

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)



Area Commander, Roy Smith is still leading the Detachment with 110.17% in membership. 1st District Commander, Dave Miller is out front with 116.67. Leading squadron is South Port 375 with 500%. As of April 7th four District Commanders have made their 100%. They are Districts 1, Western 3, 16 and 8.

Congratulations on a great job!
Sadly we still have 7 goose egg squadrons. I am calling on the Commanders in Districts 15 and 7 in the Central Area and District 9 in the Southern Area and District 2 in the Western Area to please reach out to your squadrons and offer your assistance to correct this situation. Since there is no 2nd District Commander this will fall to the Western Area Commander who obviously knows how to get membership in. Thanks in advance for helping me out on this. We

are very close to another all time high so lets cowboy up and get it done.
By now most of you have received your yearend reports. I cannot stress strongly enough how important these are. We really need a report from every squadron. Area Commanders, I will be calling you to make sure that you are working with the District Commanders and Squadrons to make sure that we get the report filled out for every squadron in your area. I am willing to

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Adjutant's Corner

Detachment Adjutant Ed Sheubrooks (fladjutant@gmail.com)



All Squadron Adjutants received a packet in the mail that contains all of the Year-End Reports for the

Detachment. They were mailed from Headquarters in April. If you have not yet received this packet, please let me or Carol at Headquarters know so that we can get you another packet sent. These reports were in your Administrative Manual that you received with your Membership Cards last year. We have again, done a separate

mailing this year to remind you to complete the required forms. Also included in this mailing is the National Consolidated Squadron Report Form. Please keep in mind that National does not accept any other report other than the CSR. When you complete the National CSR, mail one copy to National, and mail

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Dates of interest:

- April 29 - May 1 - Spring National Executive Committee Meetings - Indianapolis, IN
- May 7 - Squadron 115 Golf Tournament - Bunnell
- May 8 - Mother's Day
- May 11 - Detachment 100% Membership Target
- May 21 - 12th District Constitutional Conference - Squadron 163 Melbourne
- May 21 - Detachment Vice Commander Central Homecoming - Squadron 72 Mulberry
- May 28 - 16th District Constitutional Conference - Squadron 125 Gulfport
- May 30 - Memorial Day

(Continued Commander's Corner from page 1)

help anyone that has difficulty or question on the forms. They seem tough but they really aren't.

We are moving closer to Convention where we will elect officers for the coming year. If at all possible you should make plans to be there so that you have a voice in these important decisions. I never attend a convention that I don't take something new away with me....a new skill, a new perspective, a new piece of information.

Thanks to all of you that were able to be with me for my homecoming. I can't begin to tell you all the wonderful memories that I am taking with me. Again thanks to all of you that helped put it together and make it the special event that it was.

Donna and I were able to attend Department President, Irma's homecoming in Lake City. We had a wonderful time. It was well attended with good friends, great food and entertainment. Congratulations to Madame President on another successful year for the Auxiliary.

Next month we will be traveling to the 12th District for the Department Commander's homecoming and the Eastern Area ball. After that I plan to make a visit to the 14th District.

I will be spending Easter at home with the kids and grandkids. Hope all of you have a wonderful holiday as well.

Cowboy



Up!!!!!!

(Continued Adjutant's Corner from page 1)

me the Detachment copy. This will leave one copy for your files. Take a moment to complete the rest of the reports and mail them back as soon as they are completed. All reports received are tabulated for our final year- end report to the American Legion. If your Squadron had no activity during the past year, still send the reports with NO ACTIVITY written on them. In addition, the Squadron Officers Report is included. Please include an e-mail address for the Commander and Adjutant. After your elections are over, complete the form and mail one copy to Department Headquarters and one copy to me. The Detachment Roster is compiled from this report.

As in the past, I must ask that you PLEASE DO NOT send any of the reports back to me Registered, by certified mail, or return receipt requested. I live in a rural area, and the main Post Office is over fifteen miles from my house. That's a 30 mile round trip for me to get the reports. If I receive a registered packet everyday, that's a lot of extra miles, gasoline, and time. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

Convention is just two very short months away. Please see the schedule for the convention in this issue of The Source. The format is as last year. We will start our Convention on Friday afternoon. With starting the Convention on Friday, we can get more attendance at the Committee and Commission meetings. Registration will start on Thursday, June 23rd at 1:00pm in the afternoon. Please make your plans to attend the Convention. We will have National Vice Commander South, Camille LeJune (LA) as our National guest. If you have not yet made your reservations, please do so today.

