



THE SOURCE

Detachment of Florida Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026

VOLUME XXXIV | ISSUE 3

GROWTH ★ OPPORTUNITY ★ ACTION ★ LEADERSHIP ★ SUPPORT



DETACHMENT COMMANDER
MICHAEL NIGBOR
commander@floridasons.org

**Greetings From The
Detachment of Florida
Commander!**

I am reaching out to our leadership team and any member that wants to help with our communication issues. We do not have a strong means of interacting with each other. **Positivity is a key concern.** What do you think works for you in your area in getting our message out to our communities? I will repeat my information. Phone number, (262) 370-8733. Email address, commander@floridasons.org. Easy/Peasy. So, I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders: I would be specifically interested in knowing how many "BUDDY CHECKS" you have made this year, and what has been working for you in establishing contact with our members that need to be re-instated.

You are the leading officers in the Detachment of Florida. We are members of the Worlds Greatest Veterans Organization, and this is the 250th Anniversary year of the Greatest Nation in The World. SO... What are you doing to motivate your members?

Challenge your members with the 3R's of Membership. **Reinstating** Our Lost, **Renewing** Our Current and **Recruiting** Our New. We have G.O.A.L.S. to meet and need to continuously work on our mission. Get in the game. Lead by example. Get on base and when it's your turn, Hit it out of the park.

It has been repeatedly expressed; this is not about filling pages with words. It is about Communication. One of the toughest challenges we face throughout the Detachment is keeping our members engaged and informed. That responsibility starts with **US**.

September 3rd, I attended the Squadron 273 meeting in Madeira Beach. They presented us a check for \$6000.00 for our charity C.O.T.A. September 5th, I attended the Post 138 family event. September 7th, I attended the Brooksville Squadron 186 annual picnic. This was a wonderful event with a lot of hard working S.A.L. members.
Great Job 186!

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MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Aug 27, 2026	25%	X
Sept 30, 2026	35%	X
Oct 29, 2026	45%	
Nov 25, 2026	55%	
Dec 30, 2026	65%	
Jan 28, 2027	85%	
Feb 25, 2027 *	90%	
April 1, 2027	95%	
Apr 29, 2027	100%	
May 25, 2027 **	105%	

* LEGION BIRTHDAY ** DELEGATE CUT-OFF



**SCAN THE
CODE TO JOIN
OUR EMAIL
GROUP!**



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**GREETINGS FROM YOUR
DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA**

(Detachment Commander Continued)

September 11-13, I was in District 1, and Post 382 for their Friday night 9/11 Memorial and Saturday the 12th, for their family jail lock up event supporting our family charities. Another great event and attendance. A lot of hard work was put in by these volunteers. Thank you, Western Area Vice Commander Troy Touchton, for your invitation.

September 19th, I will be in District 3 for the Annual Sons Picnic at Squadron 83 and in Jacksonville for the Annual 7 Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony. September 25th, I will be attending the Gold Star Mothers Event in Sebastian at Squadron 189.

The 26th will be District meeting at 318 and then later the Squadron 394 event supporting C.O.T.A. October 3rd will be Red, White and Blue Tutus at Post 323 in beautiful downtown Lehigh Acres. October 10th will be a golf outing at Post 3 in Bartow, supporting our charity.

Area Vice Commanders, District Commanders, and Committee and Commission Chairmen: Let me know what events you are organizing to support our charity and invite me to attend. Let's get together and share ideas. Help me help the others I encounter during my visits. What works for you? What are you doing to raise money? What are you doing to increase membership? What do you want our members to know about your accomplishments?

We have 6 Area Vice Commanders. I will be looking forward to their submissions in the next publishing of The Source. This is one of the best means we have in communicating throughout the Detachment, and a lot of time and energy is invested by our Detachment Adjutant, Christian Rapp. Submitting an article is *THE LEAST* you can do to support his efforts.

As always, Thank You all for what you do to support our great organization. Work on our G.O.A.L.S. daily and keep the momentum moving forward in a positive way. Use the hashtag, SALGoals in all of your social media and flyers. Support your neighboring Squadrons and invite me to your events. I love meeting our members and sharing our ideas. Everyday is a learning experience, and tomorrow is never promised.

For God and Country,
Michael Nigbor





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DETACHMENT ADJUTANT CHRISTIAN M RAPP

adjutant@floridasons.org

EQUIPPING YOU FOR SUCCESS ONE TIP AT A TIME

Welcome to Fall, or as we like to call it in Florida, **HOTUMN!**

We're just over a month away from our annual Fall Conference. Hopefully those of you that are going have your rooms reserved already. I'll cover some things this month to help you be ready for Fall Conference and prepare for your seasonal members.

BUT FIRST, SOME THANKS...

Last month, I noted that we had articles from the "usual suspects," but very few — if any — from our Detachment Vice Commanders, District Leadership, and our Committee and Commission Chairmen. I'm happy to report that there are more articles this month, with many from first-time contributors. I'm not going to tell you who they are — if you actually read The Source every month, you'll know who they are.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK TIME TO COMPILE AN ARTICLE THIS MONTH!

...AND SOME "MOTIVATION"

While we had many first-time submissions this month, we are still not communicating completely throughout our Detachment — we're not relaying information well at all. Many of our officers, committee, and commission chairmen - who have served in their positions for multiple years - have **never** submitted an article. I have been Editor/Co-Editor of the newsletter ever since Ray Leventhal served in that position. **THIS MUST CHANGE.**

As you read this month's edition, you'll see many articles focused on communication. Communication throughout our Detachment, our Areas, and our Districts has decreased greatly in the last few years. Submitting a monthly article about news, events, and other important information is an easy way to inform everyone at once — not just your area or district. Let's see more new submissions next month.

2027 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL POSTCARDS

The first round of membership renewal postcards will be sent out my National September 28 - October 2, 2026. You may actually receive them by the time this edition is published. Your squadron's dues amount will be on each postcard. If you did not submit the Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) in on time, your dues amount may be incorrect. If this happens, reach out to me immediately so I can help you get the situation resolved before the next dues mailout.

ERRORS ON THE 2027 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Everyone should have their 2027 membership cards now. There was a printing error on some cards where the continuous years were listed as 7 on the pre-printed card (this happened to me). This is just a printing error. If you log in to your myLegion.org portal, you will see the continuous years are correct. If it is important to your member that the continuous years are correct on the card, you can log in to your portal and print a new card for the member.



SET A REMINDER!

Articles for The Source are due by the **15th of every month**. Please mark your calendar, because I should not have to continually remind you to submit your articles.

As an elected officer, committee or commission chair, Detachment Vice Commander, or District Commander, it is your responsibility to communicate with your squadrons. The Source is one of the tools available to help you do that.

Click here to add a monthly reminder to your personal calendar. It works on any calendar platform.

[ADD REMINDER TO CALENDAR](#)



FALL CONFERENCE

Please join us for this year's Detachment Fall Conference which will be held **November 20 to November 22, 2026** at the **Caribe Royale Orlando**.

The hotel is located at 8101 World Center Drive Orlando, FL 32821.

The room block is now open
BOOK YOUR ROOMS TODAY!

Phone: 407-238-8000



ROAD TRIP!

COMMANDER NIGBOR LOVES TO TRAVEL!

If you are having an event that you would like him to attend, please email him at commander@floridasons.org.

Please note that he is being requested frequently. If you would like him to attend, please invite him as soon as you plan your event.



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(Detachment Adjutant Continued)

COMMUNICATION: 'TIS MY JOB

Communication is one of the primary functions as an Adjutant. As your Detachment Adjutant, that makes me the primary Communicator. This month's edition is full of information about communication, so I'm not going to go into too much detail about that. Another one of my jobs is providing tools to help you be better at your jobs, whatever job you choose to do with your squadron. So what I'm going to do is combine both of my aforementioned jobs and provide you a tip to help improve your communications.

MAILING LIST MANAGERS

Many of you right now are reading this edition of 'The Source' because you received an email. You received that email because you are signed up to our Google Group. Mailing list managers such as Google Groups make it easier to send our emails to your area, district and squadron. Best of all, they're free! We have a Detachment of over 27,000 members. Of the 27,000+, we currently only have 875 members signed up (more on that later in this edition). I couldn't use my personal email to send everyone an email - I would get flagged for spamming and my account would be closed.

A mailing list manager helps overcome that restriction. Members of the group have accepted an invitation to join and always have the ability to opt out. Setup is super easy.

I use a Google Group for my squadron. I send out the monthly meeting minutes, monthly calendar and reminders of our meeting night. Recently, at our monthly meeting, I had three relatively new members show up at the meeting and thanked me for the reminder. It's all because I sent the monthly minutes out in preparation for the meeting with my reminder notice.

YOU HAVE THE INFORMATION ALREADY

If you think you don't have everyone's contact information, you're only partially right. For years, the old small applications had a spot for contact information, but the blanks to enter it were very small. Our new membership applications were changed to more predominately collect the email addresses and phone numbers, so should have every new member's information.

If you have been encouraging your members to sign up for a myLegion.org account, you may have the information of your long-term members as well.

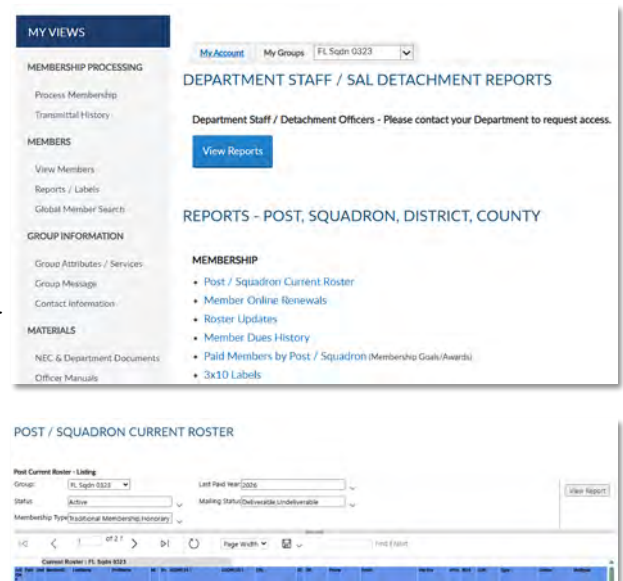
HOW DO I ACCESS THIS INFORMATION?

That's the easy part! All of this information is accessible through the myLegion.org portal. All you have to do is run a report. Here's how:

Log in to your myLegion.org portal and go to your squadron group. In the left menu, select **REPORTS/LABELS**. In the screen that shows next, select **POST/SQUADRON CURRENT ROSTER**. (image 1). On the next screen, you'll be presented with some dropdown boxes to generate your report. You can run a report for each year (recommended). Select your criteria and hit the **VIEW REPORT** button. (image 2). Once the report is generated, click the save icon and select your desired format. I usually use an Excel format. Simply open your spreadsheet and start copying your email addresses to your new group.

Pro tip: If you see members without an email address, collect it from them when they come in to renew their dues. You can edit their information in the myLegion.org portal for them. I hope this helps in your communication efforts. Please reach out to me if you need any assistance.

For God and Country,
Christian M Rapp





DETACHMENT ASST ADJUTANT
JOHN JENNINGS

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THE 5 CS OF TEAMWORK

Greetings everyone and my hope is everyone and your families are doing well. Let's get to the business at hand. The ball game is underway, and we have had trouble at first base. I don't totally understand why, but I have heard a lot of the reasons.

