

The Source



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida

Member Florida American Legion Press Association



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Editors Ed Sheubrooks
Jim Roberts

Commander's Column

Detachment Commander Michael Dooley (flcmdr@gmail.com)



Hats off to Western Area Ramrod (area commander), Roy Smith for corralling his cowpokes and doggies into first place with 104.76%. Congratulations to District 1 Commander, Dave Miller, of the "Bar 1 Ranch" with 109.72%. South Port Squadron 375 has rounded up members for an amaz-

ing 500%. What a Rideo.... Good Work Gentlemen.

I am also excited to report that the Detachment is FIRST in the Southern Region and 8th in the nation for membership!

The month of March found first lady, Donna and I busy but close to home. The first week we had the honor of accompanying Department President, Irma on her visit to the 13th District. We were also invited to ride in the Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade in Labelle. We could not believe the number of peo-

ple that turned out to support this event. Special thanks to Squadron and Chapter 130 for making the arrangements and for the hospitality while we were there.

I had to call on Northern Area Commander, Bill Kelly, twice this month to fill in for me. Donna and I bought a house and moved so I was unable to go to the Northern Area Ball or make the 4th District visit. We had really looked forward to both and were very sorry to miss them.

(Continued on page 2)

Adjutant's Corner

Detachment Adjutant Ed Sheubrooks (fladjutant@gmail.com)



In just two short months, we will meet in Orlando for our 39th Annual Detachment Convention. Between

now and then, it is the busiest time of the year within the Detachment. We need to elect new Squadron Officers, hold our District Constitutional Conferences and elect new District Officers. The election of Officers on any level should not be taken lightly, as these Gentlemen will lead our Organization in the coming year. We must continue to elect

the best qualified members to carry out our programs in the coming year. Without strong Leadership we will not continue our success in all Areas. In addition, we must complete all of our projects for the year. This includes The Child Welfare Foundation, Children's Miracle Network, and Special Olympics.

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Dates of interest:

- April 2 - Detachment Commander's Homecoming - Squadron 7 Clearwater
- April 10 - Detachment 90% Membership Target
- April 15 - Department President's Homecoming - Post 57 Lake City
- April 23 - 15th District SAL Fundraiser - Tampa
- April 24 - Easter Sunday
- April 29 - May 1 - Spring National Executive Committee Meetings - Indianapolis, IN

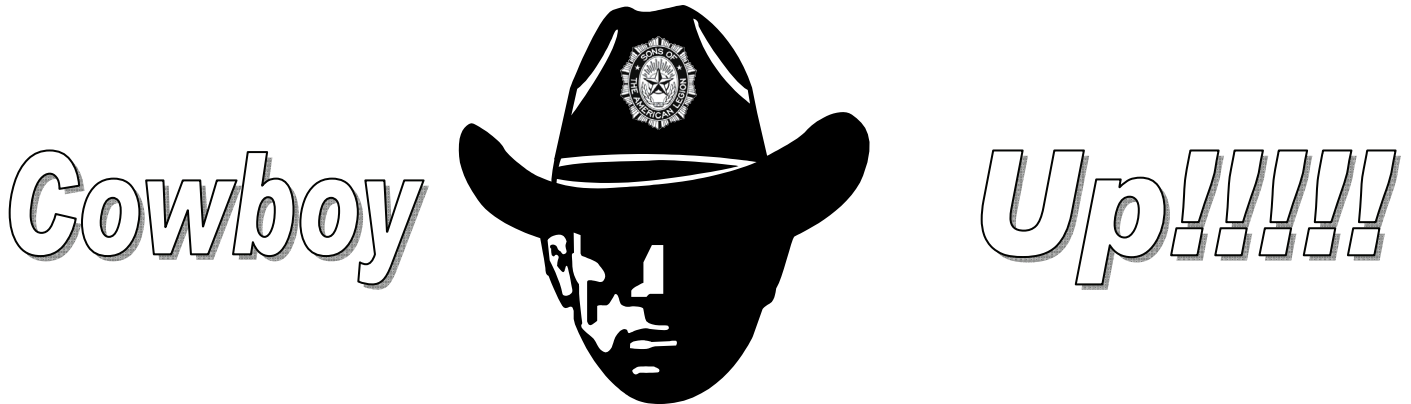
(Continued Commander's Corner from page 1)

Bill said there was a great turn out for the Northern Area Ball. Joe Eckenrode, 17th District Commander, was also able to attend and both had a really good time. Special thanks to Jay Conti, 4th District Legion Commander and John Rose, 4th District SAL Commander for their hospitality to Bill during his 4th District visit.

