

The Source

Monthly Newsletter for the Detachment of Florida
August 2011 - Volume 19 Issue 01



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 6 - Chapter 137 Legacy Poker Run - Post 137 Jacksonville
- Aug 26 - Detachment 20% Membership Target
- Aug 26 - Sept 1 - National Convention - Minneapolis, MN
- Sept 5 - Labor Day
- Sept 11 - Patriot's Day
- Sep 30 - Detachment 40% Membership Target
- Oct 7-9 - Fall National Executive Committee Meetings - Indianapolis, IN
- Oct 31 - Halloween

Commander's Column

Bill Kelly, Detachment Commander (clubmanager@post137.com)

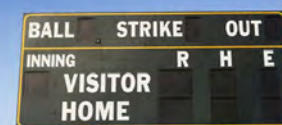


The 2011-2012 Membership Year has begun. First of all I would like to thank all the Past Detachment Officers, the Current Detachment Officers, the Legion, Auxiliary, and the A.L Riders, the Northern Area, the 5th District, Post 137 Family and all the rest of our 13,750 plus members who supported my rise to Detachment Commander. Without your loving support it would not have been this possible. Thank You.

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This year my theme is "Proudly Serving Those Who Served". This includes recognition to all of our Veterans, All of our Current Active Duty Service men & woman, and every man, woman, and child who serves our Legion Family in Florida. I learned in my service that for every one person in combat they need 10 support personal. We are here to support our Veterans by actively supporting our National & Florida Legion Family Programs.

Membership Theme this year is "Lets Play Baseball". We need to Recruit, Reinstate, and most importantly to RENEW. One of the trends we noted was we signed up 2,753 new members,



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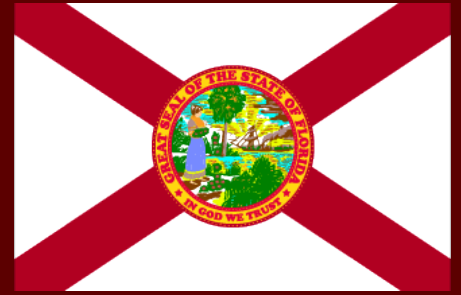
but we lost 2,394. If we are to continue to grow we must concentrate more on our RE-NEWS. All of our District Commanders were tasked to go back and choose a District Team Name and bring it to Fall Conference, but don't wait get it in to the membership team or myself as soon as possible. Last year we achieved a 16th Consecutive All Time High of over 13,750 plus members. My Congratulations goes out to our Membership Chairmen Jim Roberts and all the Blue Caps for their achievements. This year our Goal is 14,500 Members and I know we can do it! Your Membership Team Managers Jim Roberts and John Jennings are there to assist you in every way. Just like Recruiting a new member if you need help, JUST ASK.

My Commanders Project this year is V.A.V.S. Veterans Administration Volunteer Services. Our Goal is to get a representative from the Sons in every V.A. Hospital in the State of Florida. Our Detachment Chaplain Herb Swoope is coordinating the Project. Any Squadron or Member interested in becoming active in this project may contact Herb for more information. Lets make this Work.

Since my Installation on Saturday June 25, I have been privileged to represent our Detachment by addressing the American Legion Riders Department Meeting on Saturday afternoon, the first Detachment Commander to be invited and address the American Legion Department of Florida Installation of Officers that evening. On Sunday June 26, we attended the Auxiliary Installation of Officers and were recognized. Later that day we attended the Installation of Officers in the Eastern Area 6th District at Post 286 Pine Castle. My compliments to District Cmdr. Bernie Wildrick for his fine installation and Cmdr. John and Adjutant Debbie and the rest of their Family at Post 286 for their hospitably. Tuesday June 28, we traveled to the Central Area 7th District for their installation

of officers at Post 72. A Big Thank You to Dept. Cmdr Fletcher, Dept. President Diane, all the Department Officers, Detachment Officers, J.J. and all their Family at Mulberry Post 72 for all their hospitably.

Don't Forget the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis, MN. August 26 – 29. Our own James (Jim) K. Roberts will be elected National Commander. It's time to make your plans to attend and show support for One of Our Own.