Let's start with, what is good communication? We are having a real problem in this area and it's very early in the year. So, let's talk a little about communication. The Detachment of Florida works very hard to be a bottom-up Detachment when it comes to communication. We want our Squadron involved, we want our Squadrons asking questions, we want our Squadrons attending the Fall Conference and the training classes, we want our Squadrons to attend our annual Convention and the training classes, we want our Squadrons to witness what great things all of the great Squadrons to around the state of Florida so they might take it back to their Squadrons. But here is my belief! We in our communications are not getting our information down to the Squadrons to get them excited enough to want to attend any of the meetings. They are thinking about why they don't hear from anyone? We must do better communicating down to the Squadrons. The information is available, the resources are available, the tools are available, the only then that is lacking is good top-down communication with explanation of the information supplied. Don't just send an email thinking they will understand.

The 5 C's of teamwork are Communication, Camaraderie, Commitment, Confidence, and Coachability:

- **Communication:** Clear, open, and transparent sharing of ideas and feedback ensures everyone stays informed and aligned.
- **Camaraderie:** Mutual trust, respect, and friendship build a supportive, positive culture where people enjoy working together.
- **Commitment:** Dedication to shared goals and a willingness to put the team's needs first which drives high performance.
- **Confidence:** Belief in the team's collective abilities and individual skills helps members tackle tough challenges.
- **Coachability:** A willingness to accept feedback, learn from mistakes, and adapt makes the group resilient and innovative.

FROM THE BLUE CAP UP

Communication Isn't Successful Until It Reaches the Blue Cap. The Sons of The American Legion does not have a shortage of information. At every level of our organization, people are working to develop programs, create resources, share membership information, promote initiatives, and provide training and communication opportunities to our members.

At the **National** level, information is regularly provided to our Detachments. **Detachments** communicate through meetings, emails, reports and other methods. **Districts** help carry information down to the Squadrons. **Squadron** officers receive information and discuss programs within their Squadron meetings.

Yet there is one question we should continually ask ourselves: **Did the Blue Cap ever receive it?** Because ultimately, that is where communication succeeds or fails.

We can create the greatest membership resource in the world. We can develop an outstanding veterans' program. We can announce an important initiative. We can distribute training materials and opportunities. But if that information never reaches the individual member, what did we really accomplish?

Sending information is not necessarily the same thing as communicating it.



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(Detachment Assistant Adjutant Continued)

Our Detachment faces a similar challenge. Information may successfully travel: **National** → **Detachment** → **District** → **Squadron**. **And then stop.**

The Detachment received and discussed it. The District received and discussed it. The Squadron Commander received the email. Maybe it wasn't even mentioned during a Squadron meeting.

But what about the members who weren't at that meeting? What about the members who don't use Facebook? *Is Facebook a good tool for business?*

What about the member who doesn't regularly visit the Post home? What about the member who joined six months ago and hasn't yet become actively involved? What about the member who simply doesn't know where to look for information?

Those are still our members. And if important information never reaches them, we have not completed our responsibilities to our members. Every link has responsibility.

Communication within a national membership organization cannot be the responsibility of any single level. National has a responsibility to communicate with Detachments and, whenever possible, directly with members.

Detachments have a responsibility to communicate with Districts, and Squadrons. Districts and Regions have a responsibility to help information continue moving.

Squadron leadership has perhaps the most important responsibility of all: Getting that information into the hands of the Blue Caps they serve.

Receiving information shouldn't be considered the completion of communication. Receiving it creates the responsibility to share it. That doesn't mean forwarding every email we receive or overwhelming our members with information.

Good communication also requires deciding what our members need to know, explaining why it matters and presenting it in a way they can understand and use. Sometimes National information needs a Detachment explanation. Sometimes Detachment information needs District context.

Sometimes Squadron Leaders need to take all of that information and answer the most important question a Blue Cap may have: **"What does this mean for me and my Squadron?"**

That's where communication becomes engagement. We Can't Depend on One Method. Our members are different. Some check emails every day. Some rarely open it. Some live on Facebook. Others don't have a Facebook account. Some attend every Squadron meeting. Others may attend only occasionally. Some regularly visit the Post home. Others may support the organization faithfully but rarely walk through the door.

If we rely on only one communication method, we are choosing which members will receive information and which ones probably won't.

Effective Squadron communication should use multiple tools when appropriate: email, text messaging, social media, websites, newsletters, squadron meetings, Post publications, telephone calls, and, when appropriate, traditional mail.

(Detachment Assistant Adjutant Continued)

The objective isn't to send everything everywhere. The objective is to make important information accessible to the greatest number of members possible.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER PROBLEM

Even if National wanted to communicate directly with every Blue Cap tomorrow, we face a significant obstacle: We don't always know how to reach them. Our membership database is only as useful as the information entered into it.

Many membership records do not contain an email address. Some contain addresses that are no longer current. Others may contain errors that occurred when information from a handwritten membership application was entered into the system. A single misplaced letter, number, period or symbol can make an email address useless. That creates a problem far beyond membership administration - It creates a communication barrier.

National may distribute an electronic publication or important membership information, but if the email address isn't there—or isn't correct—that communication never reaches its intended member.

The same problem exists at every level.

A Squadron cannot effectively communicate with members if its contact information is incomplete or outdated.

MAKE CONTACT INFORMATION PART OF MEMBERSHIP

We should begin by treating accurate contact information as an important part of membership administration. When someone joins, verify it. When someone renews, review it. When someone changes an address, update it. When members attend meetings or events, periodically remind them to check their information. And when possible, don't simply collect an email address. Confirm it. Ask the member to verify the spelling. Read it back. Promote the use of MyLegion.org and the need for their personal accounts.

Have the member enter it electronically when possible. A few additional seconds can prevent years of missed communication. We could make this part of our annual renewal culture:

RENEW. REVIEW. RECONNECT.

RENEW your membership. **REVIEW** your contact information. **RECONNECT** with your Squadron and our mission. That's not simply good recordkeeping. That's building the infrastructure necessary to communicate with our members.

WHY ARE WE ASKING?

Members should also understand why accurate contact information matters. We aren't asking simply because a database has an empty field.

We're asking because:

If we can't reach you, we can't inform you. If we can't inform you, it will become much harder to engage you. And if we can't engage you, it becomes much easier for you to become disconnected from the organization.

That eventually becomes a retention issue. Communication, engagement and retention are not separate membership concepts. They are connected.



(Detachment Assistant Adjutant Continued)

A member who regularly hears from his organization knows what it is doing. A member who knows what his organization is doing has more opportunities to participate. A member who participates develops relationships. A member who develops relationships has a stronger connection to his Squadron and our mission. And a member who feels connected has another reason to renew.

DIRECT COMMUNICATION HAS A ROLE TOO.

We should continue strengthening the traditional communication chain: **National** → **Detachment** → **District/** → **Squadron** → **Blue Cap**

But in today's world, that shouldn't necessarily be our only path.

When accurate member contact information is available and members have chosen to receive electronic communications, National can also communicate directly with Blue Caps. National already has opportunities for electronic communication, and those tools can continue to grow and improve.

But direct National communication should never be viewed as replacing Detachments, Districts, or Squadrons. It should support them.

National can explain a program and then encourage a member: "Contact your Squadron to learn how you can participate locally." **A Detachment** can provide state-specific information. **A District** can coordinate opportunities among Squadrons. **The Squadron** can provide the personal relationship that no national email can ever replace. That's how the pieces work together.

Make It Easy to Share. A short email. A social media graphic. Three meeting talking points. A newsletter paragraph. A QR code. A direct link. A one-page handout.

Squadron officers are volunteers. Many have jobs, families and responsibilities outside our organization. If we want information disseminated consistently, we should make dissemination as simple as possible.

SHARE THIS WITH YOUR MEMBERS

Now we've removed another obstacle from the last mile - this Isn't about Blame

When information fails to reach our members, it can be easy to point fingers. National should have done more. The Detachment didn't send it. The District didn't explain it. The Squadron didn't share it. The members should have attended the meeting. That doesn't solve anything. Most of the people serving at every level of our organization are volunteers trying to do the best they can.

Sometimes information stops because someone doesn't understand that passing it along is part of his responsibility. Sometimes an officer doesn't know the best way to communicate. Sometimes the contact information isn't available. Sometimes we've simply always done things a certain way.

The solution isn't blame. The solution is building a better communication culture. A culture where every level asks: Who needs this information? Have they received it? Do they understand it? Do they know what to do with it? Those four questions can completely change how we communicate.

We sometimes measure communication by what we send. How many emails went out? How many reports were distributed? How are meetings included in the announcement? Perhaps we should begin measuring it differently: **How many members did we actually reach?**



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(Detachment Assistant Adjutant Continued)

Because our programs don't exist for an email inbox. Our resources don't exist for a meeting packet. Our initiatives don't exist simply to appear in a report. They exist to support our organization, our mission and ultimately our members.

The Blue Cap is not the final afterthought in the communication chain. The Blue Cap is the reason the communication chain exists. So, let's continue producing great information. Let's continue strengthening communication between National, Detachments, Districts, and Squadrons.

Let's improve our membership data. Let's verify contact information. Let's give Squadron officers resources that are easy to share. Let's communicate through multiple channels and at every level, before we consider our job complete, let's ask one final question: **Did it reach the Blue Cap?**

Because information has very little value sitting in an inbox, a meeting packet or on someone's desk. Communication isn't successful because we sent it. Communication is successful when the member receives it, understands it and has the opportunity to act on it.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER ON THE 3-Rs OF MEMBERSHIP:
REINSTATING OUR LOST!
RENEWING OUR CURRENT!
RECRUIT OUR NEW!

Let's all start this year off strong and let's promise to finish strong. Commander Nigbor's membership goal is 32,000 members; our target dates and percentage number have changed. We must stay on top of our membership this year and let no TEAM slip behind. When installations are complete by mid-August we should have NO ZERO Squadrons. The communication network between the membership Committee, the District Staff, and the Squadrons MUST be at an all-time high. WE MUST COMMUNICATE AT ALL LEVEL!!!!

We need to get our training out to our Squadron members and this needs to start with our District and Area Vice Commander organizing classes and talking it up. The Member Training & Development Committee is ready and excited to put boots on the ground to help educate our members.

We are all stronger as a team if we work as team. Each of us has something to bring to the table and each of us can do something better than others. So in 2026-2027 let's come together and work together so that the Detachment of Florida can be the best it can be.

Let's get this done. Let's Play Ball and have lots of fun! Let's make a commitment together today that we will reach Commander Nigbor's goal of 32,000 members by delegate cut-off in June of 2027. Let's do this!!!

For God and Country,
John Jennings

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
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Detachment
of Florida



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NAT'L EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN
GERARD SAMBETS

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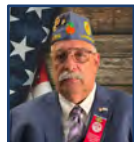
We hit the ground running in Louisville, Kentucky, and we all attended the early meetings at the convention center. We started at 8 am for the first meeting on internal affairs and went to our second at 10 am, a pre-convention meeting. At 1 p.m., we attended the opening of our National Convention. Commander Clancey opened it on Friday, and it continued through 3 pm on Sunday. We all witnessed the elections of our Natto ratify our constitution and bylaws that should have been done 2 years ago. We have been operating under them, so ratifying them was an easy task. The highlight of the weekend was watching Commander Nigbor accept the awards for Florida in Membership and Americanism. Great job by all of our detachment members for earning these awards.