This weekend we will be attending the 16th District meeting and Picnic on Saturday and the 13th District Picnic on Sunday.

My homecoming will be the following weekend in Clearwater at Post 7. Thank you, thank you, thank you to the 16th District Posse and especially Tiffany and Tom Klinger for all the hard work that has gone into this.

Until next time....membership....membership.....membership.



(Continued Adjutant's Corner from page 1)

This month we will be mailing all Year-End reports to the Squadron Adjutants. Also included in this mailing will be the National Consolidated Squadron Report or CSR for short. All forms must be completed and sent back to the Detachment Adjutant. The Detachments Year End Reports are used to determine several Detachment Awards. By not completing them, you omit your Squadrons chance of winning the Awards. The CSR is required by National Headquarters. This is the only report form that will be accepted by the National Organization. Again, by not completing the CSR, it eliminates your Squadron from any National Awards. Please remember that even if your Squadron had "NO ACTIVITY" last year you must return the reports with NO ACTIVITY written on them.

Please take a moment to make your reservations for the upcoming Detachment Convention in June if you have not yet done so. Special prices end very soon. The hotel will sell out. All meetings will be at the Caribe Royale Resort. Please take a moment to look at the attached Convention Agenda as it has changed from the previous years. We will be starting our DEC meeting at 12:30 pm and will have the opening session at 1:30 pm. The Committee and Commission will meet on Friday after the opening of the General session. With having the opening session on Friday, this will let us have all of our members attend the Committee meetings. This will allow for a smoother time schedule on Saturday. We look forward to seeing you there!

By now, all District Commanders should have their meeting dates and times scheduled for their District Constitutional Conferences. To date, I have received only a few of these dates and meeting times. Please forward them to me as soon as possible and we will get them posted on the Website. All District Commanders MUST hold a meeting and election of new District Officers for the coming year. We want to go into Convention with a full slate of Elected District Commanders. Please remember that you do not have to hold your Conference in conjunction with The American Legions. Sometimes there is not enough space or time to fit all meetings into one. I would encourage that you try and hold it at the same time and place if possible. If you wish to have a representative from the Detachment at your Conference, please let me know. We have the tools and knowledge, and we are ready to pass this information on to all of our members. Until next month!!!

Call to Convention

The 39th Annual Convention of the SAL, Detachment of Florida is hereby called for in compliance with Article V of the Detachment Constitution.

PURPOSE: The convention is called for the electing of Officers, receiving reports and for the transaction of such business which may be properly brought before it.

REPRESENTATION: Representation shall be in compliance with the provisions of Article V, Section 4 of the Detachment Constitution and other sections that may be applicable. A registration fee of \$5.00 will be paid to the Detachment Convention Headquarters for each delegate and alternate registered.

IMPORTANT INFO: Voting strength of Squadrons shall be determined by the membership paid into Department Headquarters by the close of business on June 14th, 2011. Forms for the certification of delegates and alternates are in the administrative manual. We will keep in accordance with Article XI, Section 8 of the Department Constitution and By-Laws that reads as follows: "No post or squadron with past due accounts owing the Department of Florida and unsettled before the convening of the Annual Department Convention shall be entitled to seat their Squadron Delegations in that Convention."

Detachment Convention Schedule

The 39th Annual Detachment Convention will be held on June 24th – 26th, 2011 in Orlando, Florida. We will be meeting at the Caribe Royale Resort at 8101 World Center Drive. The following is the Tentative Agenda. This is subject to change. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF OPENING! WE WILL AGAIN OPEN THE GENERAL SESSION OF FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2011.**

Thursday, June 23, 2011

- 1:00pm – 4:00pm Registration (Department Headquarters Site)

Friday, June 24, 2011

- 8:00 am – 12:00pm Registration (Department Headquarters Site)
- 12:30 pm – 1:15pm Pre Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
- 1:30pm – 4:00pm Opening Session - Officer Reports - Guest Speakers - Detachment Convention Committee and Commission Meetings
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm Past Commander Club Meeting

Saturday, June 25, 2011

- 7:30am – 12:00pm Registration (Outside of Meeting Hall)
- 8:00am – Memorial Service - Committee and Commission Reports - General Business - Keynote Speakers - Area Caucuses
- 11:30am – 1:15pm Lunch
- 1:15pm – Election of Detachment Officers - Installation of Officers
- 2:00pm – Post Detachment Executive Committee Meeting
- 2:30pm – 4:00pm Leadership Workshop and Membership Rally

Sunday, June 26, 2011

- Joint Memorial Service

Election of Squadron & District Officers

All Squadrons and District Officers must be elected annually and certified to the Department Adjutant not more than 60 days nor less than 10 days prior to the annual Detachment Convention. The election of Squadron and District Officers this year must be held between April 25th and June 15th, 2011.