Please keep in mind that elections to a District or Detachment Office brings great responsibility. If you are not prepared to accept the challenges, then please do not seek that office. We need to have dedicated and qualified members in our elected positions. As more information is available on the Convention, we will provide it to you.

Also keep in mind of our continued support of Florida Special Olympics. If any Squadron has donations for Florida Special Olympics, please bring them with you to the Convention. Anyone not planning on attending the Convention can mail the checks to me and I will present them on behalf of those Squadrons. We will have a representative with us from Florida Special Olympics to accept all checks and to hand out Awards to all Squadrons that have donated. We will also be collecting for the Children's Miracle Network, NEF, Child Welfare Foundation, and the Florida Children and Youth Fund.

The cut-off for donations to the Child Welfare Foundation is May 31st, 2011. Anyone that still has a donation for this calendar year for the Foundation needs to mail them to National Headquarters as soon as possible. Any checks received after the May 31st deadline will apply to the 2011 – 2012 calendar year. All donations received at the Convention in June will be for next year.

Until next month.....Keep up the Good Work!!

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 24th and June 14th, 2011.

District Constitutional Conferences

All District Commanders MUST hold a meeting and election of new District Officers for the coming year. The Conference does not have to coincide with that of The American Legion's. However with gas prices the way that they are, it would be an extra burden on our Dual Members if you have the event separate. Please provide me with you meeting date and times so that we can publish it on the Website. Please e-mail that to Ed Sheubrooks at Fishermn9@aol.com.

Special Olympics

Stanley Viergutz, Detachment Special Olympics Chairman



Special Olympics
Florida



Gentlemen,

It's CRUNCH TIME for fund raising for Special Olympics! Only a short time until Convention. Let's make it another record year. We have been given some help this year by NASCAR's David Reutimann. I will bet that never again in your lifetime will you have the opportunity to own an Authentic NASCAR RACE SUIT AUTOGRAPHED BY THE DRIVER WHO HAS WORN IT!!!! Sell as many tickets as you can & buy as many as you can afford. Add this Money to what you would regularly donate to Special Olympics and another record year is guaranteed. If you need more tickets contact me. The drawing is June 25th @ the Convention.

Thank You in advance! You have always done a terrific job!

P.S. Are you working on your YEAR END REPORTS? There are only a few weeks left. Let's hit the 100% mark this year!!! ports & 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.

Membership Happenings

Jim Roberts, Detachment Membership Chairman



What can I say as we begin to draw nearer to another convention. This year we have hit the trail and I am happy to announce that we have hit all of our National Targets for membership and I am proud of everyone for their efforts. However, we still have a great distance to go on our **RENEWALS**. We have only renewed about 78% of our members this year. I am begging everyone to **COWBOY UP** and make a last push to get current members that have not renewed their membership.

We are very close to our 15th consecutive **ALL-TIME-HIGH**. Our Detachment report shows us at 97% with about 12,795 members. So as you can see we still have some riding to do to get our 100% plus. Everyone is doing such a good job this year and I hope that you will keep up the great work you all are doing for Florida.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Detachment Convention this year because I am still on the campaign trail for National Commander and I will be in Texas for their Detachment Convention. I do look forward to seeing everyone soon after though. Thank you all for your support of my campaign, I am very honored, yet humbled to have this opportunity.

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 and registered At-Large 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.

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 Speaker National Vice Commander Camille LeJune (LA) - 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

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

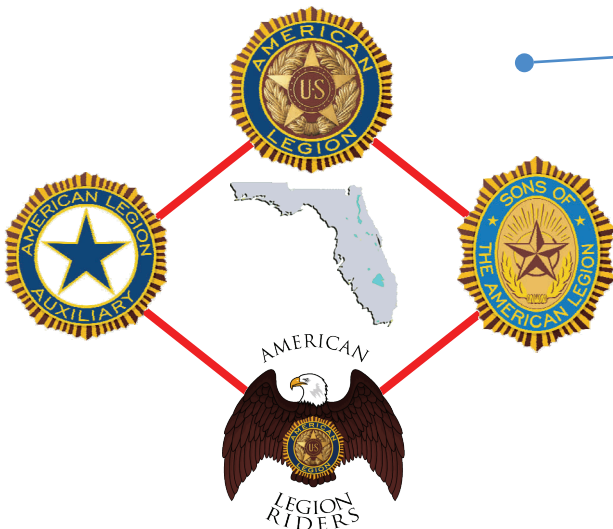
- Jeff Decechis - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda



**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