Again, I would like to thank Bill Kelly for all he has done for the detachment while serving as NEC. His guidance will help Steve and me moving forward to help us keep the detachment at the top in the nation and a detachment that others look up to. We look forward to serving our commander, Michael, and the detachment in guiding us toward what is best for Florida and our members.

Next up are fall NEC meetings in Indianapolis, where I am sure we will be discussing the upcoming changes to the American Legion Auxiliary membership eligibility. The American Legion is implementing them to expand its membership eligibility by becoming gender neutral. More to come on this subject as we move forward. Hopefully, I will have more information after the fall meetings.

Remember always, Veterans first!

For God and Country,
Gerard Sambets



ALT NAT'L EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN
STEVE GORDON

sgordon1967@comcast.net

Greetings, Sons of the American Legion family!

I am honored to share my reflections on our recent National Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky. This year's gathering was a powerful reminder of the strength and unity of our organization, and I am grateful for the opportunity to represent our members in this capacity.

The convention hall in Louisville was filled with dedicated Sons from across the nation, all joined together to advance our mission of supporting veterans, strengthening our communities, and fostering patriotism. Participation was strong, and it was inspiring to see so many squadrons and detachments represented. Your presence is what makes our organization vibrant and ensures that the voices of our members are heard at the national level.

Throughout the convention, we heard reports on the incredible achievements of our members over the past year—from record contributions to the Child Well Being Foundation to impactful local service projects that make a difference in veterans' lives every day. Workshops and committee sessions provided valuable information to help us continue growing our programs and better serve the American Legion Family.



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(Alt NEC continued)

The city of Louisville offered a welcoming atmosphere, blending its rich historical heritage with the energy of our patriotic mission. The camaraderie shared at the convention reminded all of us why we proudly wear the Sons of the American Legion emblem.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage all members to stay engaged, attend your local and detachment meetings, and make plans to join us at future conventions. Your participation strengthens our collective impact and ensures that the Sons continue honoring our veterans and building a legacy of service.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Alternate National Executive Committeeman. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to advance the great work of the Sons of the American Legion.

Yours in service,
Steve Gordon

EASIEST WAY TO SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

1

SCAN THE
QR CODE

2

SEE CURRENT
VETERANS' LEGISLATION
IN CONGRESS

3

SENATOR REPRESENTATIVE

IN ONE CLICK,
MESSAGE YOUR ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES

4

DEMAND THEIR
SUPPORT FOR PASSING
THE BILLS

★ PAGE UPDATES WITH NEW LEGISLATION ★

★ VOTER VOICE ★

AMERICAN LEGION GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

Or visit: <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

★ VOTER VOICE ★

AMERICAN LEGION GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER

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DETACHMENT CHAPLAIN
RAY LEVENTHAL
chaplain@floridasons.org

FAITH, DUTY AND THE AMERICAN BALLOT

As members of the Sons of The American Legion, our very existence is rooted in service, sacrifice, and devotion to God and Country. That timeless motto is not merely a slogan printed on our charter, or words repeated upon installation of officers; it is an active and ongoing covenant. It demands that we look at our nation with clear eyes, a faithful heart, and an unwavering sense of moral duty.

With an election approaching, that covenant calls upon each of us in a profound way. The privilege of the serving in honor of the veterans through whom we have established our eligibility in this great organization is one of the most sacred responsibilities of citizenship. It is a civic sacrament purchased with the courage and blood of the men and women who wore the uniform of our armed forces. When we step into the voting booth, we do not do so merely as private consumers choosing a preference, nor as partisans cheering for a team. We enter as stewards of a great constitutional inheritance, entrusted with the sacred duty of preserving liberty for generations to come.

To exercise that stewardship faithfully, we must remind ourselves of the foundation upon which this nation was established. The American experiment did not originate from the whims of monarchs or the decrees of absolute rulers. It was built upon an enduring spiritual truth.

When our Founding Fathers affixed their names to the Declaration of Independence, they explicitly recognized that our rights do not emanate from the benevolence of the state. We are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. Freedom is a divine gift, not a bureaucratic concession. Government was not ordained to be the master of man, but the servant of justice, tasked with safeguarding what God had already bestowed.

Our Founders understood with unmistakable clarity that no free society can survive without a moral foundation rooted in faith. John Adams reminded us that our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people, and that it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

George Washington, in his Farewell Address, cautioned that of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. He warned that reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

These men understood that without a shared reverence for an authority higher than human legislation, liberty easily decays into license, and license rapidly invites tyranny.

Faith teaches us humility, personal responsibility, charity toward our neighbor, and reverence for truth. It provides the moral compass that keeps a free people just, compassionate, and disciplined. When faith flourishes in the home, the house of worship, and the public square, communities thrive from the ground up. Neighbors care for neighbors, the vulnerable are protected, families remain resilient, and the human spirit remains free. A faithful people understand that their ultimate allegiance belongs to the Almighty, and this conviction is the greatest bulwark against political despotism ever known to mankind.

Because faith is the primary fortress of human freedom, we must remain vigilant when we observe voices and movements in our society that seem intent on eroding that foundation. Over recent years, we have witnessed a growing effort to push religious conviction to the furthest margins of public life. In its place, many would elevate the state to a position of supreme authority. When the presence of God is systematically diminished in the civic square, a dangerous vacuum is created.



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(Detachment Chaplain Continued)

Human nature inevitably seeks something to worship and lean upon, and throughout history, an unchecked, omnipotent government has all too willingly offered itself as the substitute. Whenever leaders or ideologies seek to replace the reliance on Providence with an absolute dependence on the state, we must pause and examine their deeper motives.

Why is there such a persistent push to silence the voice of faith in the halls of debate? Why are traditional moral convictions so frequently treated with derision or branded as obstacles to progress?

The historical answer is as clear as it is sobering: a populace that answers first to God is inherently difficult to control, while a populace stripped of spiritual convictions and reliant entirely on the government for its purpose, morals, and daily sustenance is easily subjugated. When government becomes the sole author of right and wrong and the sole provider of our needs, our sacred liberties cease to be unalienable and become conditional privileges subject to the whim of whoever holds power.

As Sons of The American Legion, we cannot remain silent or indifferent in the face of these trends. We are the sons, grandsons, and descendants of heroes who braved hostile shores, freezing trenches, and foreign skies precisely to defeat totalitarian systems that sought to crush individual conscience under the heel of an all-powerful state. Our fathers, mothers, grandmothers and grandfathers understood that freedom dies the moment God is driven from the hearts of a nation and the government enthrones itself upon His altar. Honoring their legacy means defending in peacetime the principles they defended in war.

This coming election presents us with a decisive moral choice. As Chaplain, I do not urge you to vote for a particular party or candidate, but I do urge you to examine every platform and candidate through the lens of faith, conscience, and foundational American principles. We must look past the polished rhetoric, the partisan slogans, and the fleeting promises of material handouts. Instead, we must ask the fundamental questions that go to the heart of our republic's survival.

Do the candidates respect the sacred sanctity of life and the inherent dignity of the human person created in the image of God? Do they defend the freedom of religion, recognizing that the right to worship means far more than silence within the four walls of a sanctuary, but encompasses the right to live and speak one's faith openly in society? Do they recognize the natural limits of government power, or do they seek to expand state control over our families, our children, our businesses, and our conscience? Are they committed to preserving the moral pillars that have kept our communities strong, or do they seek to dilute those truths to centralize authority in distant corridors of power?

Voting is not merely an expression of political preference; it is an act of moral accountability before our Creator. When we enter the voting booth, we bear the responsibility of deciding what kind of nation we will leave behind. If we choose to remain passive, if we surrender to apathy or cynicism, we abdicate the sacred charge given to us. Bad laws and destructive governance thrive when people of faith and principle decide that their voices no longer matter.

Let us therefore prepare ourselves for this election season not merely by following the news, but by bowing our heads in earnest prayer. Let us pray for our beloved country, that peace, wisdom, and righteousness may guide our fellow citizens. Let us pray for all those who seek public office, asking God to grant them humble hearts, a hunger for justice, and a healthy fear of the Lord. Above all, let us pray for our own discernment, asking the Holy Spirit to clear away confusion, banish indifference, and grant us the fortitude to stand boldly for truth.

When election day arrives, let every member of our squadron, our post, and our American Legion family fulfill their duty. Step forward with a clear conscience, a steadfast spirit, and a resolute commitment to the ideals of the American founding. Let our votes declare that America remains a nation under God, that our rights are sacred and non-negotiable, and that we will never bow before the altar of an all-encompassing state. By carrying out this duty with courage and faith, we ensure that the torch of liberty passed to

(Detachment Chaplain Continued)

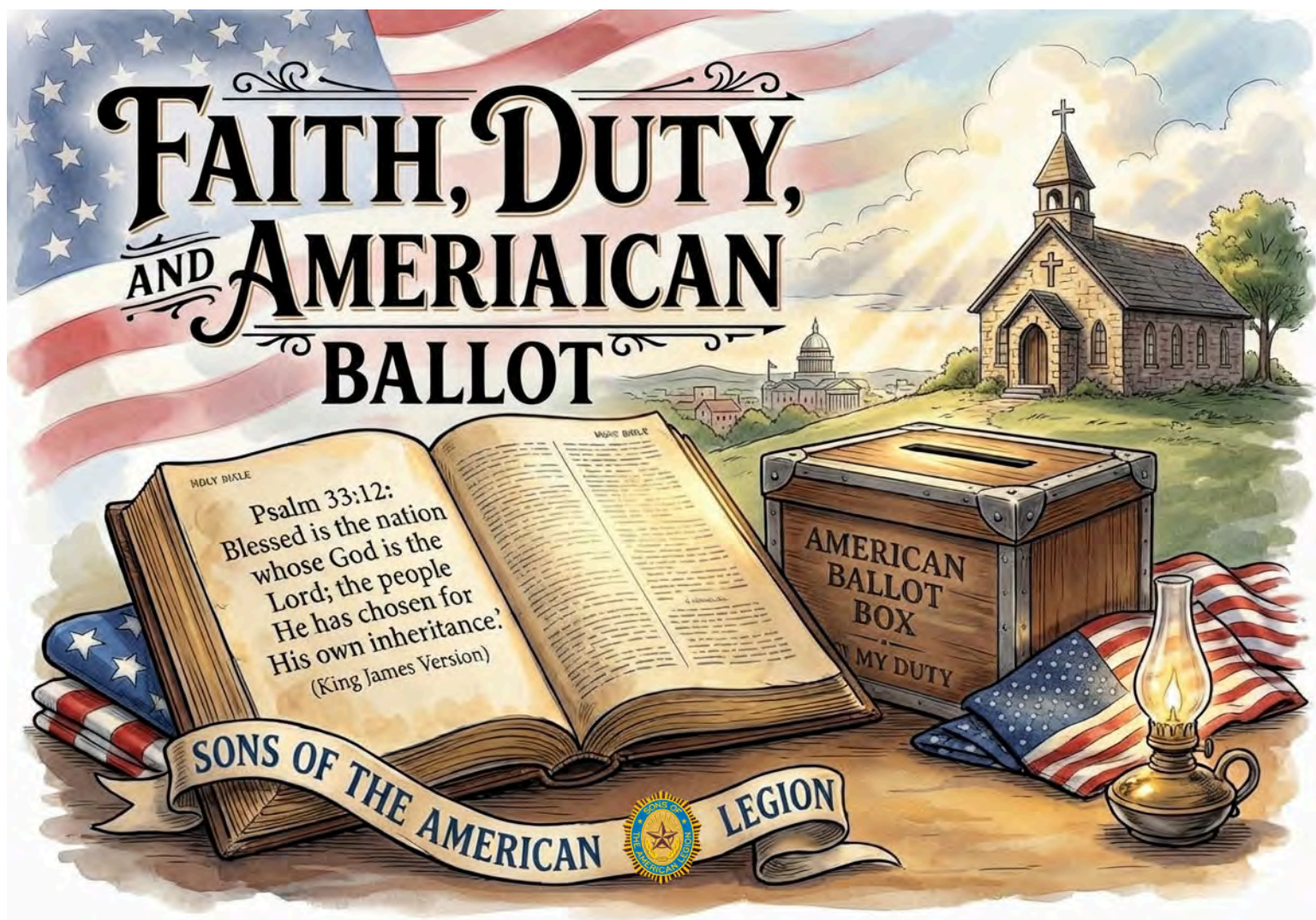
us by our veteran forebears will continue to shine brightly, illuminating a blessed and righteous land for generations to come.