Delegate Cut-Off

Delegate cut-off for Squadron voting for the Convention is June 14, 2011 at the close of business at Department Headquarters. A registration fee of \$5.00 per delegate and alternate is hereby established. Squadrons will be allowed to cast votes on registered delegates only. If your squadron has four votes and only registered two, then your Squadron may only cast the two delegate votes that have been registered. Forms for registration are in your Administrative Manual. Bring this with you to the Convention. Make all checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Florida.

Vice Commander's Review



Bill Kelly, Detachment Vice Commander North

We had an exciting month of March and it all started in the 4th District March 4th & 5th. Commander Dooley was unable to attend so Barbara and I filled in. We attended a wonderful dinner at Post 284 Belleview put on for the Legion by the SAL. My compliments to John Rose and his Squadron for the excellent dinner. The next day we attended the combined Legion, Auxiliary and SAL District meeting. Special Guest included Department Cmdr. Al Porter, C. & Y. Chairperson Jim Ramos, and the leading Candidate for National Commander of the SAL Jim Roberts. After the meeting we were treated to an escorted trip by the 4th District A. L. Riders to Post 16 in Gainesville. There we attended the 4th District Picnic/Legion Birthday Party. The food was great, the commodity was fantastic, and the ceremony was terrific. They had a beautiful Legion Birthday cake celebrating 92 years of the American Legion. Special thanks to Cmdr. Jay Conti Legion of 4th District and John Rose SAL 4th District Cmdr. and everyone in the 4th District for a Job Well Done.

After a weekend off for Squadron & Post 137's General Assembly we were back on the road to Crystal River Post 155 for Northern Area Cmdr. Chris Christians Northern Area Ball on March 19th. The meal, ceremony and entertainment were outstanding. Guest included Dept. Cmdr. Porter and Department officers. Special thanks to Jay Conti Post Cmdr. and all his members of Post 155 for all his hospitality. Great Job.

Last but not Least, Membership. The Northern Area is 92% only a little over 200 short of our goal as of 3/17. A big thanks to Squadrons 57, 107, 149, 88, 137, 233, 17, 267, 270, their Cmdrs and all the Blue Caps for reaching 100%. Special Congratulations to 3rd District Cmdr. Jay Billinger for being the 1st 100% District in the Northern Area. Finally to all the Blue Caps in the Northern Area let's give one more push so we can achieve our 100% for all our districts. Don't forget it's time to start on your End of the Year Consolidated Reports. Let's Do It.

Special Olympics

Stanley Viergutz, Detachment Special Olympics Chairman



Special Olympics
Florida



It looks like we could be on pace for another record year for Special Olympics. I am receiving checks & ticket stubs for the NASCAR drawing regularly. Remember, we will draw for the David Reutimann auto-graphed race suit Saturday June 25th at our convention. Send me your ticket stubs or bring them to Convention. If you need more tickets call me at 904-704-2871.

On another subject, we are getting very close to Report time. Each Squadron is required to send in your year-end reports. District Commanders should schedule a visit to each of your Squadrons in May to assist them in filling out the reports & make sure they are mailed. Area Vice Commanders, make sure your District Commanders do this. Our goal is 100% reporting. A strong voice from our S.A.L. will go a long way to increase Veterans Programs & Benefits.



WE WANT YOU

Saturday, May 7th, 2011

GOLF TOURNAMENT

\$65.00

Including:

*Green Fees, Cart Fees
Range Balls, & Lunch*

8:30 am Shotgun - 7:30am Registration

Hosted By:



Please Make Checks Payable to: SAL Squadron 115 (by April 23, 2011)

*And Mail to : Palm Harbor Golf Club—100 Cooper Lane, Palm Coast FL 32137
386-986-GOLF www.PalmHarborGolfClub.com*

Contact Information:

- Pete Young:** → 386-585-2763 (cell) PeteYoung67@yahoo.com
- Gene Smith:** → 386-931-2700 (cell) or 386-445-5346 (home) oesmith@earthlink.net

**2nd Annual S.A.L. Squadron 115 Charity
Golf Tournament
Saturday, May 7, 2011 7:30 a.m.**



**Palm Harbor Golf Course
20 Palm Harbor Drive,
Palm Coast, Florida 32137
386-986-46653**

(1) Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____

(2) Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____

(3) Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____

(4) Name: _____ Phone # _____
Address _____

Foursome Best Ball Scramble Tournament: \$65 entry fee per player, which includes; green/cart fees, range balls, continental breakfast, goodies bag, raffle ticket prizes, drink tickets, lunch, longest drive and closest to the pin prizes, and awards.

