIRMAN)	