"LET'S PLAY BALL"

Kirk Miller, Central Area Vice Commander, Tom Klinger, Squadron 7 & 16th District Commander, Paul Micieli, Squadron 305, Detachment Historian & 16th District Vice Commander, Randy Collinsworth, Squadron 238, Detachment Assistant Sergeant of Arms, Ron VanWie, Squadron 252, 16th District Chaplain & Finance Officer, Mike "Doc" Bowen, Squadron 119, Detachment Sergeant of Arms



Adjutant's Corner

Ed Sheubrooks, Detachment Adjutant (fishermn9@aol.com)



The Detachment Convention is behind us, and what a Convention it was! It

was very productive and well attended from all Squadrons around the Detachment. We had 595 registered Delegates and Alternates, with attendance at the meetings of over 300 delegates. One of the speakers comment was that "He thought he was addressing the National Convention of the Sons" from the turnout. This speaks very well for the Detachment and for you the members of this GREAT ORGANIZATION! The Convention concluded with the election of William (Bill) Kelly as Detachment Commander for 2011-2012. A complete list of the new Detachment Officers is published in the issue of The Source.

We continue to be very successful in our programs. It was very evident in Membership with another All Time High of 13,890 members. We had a total of 94 year-end reports submitted. In addition, we had 95 National CSR forms submitted. This was a record reporting year. I personally wish to THANK everyone that submitted the reports. From the reports submitted, a total of \$460,508.92 was donated to various programs and over 160,276 man hours were recorded. This includes the following that was donated on the Convention floor. \$26,226.00 for the Children's Miracle Network. \$20,790.00 for the National Child Welfare Foundation. \$3,600.00 for the Florida Children and Youth Fund, and for Florida Special Olympics of over \$26,000.00. A special thanks to Squadron #283 and to Squad-

ron #275 for their donations. A hearty JOB WELL DONE to all Squadrons!

The Detachment Roster is in the works. Several Squadrons still have not submitted their Squadron Officer Report forms. The District and Area Commanders received a list of these Squadrons at the Convention and will be following up with the various Squadrons during installation of Officers. We have set a deadline of August 15, 2010 for this information to be submitted. After this date we will be going to print with the Detachment Roster. Without this information on file at Department Headquarters, your Squadron will not receive any information from the Detachment. I had several members complain at the Convention that they never received any information from the Detachment. It is not my fault that we do not have your information on file. I cannot complete the required forms for you. It only takes a few minutes. If you are not certain if you have submitted this report, send me an e-mail and I will let you know.

By now all Squadrons should have received their membership cards for 2012. The cards were handed out at Convention. Some were mailed out prior to the Convention. Any cards not picked up at the Convention have been mailed. If you still have not yet received them, please contact Irene at Department Headquarters.

In closing, I wish to thank Detachment Commander Kelly and the Detachment Executive Committee for reappointing me to serve as your Detachment Adjutant. This starts my 30th year as your Detachment Adjutant, twenty nine of them consecutive. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions to help improve the Detachment, please let me know and we will look into them. Until next month!!



New Detachment Officers

Detachment Commander
⇒ William (Bill) Kelly #137

Detachment Adjutant
⇒ Ed Sheubrooks #40

Assistant Adjutants
⇒ James Roberts #4
⇒ Tim Bell #4

National Executive Committeeman
⇒ John Jennings #72

Alt. Natl. Executive Committeeman
⇒ Allen Holley #139

Western Area Vice Commander
⇒ John Wilson #356

Northern Area Vice Commander
Joe Eckenrode #120

Eastern Area Vice Commander
⇒ Gary Scott #359

Central Area Vice Commander
⇒ Kirk Miller #275

Southwestern Area Vice Commander
⇒ Ron Lechner #103

Southern Area Vice Commander
⇒ Larry Smith #64

Detachment Chaplain
⇒ Herbert Swoope #148

Detachment Historian
⇒ Paul Micieli #305

Detachment Judge Advocate
⇒ John Rose #284

Detachment Sgt-at-Arms
⇒ Michael "Doc" Bowen #119



Jim Roberts for National Commander Update

Ed Sheubrooks, Campaign Chairman

I wish to personally thank everyone for their donations to Jim's Campaign. I would also like to say "THANK YOU" to everyone that has worked on the Committee and around the state for the Campaign the past two years.