I love our country. I treasure our God given rights. I believe that America, as a nation and as a citizenry will always do the will of God; He who granted His blessing upon our inception. I pray God's grace upon you all, today and every day.

God bless our veterans, God bless our military families and God Bless the United States of America.

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

For God and Country,
Ray Leventhal



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VICE COMMANDER WESTERN AREA
TROY TOUCHTON
troytouchton1@gmail.com

GREETINGS FROM THE WESTERN AREA!

Greetings from the Panhandle, specifically the Western Area! This is your Vice Commander Western Area, Troy Touchton, and I wanted to share a recap of a recent event held on September 12th, 2026: "Jail and Bail."

The premise was to have individuals arrested, charged, and imprisoned until their bail amount was reached. We put this together collectively between the four different entities of our family at Post 382 Navarre in District 1.

We were able to coordinate all four leaders - Legion Commander Bob Matheson, Auxiliary President Linda Knoblach-Harkness, Sons Detachment Commander Michael Nigbor, and Riders Chairman Jason Skobel - to be there together. We arrested, charged, and imprisoned them all for a sizeable bail. In total, we processed close to 50 people, reading charges that were quite funny before placing them in our jail.

There was a fee to arrest someone, and then the Judge (a role I had the pleasure of playing) would set a bail amount based on the person and the charge. Our Commander was a great sport about the whole thing, and a good time was had by all.

While the final total will be announced at the Convention, I know we raised over \$5,000.00. The Sons portion will go 100% to our Commander's Charity this year, COTA.

I was very honored to be a part of this event and just wanted to share the successful news with everyone.

For God and Country,
Troy Touchton





VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL AREA
ERIC RIKANSRUD
arrow69@outlook.com

GREETINGS FROM THE CENTRAL AREA!

Hello everyone!

We had a great month in the Central Area.

Post 5 had a 9/11 remembrance memorial had a great turnout. We did it at the Bayshore twin Towers Memorial Garden, then went to post 305 for their memorial. They had a great turnout there. The mayor showed up, as well as many first responders. Later, I went to **Post 108's** 9/11 Service which was held at the harvester Church where they meet and they did a fantastic memorial there. They had the Scouts there, a 21 gun salute and some great speakers. They also made a flag on the front of their grounds for all of the fallen from 9/11.



Squadron 186 did a pig roast at their post had almost 400 people to their event. Commander Nigbor was there along with me and Larry Kordosky, 15th District Commander.

I attended the **16th District meeting** which was very well attended. Rob Huddle, 16th District Commander, and his staff did a great job.

Post 138 had a luau which I attended. The Sons, the Riders and the auxiliary put on a great day !

That's all for now. Have a great month everyone. Please make sure to invite me to your meetings and events - I'll be more than happy to attend.

For God and Country,
Eric Rikansrud





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VICE COMMANDER EASTERN AREA

ANDY CAMPBELL

vceast@floridasons.org

GREETINGS FROM THE EASTERN AREA!

With the new membership year well under way we have a lot of work to do in the 6th and 12th districts. I am calling out to every Squadron Commander in the 2 districts to get that membership in. I have been asking all of my members at Post 117 to start renewing every year in August so that we aren't waiting until the last minute to make our numbers. Most have3 been very responsive. I will start sending out emails to all of the members that I don't see on a regular basis asking them to renew

Our area is currently in second place as of the day I am writing this. We need everyone's help to make the next earmark! We are at a little over 28% and need to be at 35 by the end of September. Hopefully when this is published, we will have made that number.

Also, It looks like District 6 might just get the Golden Gavel at Fall Conference. Keep Fight Gary and see if you can beat them out!

I continue to work with the Detachment officers and our District Commanders in the Eastern Area by communicating, supporting one another, and staying focused on our shared G.O.A.L.S. of Growth, Opportunity, Action, Leadership, and Support. Let continue to have a successful and rewarding year!

If you would like me to attend an event at your post, please reach out to me and send an invite.

For God and Country,
Andy Campbell

FOOTBALL WITH PURPOSE

RAISE AWARENESS. SUPPORT VETERANS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2026



TAILGATE
10:00 AM EST



BIKE RIDE-IN
11:30 AM EST



GAME KICKOFF
1:00 PM EST



RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
TAMPA, FL



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7TH DISTRICT COMMANDER

DAN HEIER

keierh@aol.com

7TH DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

(times and days subject to change)

DATE	TIME	FAMILY	HOST POST	POST ADDRESS
Aug 8, 2026	10:00a	DISTRICT	POST 4	1375 ARIANA ST LAKELAND, FL 33803
	11:30a	RIDERS		
Sept 30, 2026	7:00p	SONS	POST 34	107 N 11th ST HAINES CITY, FL 33844
Nov 14, 2026	10:00a	DISTRICT	POST 34	107 N 11th ST HAINES CITY, FL 33844
	11:30a	RIDERS		
Nov 10, 2026	7:00p	SONS	POST 4	1375 ARIANA ST LAKELAND, FL 33803
Feb 13, 2027	10:00a	JOINT MTG & 7TH DISTRICT PICNIC	POST 72	1500 N CHURCH AVE MULBERRY, FL 33860
TBD - MAY '27	1:00p	DCC	POST 8	
	2:30p	RIDERS		
	11:00a	SONS		

BE THE ONE



9TH DISTRICT COMMANDER
MARTY KRAEMER

martinkraemer@yahoo.com

GREETINGS FROM 9TH DISTRICT!

The District 9 Sons of the American Legion has completed the Installations of 10 Squadrons, and I am proud to say we have a good group of Officers this year.

We are all working hard on our Membership so the Detachment can reach the goal our Detachment Commander has set for all of us.

I'm looking forward to the Fall Conference in November. Hope to see some of you at that time!

For God and Country,
Marty Kraemer



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9TH DISTRICT ADJUTANT
MT&D COMMITTEE MEMBER

SAM ALOI

kj4srf@gmail.com

GREETINGS FROM 9TH DISTRICT!

As I write this we are closing in on the end of Installations. Congratulations to the New officers, and welcome back re-elected officers. Let's hit the ground running!

Membership, Membership. We are closing in on the first Deadline. If you remember **"To Be 1 Ask One"** we'll make yourself available to be asked.. Grocery Stores, Gas Stations, Restaurants, anywhere is the right place.

Call your lost members on your roster by doing Buddy Checks - with the Economy being what it is they might have financial difficulties.

Display your SAL stickers proudly on your vehicle. **Wear your Red on Friday** because at least one person always asks why you're wearing red. Be there and they will come.

In closing, **I'm proud to be 1** and I'm proud to be your Brother.

For God and Country,
Sam Aloï



12TH DISTRICT COMMANDER
GARY RAYMOND

garyraymond4466@gmail.com

12TH DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

(times and days subject to change)

DATE	Registration	Meet Time	HOST POST	POST ADDRESS
Sept 26, 2026	9:00a	10:00a	POST 318	1000 SAVANNA CLUB BLVD, PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34952
Dec 12, 2026	9:00a	10:00a	POST 1	1281 US-1, TITUSVILLE, FL 32796
Feb 20, 2027	9:00a	10:00a	POST 81	2909 S HARBOR CITY BLVD, MELBOURNE, FL 32901



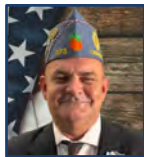
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13TH DISTRICT COMMANDER
MITCHELL PACE

car_tech@rocketmail.com

HELLO FROM THE MIGHTY 13TH DISTRICT!

Installations are all done thank you to all the Posts for your hospitality during the Installation Season! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the children and youth bbq at Ralph W Sparks American Legion Post 336 in North Fort Myers on October 17th at 2pm .

Membership everyone should have cards by now we need to work on reaching our goals and have another successful year .

Remember: National has set our goals more aggressive this year. We have steeper goals and earlier dates to reach these goals. In the past, our first membership goal wasn't until September, and that goal was usually 10%. This year our first membership goal was 25% and the date was August 27. Sadly, only one Squadron achieved that goal - Squadron 415 Babcock Ranch.

Congratulations Squadron 415! Keep up the good work!

I know our seasonal residents are ready to return and we will all start increasing our membership. Please keep this year's goals in mind.

Our next goal is 45% by October 29th.

For God and Country,
Mitchell Pace



15TH DISTRICT COMMANDER
LARRY KORDOSKY

tampa3332@yahoo.com

GREETINGS FROM THE 15TH DISTRICT!

This is my first crack at being the District 15 Commander and of writing for The Source, so I hope not to disappoint. So far, I've met some wonderful people, made some great friends, and I have been overwhelmed with advice and great ideas. With all of the squadron installations behind us now, my next adventure is to visit all of the Squadrons at least twice in my time as commander. My Vice Commander, Vic Kelly, and I have already made a few visits. I'll be calling the rest of the squadrons soon to make an appointment, so as not to surprise anyone. We will be at your squadron meetings just to observe, offer any friendly advice or training where we can and to answer your questions as best we know how.

I'd like to give a big shout out to a couple of Squadrons who recently invited us to their Squadron or Post events. The first event was an absolutely wonderful time at the Squadron 186 Pig Roast. The food was great and the entertainment rocked with the Bearded Brothers Band singing all of the classics. The squadron, lead by Commander James Lemay, went out of their way to show the Detachment Commander, the Vice Commander for the Central Area, the District Vice Commander and myself a great time. This was the best pig roast I've ever attended. **The Great Job Squadron 186.**

The second event was the more somber 25th Anniversary of 9/11 memorial event at Post 5 where members of the posts and invited guests read aloud the names of all those who perished from terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2011. During the reading of the victims' names, breaks were taken periodically where community leaders and dignitaries came to the podium and said a few words about tragedy of 9/11 and its meaning to them, the communities and the nation. Our own Legionnaire District 15 Commander, Steve Tyler, walked up to the podium and spoke a few words. **Thanks to Squadron Commander Brian M. Fuerst,** for inviting me to this very well-done event.

For God and Country,
Larry Kordosky



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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION CHAIR

GREGORY TONG

legislative@floridasons.org

UNITING VOICES, ADVANCING VETERANS' RIGHTS.

Let me start by saying that I am very honored and humbled to have this position as the Legislative Commission Chair for the Detachment of Florida and this commission is very near and dear to my heart.