**Check Payable To:
Sons of the American Legion, (SAL), Squadron 115
20 Palm Harbor Drive, Palm Coast, Florida 32137**

Endorsements for Office

The following endorsements for District and Detachment office have been submitted. Any member wishing to run for a District or Detachment Office must send a letter of endorsement to the Detachment Adjutant. This letter must be signed by the Squadron Commander and Adjutant or the Post Commander and Adjutant.

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

Detachment Commander

- William D (Bill) Kelly - Squadron 137 Jacksonville

National Executive Committeeman

- John Jennings - Squadron 72 Mulberry

National Executive Committeeman Alternate

- Allen Holley - Squadron 139 Tampa

Detachment Vice Commanders

- Northern Area
 - Joe Eckenrode - Squadron 120 Holly Hill
- Central Area
 - Kirk Miller - Squadron 275 Dunedin
- Southwestern Area
 - Ron Lechner - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda
- Southern Area
 - Larry Smith - Squadron 64 Okeechobee

Detachment Chaplain

- Stanley Weyman - Squadron 24 Bradenton
- Ron Van Wie Sr. - Squadron 252 Seminole
- Herbert Swoope - Squadron 148 Riverview

Detachment Sgt-At-Arms

- Mike "Doc" Bowen - Squadron 119 Largo
-



DISTRICT COMMANDERS & VICE COMMANDERS

8th District Commander

- John R. Dunn - Squadron 312 Oneco
- Tom Bockniak - Squadron 25 Lake Placid

13th District Commander

- Steve Gordon - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda

15th District Commander

- John D. Craig - Squadron 139 Tampa

16th District Commander

- Tom Klinger - Squadron 7 Clearwater

13th District Vice Commander

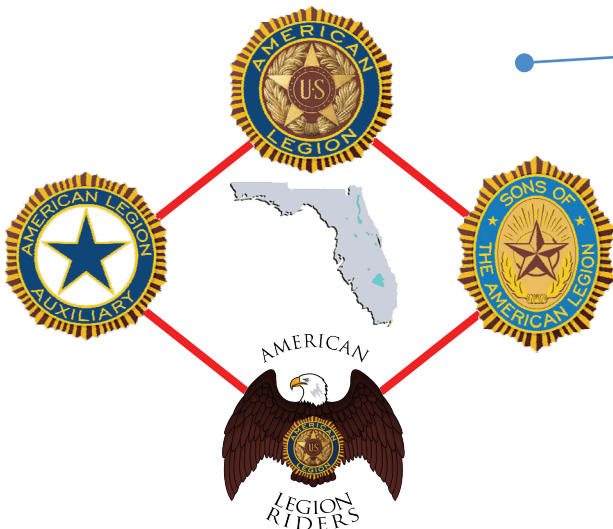
- Jeff Decechis - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Florida**

"In Honor of Those Who Served"

The Florida American Legion Family



The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion created in 1932.

The Florida Sons of The American Legion with over 13,000 members this year has donated over \$408,000 & over 147,000 hours to the many programs of The American Legion Family.

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

www.floridalegion.org/sons

Or e-mail us at floridasons@gmail.com

Source Articles

We are looking for your input into the Detachment's News Letter. We have space available for the District Commanders and Area Commanders to submit an article. We can also publish an upcoming event happening in your Squadron. **All articles must be to the Editor by the 10th of each month. We now go to print on the 15th of each month.** Articles can be sent via e-mail to Fishermn9@aol.com or faxed to (772) 460-1559.

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



Campaign Committee for Jim Roberts still needs help with fundraising efforts to support the campaign fund. We are asking The American Legion Family for their help with fundraising efforts. Any SAL Squadron, Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit or Riders Chapter can hold a fundraiser, just let the Campaign Committee know so we can get Jim to attend if he is available. Email us at robertsforcommander@gmail.com. Contributions can be sent to Campaign Treasurer Ed Sheubrooks at 800 S Brocksmith Rd, Ft Pierce, FL 34945. Make checks payable to: **Jim Roberts for National Commander Campaign.**

For more information - please visit the Campaign website at:

www.floridalegion.org/sons/campaign/campaign.htm