We are coming down to the "Finish Line" as Minneapolis is in site! And God willing, Jim will be elected the next National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. It has been a long process, but now the end result is near!

Words cannot express how much I appreciate what each and every one of you have done for the Campaign. I know Jim feels the same way also. We, together as a "FAMILY" have made Jim's dream come true! We will be there for you in Minneapolis and in the future my Friend!



News from the Diamond



Jim Roberts, Detachment Membership Chairman



The 2011 - 2012 Membership year is underway!

We have

finished Spring Training and are going for the "GOLDEN GLOVE". Who will win the Detachment's World Series! Only time will tell. Our goal this year is 14,500 members and 10 newly Chartered Squadrons within the Detachment.

I am going to rely on everyone to keep the momentum from last year moving

this year. We are truly successful when we all work together to make our goals. Remember the 3R's for a successful Membership – Renew, Recruit and Reinstate.

I know I will be busy as National Commander, but I will still work Membership here in the Detachment. Detachment Commander Kelly has appointed a Vice Chairman to the Membership Committee, that is John Jennings. Together, we will see the Detachment reach it's 17th Consecutive "ALL TIME HIGH" in Membership. We will not let Commander Kelly down.

Special Olympics



Stanley Viergutz, Detachment Special Olympics Chairman



Thank you very much to all of the Squadrons that donated to Special Olympics during the 2010 - 2011 year. You raised over \$41,000 for the Athletes. A special thank you also to all Squadrons that donated at our Convention. You started off the 2011 - 2012 year with over \$26,000 in Donations! The Greeley Payne Trophy for the largest donation was taken home by Squadron #283 for a donation of \$5,300. The

David Reutimann autographed NASCAR race suit was won by Martin Poag of Keystone Heights Fl.. The winning ticket was sold by Sq. #37 in St Augustine. Please keep Special Olympics in mind when doing your fund raisers so we can have a rec-





Fall Conference

The seventh annual Fall Conference will be held on November 18 - 20, 2011 at the Wyndham Orlando Resort on International Drive in Orlando. This is the same Hotel as last year, and is centrally located with plenty of restaurants. All Detachment meetings will be on Saturday, November 19th. We will have a Detachment Executive Committee meeting in the morning, followed by the Committee and Commission meetings. We will then start the general session. The afternoon session will be a training session. The complete schedule is not yet formatted. Please see the next issue of The Source for more information. Please make your plans to attend.

Convention Award Winners

Convention was not only to elect new Officers and renew old friendships, but to reward those who have worked hard for the Detachment. We would like to recognize those winners for the 2010 - 2011 year.

MEMBERSHIP:

1st 100% Squadron – Panama City #392
1st 100# District:
Category I – District #3
Category II – District #1
Category III – District #12
Category IIII – District #16
1st 100% Area – Western Area
Largest Squadron – Madeira Beach #273
Charles McEvelly Memorial Largest % Increase
10 – 100 Members – Seminole #252
101 – 1000 Members – Lady Lake #347

REPORTS:

Don Halliday Memorial – Best Year End Report
Winner – Holly Hill #120
1st Runner Up – Punta Gorda #103
2nd Runner Up – Fort Pierce #40

Mark Mast Memorial Americanism Report

Winner – Lake Placid #25
1st Runner Up – Fort Pierce #40
2nd Runner Up – Riverview #148

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

Winner – Jacksonville #283
1st Runner Up – Lake Placid #25
2nd Runner Up – Bradenton #24

Greeley Paine Memorial – Top Contributor
Special Olympics

Winner – Jacksonville #283
1st Runner Up – Dunedin #275
2nd Runner Up – Fort Myers Beach #274

Jim Mitchell Memorial – Top Contributor
CMN

Winner – Jackson #283
1st Runner Up – Dunedin #275
2nd Runner Up – Fort Myers Beach #274

Albert J. Farforth Memorial SAL Member of the Year – Stanley Viergutz, Squadron #129

The Source

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