I have been working with Bill Kelly for quite a few years and understand the importance of this and I thank him for his support and his many years of service.

We went to national convention in Louisville KY and learned many things that we should be doing to help our Veterans, their families and our communities. During the convention I was introduced to many people that share our goals including my counterpart for the Legion Stuart Scott. I am sure we will work very well together as we already are now.

There were many meeting attended including dinners and extracurricular things but there was much progress and a whole lot of education from very dedicated people. I will say it was fun but demanding as we take as much time to take advantage of all of us to share our successes and problems in order to have a viable game plan to always be better.

The biggest problem we have right now is a software glitch that keeps kicking out of Voters Voice every few months. I ask that you check and make sure you are up to date on it. Throughout the nation there are only around 3000 registered and that is not where we want to be. Please visit

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home> and verify your subscription. You will be prompted to fill out some simple information and start receiving weekly e-mails. Make sure you click on the proper organization. When you receive the emails just respond and it will automatically send it to your Congressional or Senate representative. This is extremely important and here is why.

BUILDING A STRONGER VOICE THROUGH COALITION

As we begin the 2027 Florida legislative year, we have taken an important step by forming a coalition with many of our brother and sister organizations within the Veterans Service Organization community.

The purpose is simple: **work together where our interests align and make sure our elected officials hear a consistent, informed voice regarding issues affecting veterans.**

By bringing organizations together, we can bridge advocacy efforts across the state. Instead of individual organizations approaching legislators separately on the same issue, the coalition provides an opportunity to identify common concerns, share information, and communicate the needs of Florida's veterans more effectively.

Our priorities extend beyond traditional veterans' legislation. We also recognize the importance of ensuring that **charitable fundraising laws and regulations keep pace with the technology available today.**

For God and Country,
Gregory Tong



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INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN ROCKY CIRIGLIANO

sprintcar-rc@att.net

COMMUNICATION: THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL IN ANY ORGANIZATION

Communication is one of the most important tools we have in the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida. When we share information clearly and consistently, we strengthen our squadrons, support our members, and help every program move forward with purpose. I am repeating this message because communication is not a one-time reminder; it is an ongoing responsibility. Whether we are sharing deadlines, reporting achievements, promoting events, or helping one another solve problems, effective communication keeps our Detachment connected and focused on service.

Here in Florida, we are part of one of the most active and dedicated Detachments in the nation. Our programs, our service projects, and our commitment to Veterans and their families are second to none. But the success of all that work depends on one thing: our ability to communicate clearly, consistently, and respectfully at every level.

Communication is what keeps our Squadrons and Districts connected to the Detachment's goals and priorities. It ensures that members across the state know about upcoming initiatives, membership drives, training opportunities, and the programs that define who we are as Sons of the American Legion. When we stay informed, we stay united — and when we stay united, we stay strong.

Within each Squadron and District, communication is just as essential. It helps members understand their roles, stay engaged, and feel like part of something meaningful. It builds trust, strengthens teamwork, and creates an environment where every member — from the newest recruit to the most seasoned officer — feels valued and included.

We are here to help maintain that flow of information. That means supporting Squadrons, Districts, assisting officers, encouraging transparency, and making sure our Detachment remains connected from the Panhandle to the Keys. It also means listening — listening to concerns, listening to ideas, and listening to the voices that make this Detachment strong.

Effective communication helps us avoid misunderstandings, improve participation, and represent the Sons of the American Legion with professionalism and pride. It ensures that our Detachment continues to grow, continues to serve, and continues to honor the legacy of the Veterans who gave us the privilege to wear this emblem.

So, as we move forward, I encourage all of us to stay engaged, stay informed, and stay connected. Sign up for the google groups, read our monthly newsletter, author an article about what you are doing. Let us continue building a culture of communication that strengthens our Squadrons, supports our Districts, and elevates the entire Detachment of Florida.

Together, with clear communication and shared purpose, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

For God and Country,
Rocky Cirigliano

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(internal Affairs Continued)

I will publish our Preamble with every Internal Affairs article I submit. Please read and memorize our preamble to our Constitution. Read each line and stop for just a minute and reflect on the words. These words are powerful and should have great meaning to us all. Think about what each line is saying. This is why we do what we do! This would also be a great training opportunity at each Squadron meeting. I keep this in my article because it is something very meaningful and important for you as a member and us a Veteran Organization. It is our duty, and it was the duty of all our Veterans, without them we would not be what we are today, **A FREE NATION.**

PREAMBLE TO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

**PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE, WE MALE DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS OF ALL WARS,
ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER AS "SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION" FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America,
- to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism,
- to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in all wars,
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation,
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses,
- to make right the master of might,
- to promote peace and good will on earth,
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy,
- to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness,
- to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands,
- and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.





MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
PAUL STAWICKI
promolont7@gmail.com

LET'S SWING FOR THE FENCES: OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP

Gentlemen,

We are swiftly approaching the end of our **first quarter** for the **2026-2027 fiscal year**, and our **3rd Target Goal of 45%** is locked in for **October 29th**. As we step into the third inning of our "PLAY BALL!!" baseball theme, it is time for the Detachment of Florida to do what we do best - swing for the fences and lead the nation in Membership excellence.

Our mission right now is centered on early engagement. National's slogan for the first half of the year says it all: **"JULY IN. DECEMBER OUT. EARLY ENGAGEMENT. EARLY RENEWALS."**

THE GAME PLAN: WHY EARLY RENEWAL MATTERS

New membership cards became available in July, but current 2026 cards remain valid through **December 31st**. On **January 1st**, anyone who hasn't renewed officially becomes delinquent. This six-month window gives us the perfect opportunity to lock in our numbers early.

Securing early renewals helps our squadron communities in four critical ways:

- **Uninterrupted Standing:** Protects our members' continuous years of good standing without a last-minute rush.
- **Strategic Planning:** Gives our squadrons a clear picture of our active roster to plan programs and allocate budgets accurately.
- **Administrative Relief:** Eliminates the heavy logjam of processing transmittals at the end of December.
- **Mission Focus:** Allows us to spend less time tracking down dues and more time serving our veterans, children, and local neighborhoods.

ACTION STEPS FOR LEADERSHIP & BLUE CAP MEMBERS

Membership is a team sport. It relies on Detachments, Districts, and our everyday Blue Cap members working in unison. To clear out our remaining "ZERO Squadrons" and push past our 45% milestone, every leader needs to actively drive communication.

- **Squadron Commanders:** Evaluate your roster. What are your local hurdles? What strategies are succeeding? Relay these insights directly to your District Commanders. Consider launching incentives like Early Bird Dinners to motivate immediate renewals.
- **District & Vice Commanders:** Do not sit and wait for updates to come to you. If you have not heard from a squadron under your purview, pick up the phone. Active communication is the only way we can diagnose struggles and offer Detachment support.

GOAL DATES

Aug 27, 2026	25%	X
Sept 30, 2026	35%	X
Oct 29, 2026	45%	
Nov 25, 2026	55%	
Dec 30, 2026	65%	
Jan 28, 2027	85%	
Feb 25, 2027 *	90%	
April 1, 2027	95%	
Apr 29, 2027	100%	
May 25, 2027 **	105%	

* LEGION BIRTHDAY ** DELEGATE CUT-

MEMBERSHIP TIP

The **POWER HITTER AWARD** is an individual membership award you can give to multiple people in your post family, not just squadron members. Use this award for members, such as your bartenders, that encourage members to renew their dues or encourage people to become members.

Remember, a simple THANK YOU can mean so much.

You can find the award in the administration manual on our website at <https://floridasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/salf-admin-manual-2627.Pdf>



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(Membership Chairman Continued)

- **Every Blue Cap Member:** Every conversation, phone call, and invitation matters. Reach out personally to fellow comrades, invite them to upcoming activities, and assist anyone who might be struggling with the renewal process.

QUICK ONLINE RENEWAL

Renewing is about honoring the legacy of the veteran parents and grandparents who earned our eligibility. Please remind your Squadrons that members can easily renew their commitment online in just a few clicks.

Direct Renewal Portal: legion.org/sal-renew

Note: Members will simply need their Member ID and Last Name to log in and complete their 2027 renewal.

Let's communicate, educate, and engage. Let's get those transmittals processed promptly and prove once again why the Detachment of Florida remains the best of the best.

God Bless our Veterans, Communities and Families,

Paul J. Stawicki

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Detachment
of Florida



BE A POWER HITTER!
4 RENEWALS + 4 NEW MEMBERS
Encourage 4 members to renew and recruit
4 new members during the service year
to earn the Power Hitter Award!
Let's build a stronger Team SAL Florida!



Team
SAL FLORIDA
2026-2027



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MT&D CHAIRMAN
PETE PUZZO
pooz1830@gmail.com

EQUIPPING MEMBERS WITH THE SKILLS TO LEAD

As we prepare for the Fall Conference Training, I would like to point out that it will be held on Friday, November 12th from 1-4 PM. Please talk to your officers and your 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 several times in the past, we all **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 this year. Communications drives everything.

Here's a thought to ponder...how do YOU (personally) handle emails? As an example, I put out an email to the District Commanders asking for a date, time & place for training and what training they want. Out of the 16 Districts, I get maybe 1 or 2 Districts to respond. You cannot tell me that all 16 Districts are meeting or surpassing their Goals & Obligations to the Detachment. In addition, it is rather rude to not acknowledge the request. However, if I see replies that tell me your District is okay, no assistance is needed at this time, I can be sure you received it.

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. They also need to take the bull by the horns & set the District Meetings & what the content of that meeting will be.

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.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TRAINING ON?

Fall Conference is rapidly approaching. Fall Conference is usually a time for training. Your MT&D team has not yet finalized the training program for this year's Fall Conference. If there is something you think would be beneficial for all to learn about, contact me via mtd@floridasons.org or text me at **(772) 532-6511**.

For God and Country,
Pete Puzzo



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Transplant Association



www.floridasons.org
thesource@floridasons.org



CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN
DANNY ROE
childrenyouth@floridasons.org

INVESTING IN YOUTH TODAY, BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

Greetings from your Detachment of Florida Children & Youth Chairman!

I just returned from the National Convention in Louisville. What a great time and congratulations to all the new National officers. I was very honored to accept the award for Best Children and Youth report for the Southeast Region. **Great job Lady Lake Squadron 347 on your Fantastic Children and Youth report.**

Also, COTA (Childrens Organ Transplant Association) had a fundraiser and awarded top donors a beautiful flag plaque. One went to the Detachment of Florida Commander Michael Nigbor for raising over \$83,000 last year. Great job Commander and we look forward to even more this year. I believe they said they raised over \$400,000 Nationally for COTA.

A quick note on the transplant recipient that Squadron 347 donated \$14,000 to. She is doing great. She must stay at or near the hospital for 3 months. She is now 10 months old. The Thank You card we received from the family was so heartfelt, we knew our donation had helped this family through a hard time. Gentlemen, this is why we do what we do! Always remember it is not just a donation. It affects real people and real lives. I am so proud of what our organization does to help those in need.



SAL Golf tournament: October 10th at Bartow Golf Course at 8:30 AM. Hosted by American Legion Post 3 in Bartow, FL.: Check out the flyer in the Source.

The Annual Children and Youth Picnic will be On Saturday, April 10th at Post 72 in Mulberry. This is a new location, but always a fantastic time and a great fundraiser for Children & Youth. Hope to see you there this year. More info to come.

Annual Children and Youth golf tournament, hosted by Post 347 Lady Lake family will be Saturday May 15th at Broad Stripes Golf and Social Club in Lady Lake. It will be a Scramble and start at 8:00 AM. I would love to see teams and support from Posts across the state. Last year we raised \$23,000 for C&Y charities. More info and a flyer to come around the 1st of the year.

My Goal this year is to receive more C&Y reports with less zero's. Please start now by keeping track of your hours and money donated to C&Y Charities. This will make it easy to complete your report at the end of the year.

If you have questions, please ask. I am happy to help if I can. Looking forward to seeing you on the road. Please plan to support any 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



www.floridasons.org
thesource@floridasons.org



GROWTH ★ OPPORTUNITY ★ ACTION ★ LEADERSHIP ★ SUPPORT



VA&R AND PVR CHAIRMAN
BOB O'NEAL
var@floridasons.org

HONORING THE PAST, SUPPORTING THE PRESENT, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE.

Be the One! If you encounter a veteran in need during your buddy checks, kindly inform them that assistance is readily available. You can suggest they **dial 988 and press 1, or text to 838255.**

If they are experiencing hearing difficulties, kindly request that they contact **1-800-799-4889.**

Additionally, resources are available at VeteransCrisisLine.net.

Remind the veteran that every veteran has the right to support from the VA, regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in VA healthcare.

The VA's Self-Check Assessment can assist your veteran in identifying the signs of crisis.

Many veterans endure various stages of PTSD due to traumatic experiences encountered during their service. By establishing quality one-on-one connections, you may encourage them to open up, which is beneficial. However, if you perceive that their situation is escalating towards crisis, kindly encourage them to seek assistance through the methods outlined above. Remember, you are the one who can make a difference! **Be The One!**

BE THE ONE

EXCITING NEWS!!

Project Vet Relief has an agreement with the Tampa bay Buccaneers for FOOTBALL WITH A PURPOSE, a special Veterans Mental Health Awareness Game that will benefit the Suicide Prevention Initiative. A portion of each ticket is returned to PVR. PVR is working on a number of game day experiences, including a tailgate party, an exclusive t-shirt, post-game group photo, raffles featuring autographed Bucs memorabilia, exclusive Legion behind-the-scenes stadium experience and additional activities and surprises.

SUNDAY, November 1 @1:00PM. Tampa Bay Bucs vs Atlanta Falcons
Raymond James Stadium, Tampa

Purchase specially priced tickets <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Americanlegion3235>

**On the Order Summary page, you must enter your Legion Posts's name in the affiliated Legion/Partner Organization field. Order submitted without the Post listed will be canceled and refunded. **



Children's Organ
Transplant Association



www.floridasons.org
thesource@floridasons.org

GROWTH ★ OPPORTUNITY ★ ACTION ★ LEADERSHIP ★ SUPPORT

**PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN**
CHRISTIAN M RAPP
adjutant@floridasons.org

HELPING YOU COMMUNICATE BETTER, ONE TIP AT A TIME.

A WARNING ON CREATING YOUR FLYERS

This month I was going to give tips on using AI to generate your flyers. Lately, however, I've noticed a very disturbing trend on several Facebook pages of the Posts, Units, and Squadrons that I follow. Many are creating ads that violate the rules the National organization has for using websites and social media. I'm not talking about improper use of the branding - I'm talking about the advertisement of alcohol.

For years, and still to this day, The American Legion fights the stigma that "The American Legion is just a place where old vets go to get drunk and tell war stories." If you've taken the time to get this far into this edition of The Source, I know that **YOU** know this simply isn't true.

The American Legion Family prides itself on the great things we do for our veterans, our children, and our communities. Most, but not all, of our Posts have a canteen/social quarters where members and their guests can enjoy adult beverages. That's just a bonus, if your Post is lucky enough to have one. "The American Legion" is located in your meeting hall - that's where the business of supporting the Four Pillars takes place. The canteen/social quarters simply supports our events.

The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion all have established rules about this. National Headquarters has been explicit that it does not want the Legion emblem or name appearing on tobacco, beer, or alcohol products or advertising, stating plainly that this kind of placement "does not help our public image." Separately, all three organizations' social media guidance tells us not to post pictures of members drinking alcohol, and not to post or share content that portrays the Sons of The American Legion or the American Legion Family in a negative light. These guidelines exist to protect the organization's public image and make sure our social media reflects the family-friendly atmosphere we actually have.

A Taco Tuesday graphic with a photo of a margarita on it isn't the problem - a margarita next to tacos is just what Tuesday looks like. The violation is the graphic that reads "\$5 Margaritas," with our emblem, brand mark, or word mark stamped on it, telling the public that the drink special is the draw. Every one of those flyers is a missed opportunity to show someone why they should join us, and a reinforcement of the exact stereotype we spend our resolutions, our programs, and our public relations trying to break.

So what can you post instead? Promote the event, not the alcohol. "Friday Night Social, 6 PM, open to members and guests" tells people something is happening without putting a drink in the frame. If your canteen runs a kitchen or a karaoke night, lead with that. Let the social quarters be what it actually is - a gathering place that happens to serve adult beverages - rather than the headline act of your Post's public page.

Before your next flyer goes up, ask yourself: would I want a prospective member, a sponsor, or a reporter to see this as their first impression of who we are? If the answer makes you hesitate, that's the rule working exactly as it's supposed to.

I wish every Post, Unit, and Squadron the best of luck with your advertising efforts. **Promoting what we do matters, and getting it right matters just as much.** Next month, I'll share some tips for creating ads that are easier to read and get your point across clearly.

Until then, keep up the great work!

For God and Country,
Christian M Rapp



www.floridasons.org
thesource@floridasons.org



(Public Relations Chairman continued)

AI is all around us and is here to stay. AI helps with creating articles, advertisements, and more. Those on social media can tell an AI-generated ad, and there's more of these every day. Instead of fighting the AI push, I will be providing tips and tricks on how to properly use AI in your Public Relations activities. While my goal is to help all with their PR, these tips will benefit ANYONE that uses AI. This month, we'll start with one of the most important tips - b

If you've used ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or any other AI assistant, you've probably noticed a small disclaimer sitting right below the chat window: something like "[AI name] can make mistakes. Double-check responses." Every major AI company includes some version of this warning, and it's not just legal boilerplate — it's the single most important instruction on the page. **Read it. Believe it. Act on it.**

WHY DOES AI GET THINGS WRONG?

AI doesn't "know" things the way a person does. It learns by studying enormous amounts of human-written text and looking for patterns - which means its output is only as good as what it learned from. A few reasons this matters for you:

It relies on human input. AI is trained on text people wrote, and people make mistakes, hold biases, and sometimes get things flat-out wrong. If enough sources repeat an error, the AI can pick it up as if it were fact.

It leans on "reputable" sources - and that word is doing a lot of work. AI tools are generally built to favor well-established, credible websites. That sounds reassuring, until you consider who else knows that. **Bad actors** - people deliberately spreading false information — have learned to make their websites look reputable. With enough investment in SEO (Search Engine Optimization) and AEO (Answer Engine Optimization), a site built entirely to mislead can climb the rankings and start looking just as credible as a legitimate source, both to search engines and to the AI tools that draw from them. A polished layout and a professional-sounding domain name don't guarantee the truth.

Not all AI is created equal. People often talk about "AI" like it's one single thing, but each tool has its own strengths and weaknesses. Some are better at writing, some are better at research, some are more current, some are more prone to confidently stating something that simply isn't true (a problem often called "hallucination"). The tool that's great for drafting a flyer might not be the one you'd trust to check a fact.

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU ACTUALLY DO?

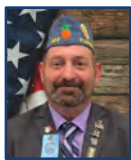
Verify anything factual before you publish it - names, dates, statistics, quotes, addresses, event details. If it can be wrong, check it against a real source.

Ask the AI where it got the information, and then actually look at that source yourself rather than taking the AI's word for it. Cross-check important claims against more than one source, especially anything you're putting in front of members, donors, or the public.

Be extra cautious with anything that sounds too clean or too convenient - a suspiciously perfect quote or statistic is worth a second look.



GROWTH ★ OPPORTUNITY ★ ACTION ★ LEADERSHIP ★ SUPPORT



EDITOR OF 'THE SOURCE'
CHRISTIAN M RAPP
thesource@floridasons.org

**HELPING YOUR STORIES BECOME THE SOURCE,
ONE ISSUE AT A TIME.**

WELCOME FIRST-TIME READERS!

If this is your first time receiving The Source in your inbox - **welcome!** Working alongside your SIRs and squadron officers, we've expanded our mailing list to reach as many people as possible.

Action Item: Some email addresses required a manual invite. Please encourage your members to check their inboxes and accept the invitation!

WHY THE EXPANSION?

Our membership is growing fast - our 2026 - 2027 100% membership target stands at **28,325** members. The Source is our main line of communication to keep our entire Detachment connected and ensure no one ever has to say, "I never heard about that." We rely on this list to send out vital updates and membership reports. And it's not just Sons members tuning in - we're proud to keep American Legion and Auxiliary members nationwide in the loop too! **We only have 3.09% of our members signed up.**

Encourage your members to join our mailing list!

HOW YOU CAN HELP SPREAD THE WORD

I am asking everyone reading this - including our **Legion** and **Auxiliary** family - to print out the QR Code at the end of this newsletter and display it proudly at your Post. Help **YOUR** Sons of the American Legion extend our reach!

My goal again this year is to have every Area Commander, District Commander, and Committee/Commission Chairman submitting content every month. Ideally, I want to see regular submissions directly from our Squadrons, too!



Monthly Deadline: 15th of each month (aligning us with the Department of Florida's publication of 'The Legion Link').

Partnering with Department: We are actively working with the Department to aid distribution to their members who receive The Legion Link. The more people we reach, the stronger we become!

Submitting Event Flyers? Submit your event flyers early! We will run them every single month until your event is complete.

MAKE SURE TO SUBMIT A FOLLOW UP ARTICLE AFTER YOUR EVENT! Let the Detachment know how your did on your event. Make sure to include a few photos from the event as well. Take the opportunity to show the entire Detachment how your Squadron /Post Family shines!

Please keep those articles and flyers coming so we can continue bringing you the information that matters most.

ENJOYING THE NEW LOOK?

*I look forward to your feedback. If you have comments on the new format, good or bad, please send them to me!
Together, we can make 'The Source' better!*



Children's Organ
Transplant Association



www.floridasons.org
thesource@floridasons.org

GROWTH ★ OPPORTUNITY ★ ACTION ★ LEADERSHIP ★ SUPPORT

**CWF FOUNDATION PRESIDENT
DENNIS BOLAND**

paratrooper101db@gmail.com

**AMERICAN LEGION
CHILD WELL-BEING FOUNDATION****SEPTEMBER 2026 UPDATE**

As of September 10, 2026, the American Legion family's combined donations to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation totaled \$116,413.48 since June 1st, 2026, which marked the start of our new award year and tracking.

Donations for the award year end on May 31, 2027, for the 2026/2027 year.

The following are the current donations since June 1st. Each organization with the highest donation as of May 31, 2027, will receive the Garland Murphy Shadow Box award.

Presently, the 8/40 Departmental of Nebraska is leading in contributions with \$1,291.45. The Department of Illinois Auxiliary is leading in contributions with \$4,867.80. The Department of Ohio is leading in contributions with \$11,871.65. The Detachment of Ohio is leading with contributions of \$11,871.65.

The chart below shows the 2nd- to 3rd-place positions in donations.

2nd Place, 40/8 Departmental De Arizona, with \$635.00; Alabama Auxiliary, with \$2,281.12; Department of Massachusetts with \$2,575.00; and the Detachment of Florida with \$11,810.00.

3rd Place, 40/8 Departmental De California with \$490.00; Department of South Dakota Auxiliary with \$2,087.32; Department of Florida with \$1,677.00 and the Detachment of Pennsylvania with \$9,706.00

The Child Well-Being has awarded over \$22 million in Grants for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth...

The deadline for CWF grant applications for 2027 was July 7, 2026. We received 383 grant applications for 2027, which the Board of Directors will review at the CWF meeting during the NEC's fall meeting in October 2026.

Children's Organ
Transplant Associationwww.floridasons.org
thesource@floridasons.org

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

*Riding
Together
for a
Brighter
Tomorrow*

★ 3RD ANNUAL ★ **TOM WOOD** MEMORIAL RUN

★ FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF BREVARD COUNTY ★

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

STARTING AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 117

KSU 10:30 AM

STOPS:

POST 163
POST 81
POST 189



2, 3 AND 4 WHEELS
WELCOME!

REGISTRATION 9:30 AM

BIKE - \$15
PASSENGER - \$5
POKER HAND - \$5
EXTRA CARD - \$5



FOOD
AVAILABLE



RAFFLES



LIVE MUSIC



BASKETS



AUCTION

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT



Special Olympics
of Brevard County

AMERICAN LEGION
POST 117

189 VETERANS DRIVE
PALM BAY, FL 32909

HONORING
A LEGACY
SUPPORTING
BRIGHTER FUTURES

COMMUNITY ★ VETERANS ★ INCLUSION ★ OPPORTUNITY



**BREAST CANCER
TIKI CARNIVAL**

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 252
Presents

**EVERYTHING
PINK**

DATE: OCTOBER 4th • TIME: 1 to 4 PM

**LOCATION: 11433 Park Boulevard,
Seminole, Florida**

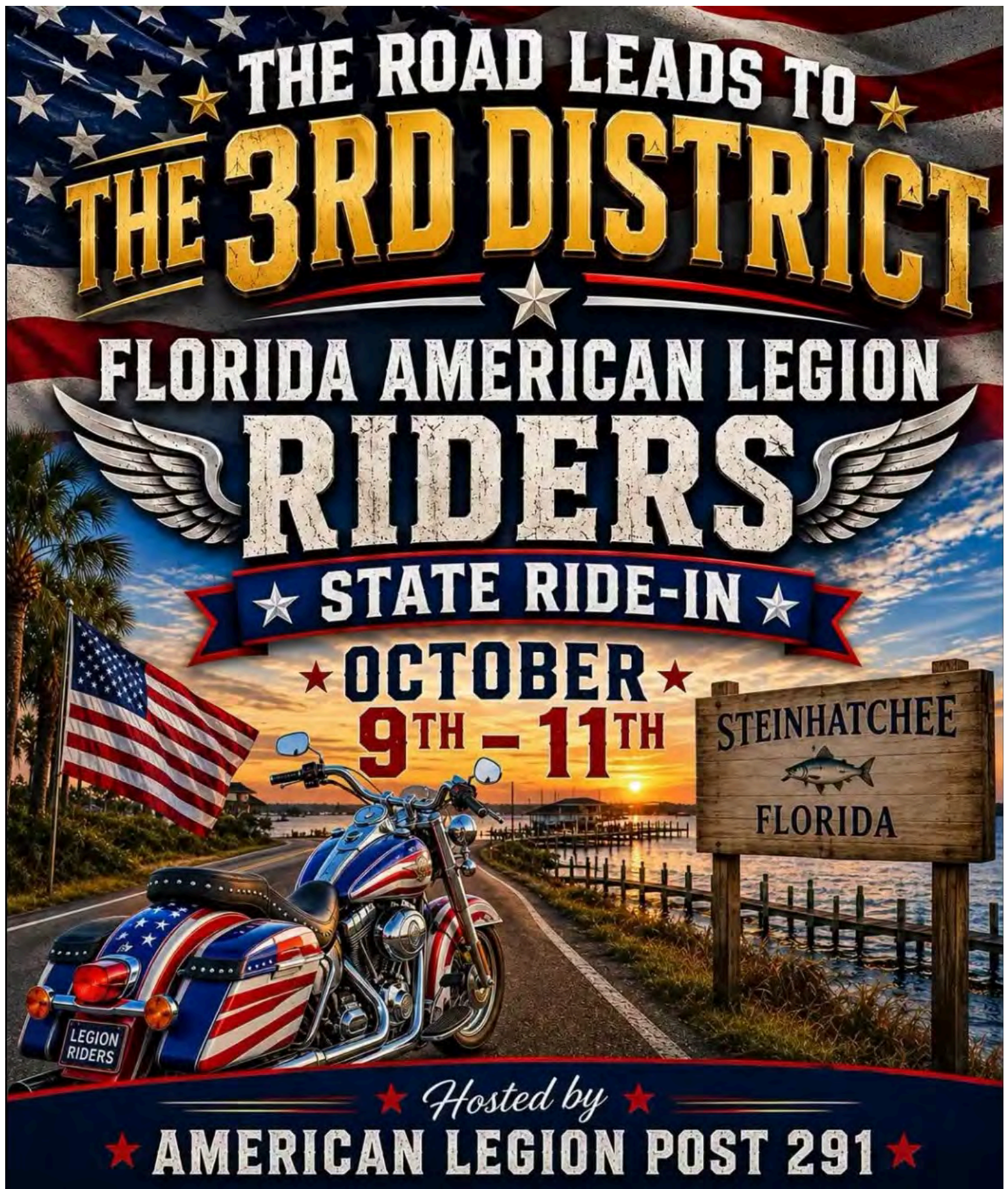
Live Music!

EVERYTHING PINK

Raffles • 50/50 • Games!

Benefits Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute

  **FLORIDA CANCER SPECIALISTS
& Research Institute**



THE ROAD LEADS TO
THE 3RD DISTRICT

FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS

★ STATE RIDE-IN ★

★ OCTOBER ★
9TH - 11TH

STEINHATCHEE
FLORIDA

★ Hosted by ★
AMERICAN LEGION POST 291 ★

AMERICAN LEGION 12th DISTRICT PICNIC

Hosted by Post 81



October 10 • Noon – 4:00 PM



2909 S. Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne, FL



**FEATURED
ENTERTAINMENT**

LIVE MUSIC

FEATURING
The Phoenix Band



Join us for food, fun & fellowship!

Veterans • Community • Country

American Legion Auxillary Unit 336 presents

3rd Annual

OKTOBERFEST

Benefiting Children's Burn Foundation of Florida

Saturday, October 10th • 1 - 4 PM

5770 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers, Florida



Live Music by
TIM BURTON

Dancing • Chance Auction •

50/50 Drawing •

Food & Drinks •

Craft Fair • Fun for All!

Vendor Booths Open 10 AM - 4 PM

Everyone Welcome!





AMERICAN LEGION, POST 3, BARTOW, FL

SAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

REGISTRATION



Limited to 25 teams. Team deadline is October 1, 2026

DATE & TIMES:

Saturday,
October 10, 2026
Check-in: 7:00 AM
Shotgun Start: 8:30 AM

LOCATION:

Bartow Golf Course
190 Idlewood Ave. S
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 533-9183

FOR MORE INFO:

Danny Blackford
3010 Mission Oaks Trails
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 581-3147



Use QR code above to register
and pay by credit card.

SPONSORSHIPS:

Deadline, September 25
☐ Platinum Plus \$1,000
☐ Platinum \$500
☐ Tournament \$250
☐ Hole \$100

CONTESTS WITH PRIZES:

- Par 3's, closest to the pin (men, women, Seniors)
- Longest drive (men, women Seniors)
- Hole-in-one

WE APPRECIATE OUR SPONSORS – YOU MAKE THIS CHARITABLE EVENT POSSIBLE!

Please complete the entry form below. Write clearly and legibly. Detach and submit the lower portion of the form along with payment to an SAL member. Thank you!

SPONSORSHIP ENCLOSED:

- ☐ Platinum Plus \$1,000 (tent on tee box, 4 dinner tickets) \$ _____
- ☐ Platinum, \$500, (includes Banner & 4 dinner tickets) \$ _____
- ☐ Tournament, \$250 (includes large sign) \$ _____
- ☐ Hole Sponsor, \$100 (includes sign) \$ _____
- ☐ Event Donation \$ _____

Sponsors have the option of providing their logo for sign. Attach logo as a jpeg image to Post3sal@gmail.com.

Total enclosed \$ _____

FEES ENCLOSED

- ☐ Individual, \$100 \$ _____
- ☐ Team, \$400 \$ _____ (foursome)
- Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to SAL.

Drop off or mail this form and checks to: SAL, 1575 US-17, Bartow, FL 33830

Completed form and payment due by September 25, 2026

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Street address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Register your foursome team (include email addresses)

Player 1 _____

Email _____

Player 2 _____

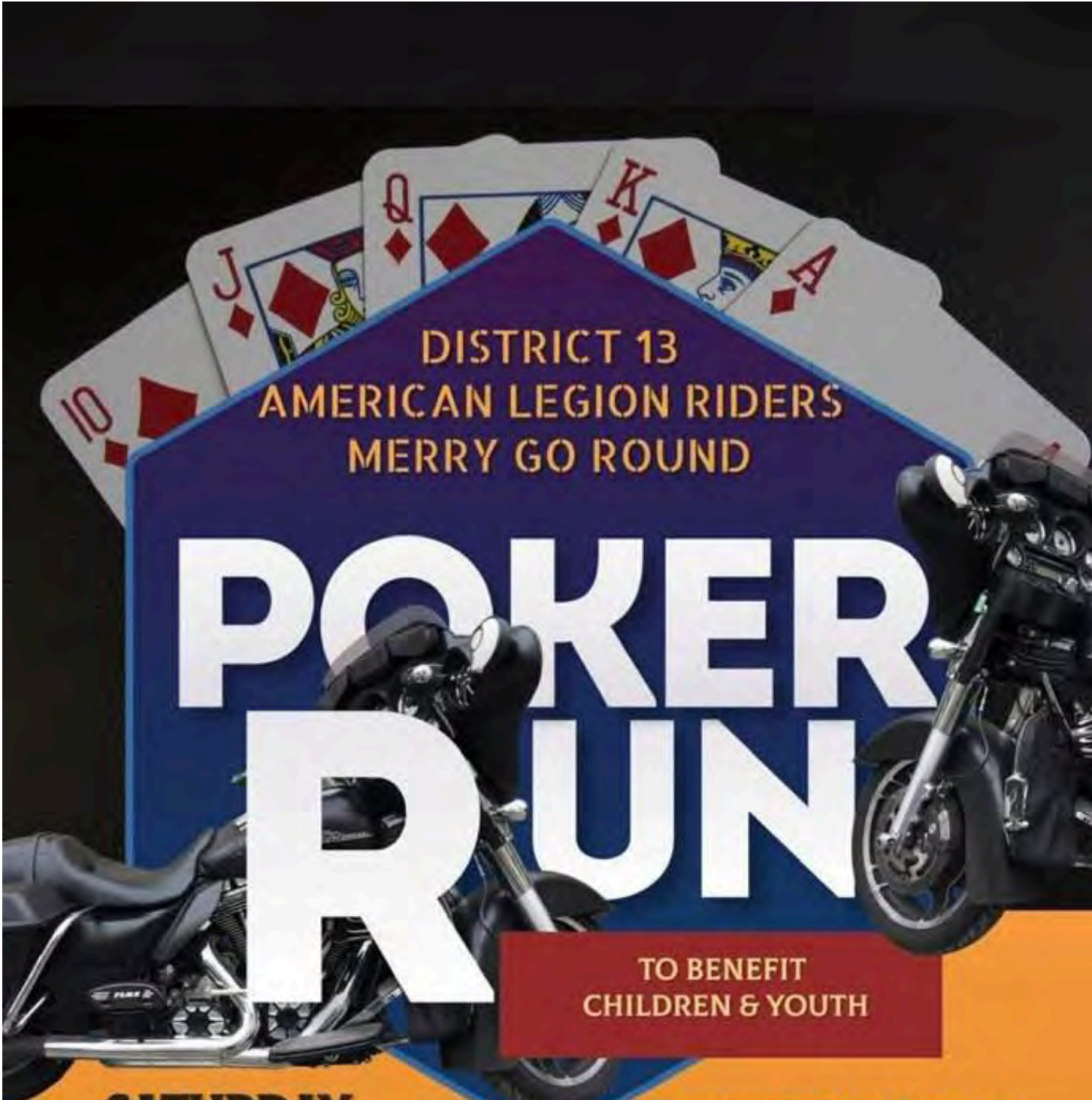
Email _____

Player 3 _____

Email _____

Player 4 _____

Email _____



**DISTRICT 13
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
MERRY GO ROUND**

POKER RUN

**TO BENEFIT
CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17TH**

**STARTS AT AMERICAN LEGION
POST 303 BONITA SPRINGS
STOPS AT FMB POST 274, CAPE
CORAL POST 90, ST. JAMES CITY
POST 136 AND END AT NFM POST
336 FOR THE DISTRICT 13 BBQ**

**FIRST BIKE OUT AT 9:30
REGISTRATION 8:30-9:30
\$20 RIDER/\$10 PASSENGER
\$5 MERRY GO ROUND**

**ROCKIN RICK - RAFFLES -
FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE CALL JACK AT
716-863-6813 FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

DISTRICT 13 PRESENTS

FALL BBQ

FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

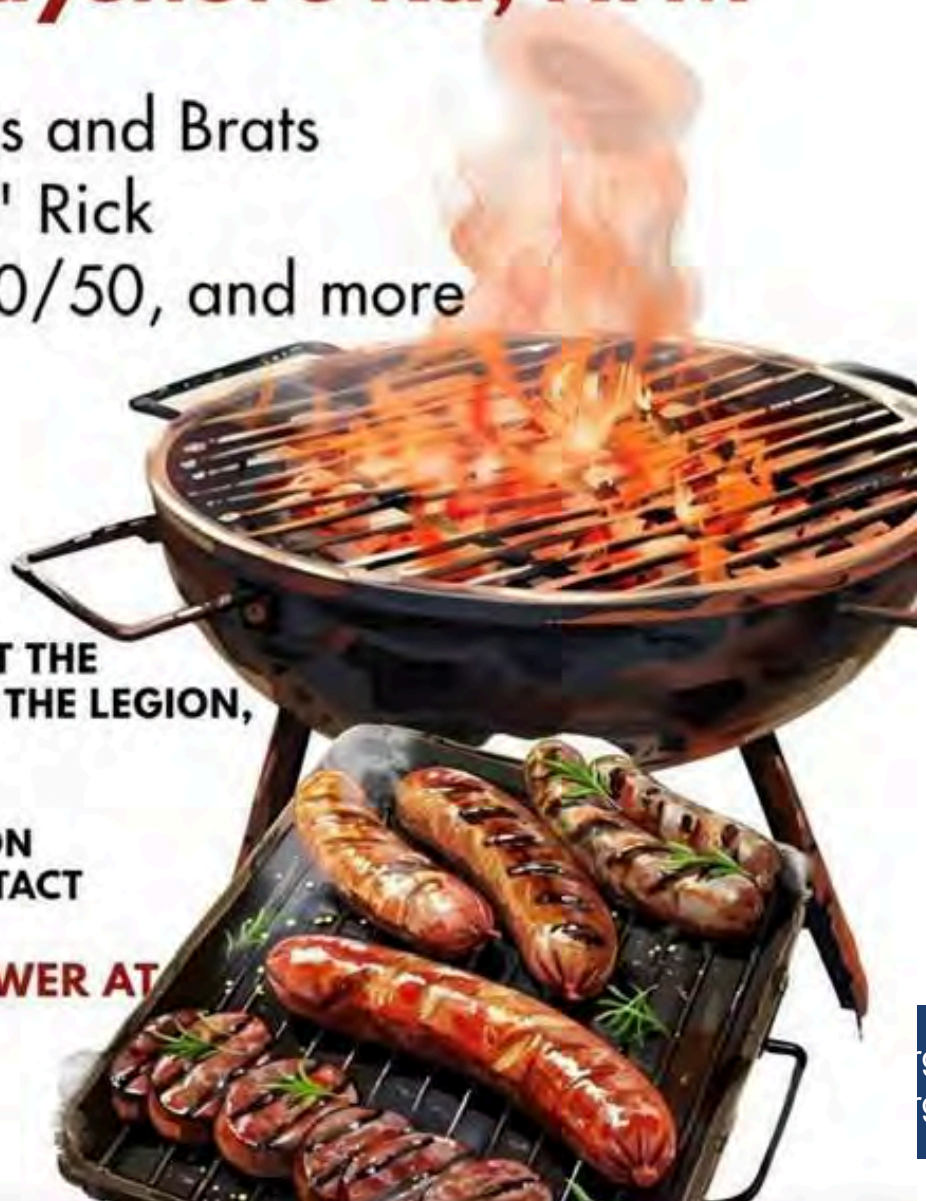
**Saturday, October 17th
2pm-6pm at Post 336
5770 Bayshore Rd, NFM**

Burgers, Hotdogs and Brats
Music by Rockin' Rick
Basket raffles, 50/50, and more

**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
VARIOUS CHARITIES OF THE LEGION,
THE ALA AND THE SAL**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
& TO BUY TICKETS CONTACT**

**LAURENE ALLEN-FLOWER AT
845-238-4723**



FOOTBALL WITH PURPOSE

RAISE AWARENESS. SUPPORT VETERANS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

FALCONS VS. BUGS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026 | 1:00PM

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers would like to offer special group pricing to members of the American Legion in support Florida Veterans. A portion of the proceeds from every ticket support Veteran's Mental Health.

 AMERICAN
LEGION

PROJECT
VETRELIEF 

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE:



TICKET PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE - OFFER VALID WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

FOR QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CAM BELL AT
CBELL@BUCCANEERS.NFL.COM OR 813-638-8609.



Sponsored by the
15th District



BOYS & GIRLS STATE PICNIC



SATURDAY ★ NOV. 7TH, 2026 ★

*Everyone
Welcome!*

THE ANNUAL PICNIC BENEFITS

★ THE 15TH DISTRICT BOYS & GIRLS STATE TRANSPORTATION

 AMERICAN
LEGION
★ FAMILY ★



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

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



WHERE:

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



TIME:

2-5pm



COST:

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



MENU:

hamburgers, hotdogs, sides

★ Fun for Everyone! ★



Dessert
Bake Sale



Basket Raffle
& 50/50 raffle



"Adult
Beverage"
raffles



Games for
young & old
& more!



Boat
Rides



DJ



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



BABCOCK RANCH
AMERICAN LEGION
★ POST 415 ★



VETERAN'S DAY
CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

CARS ★ TRUCKS ★ JEEPS ★ MOTORCYCLES
ALL MAKES & MODELS WELCOME!



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

★ ★ ★ 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM ★ ★ ★



LOCATION: Babcock Ranch Founder's Square
42851 Crescent Loop, Babcock Ranch, Florida 33982



CASH PRIZES



ALL MAKES &
MODELS WELCOME



FAMILY
FRIENDLY



LIVE
MUSIC



FOOD
TRUCKS

DONATIONS TO
THE AMERICAN LEGION
★ ARE WELCOMED! ★



venmo

SCAN TO DONATE
IN ADVANCE

**FREE
ADMISSION**

SIGN UP AT:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/
10C084EA5A92DA0FCC70-66122367-babcock#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EA5A92DA0FCC70-66122367-babcock#/)



SCAN TO SIGN UP

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 57
VETERANS DAY PARADE
November 7th 2026**

**BEGIN STAGING AT 800AM-1030AM
FDOT 1109 SOUTH MARION AVENUE
ENDING AT THE MEMORIAL STADIUM
294 NW STADIUM TERRACE**



**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: KELLY VALLIERE AT
POST57MEMBERSHIP@GMAIL.COM**

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
Veterans Day Parade

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Starts at 11:00 AM- Line up begins at 10:AM

Return form to Post57membership@gmail.com

Contact: Kelly Valliere First Vice Commander 904-563-0618

Name of Organization _____

Contact Person Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Description of entry ie.(float, car, motorcycles, walkers, Band)

Number of Vehicles: _____

**Check in at the table located at FDOT from 8:00 AM no later than 10:00 AM.
you will be given your slot line-up in the parade at check .**

Parade Start Time is 11:00 AM

**Parade will begin at FDOT at 1109 S Marion Ave, Lake City, FL 32025
and ends at**

Memorial Stadium 294 NW Stadium Terrace Lake City Fl 32025

For more information contact:

American Legion Post 57

2602 SW Main Blvd

Lake City Fl 32025

Post phone 386-752-7776

Thank you for your participation in our salute to Veterans!



DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

★ **JUNIORS** ★
& Young SAL Members

YOU'RE INVITED TO



★ **MISSION:** ★
JUNIOR BANQUET
OPERATION: PIZZA

*A Junior Night of Service,
Camouflage & Fun!*

PIZZA
★ **GAMES** ★
★ **MUSIC** ★
★ **FRIENDS** ★
FUN!



**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 21ST
AT 6:00 P.M.**



**CARIBE ROYALE
ORLANDO**



PIZZA!

KARAOKE!

**SAME MISSION.
DIFFERENT UNIFORM.
JUST MORE
FUN! ★**



CONTACT DEPARTMENT JUNIORS CHAIR

ANDREA O'NEAL

AT [JUNIORS@ALAFL.ORG](mailto:juniors@alafl.org)

TO RSVP AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

**RSVP
Today!**



★ **CAMOUFLAGE IN ACTION** ★

Winterfest BOAT PARADE



★ **DECEMBER 12, 2026** ★

6:00 PM

★ ★ *Sponsored by the* ★ ★
SON'S OF THE AMERICAN LEGION





Save THE Date!

FEBRUARY 13, 2027

JOINT DISTRICT 7 MEETING

MEETING STARTS AT 10:00AM

FOLLOWED BY OUR

District 7 Family Picnic!



LOCATION:

Post 72 Mulberry

Bring your entire family!

STAY INFORMED!

JOIN THE DETACHMENT OF FLORIDA EMAIL GROUP!



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

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

[HTTPS://GROUPS.GOOGLE.COM/FORUM/#IFORUM/FLORIDA-SONS/JOIN](https://groups.google.com/forum/#forum/florida-sons/join)