

The Source

Monthly Newsletter for the Detachment of Florida
January 2012 - Volume 19 Issue 05



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 25 - Christmas Day
- Jan 1 - New Year's Day
- Jan 10 - Detachment 65% Membership Target
- Jan 21 - Southwestern Area Ball - Post 103 Punta Gorda
- Jan 28 - 2nd Annual Hospice Poker Run - Post 237 Beverly Hills
- Jan 29 - SAL 13th District Meeting - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda
- Feb 5 - Four Chaplains Sunday

Commander's Column

Bill Kelly, Detachment Commander (detcommander@floridalegion.org)



My Fellow SAL Members,

It is my hope that everyone in our Legion Family had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and is ready to get back to the work of keeping our Detachment of Florida the best it can be.

Membership at this reporting is 62.188% with over 8,600 cards into the Detachment. We are currently 9th in the nation, lets keep it up. December's 60% goal has been met and we are nearly half way to January's goal of 65%. This month we should see a lot more renewals since more than 40% of our members haven't renewed yet and are now unable to access their Post/Squadron homes till they renew. Let's step into the batter's box and give that membership ball a ride out of the ballpark. Remember, membership is not just the responsibility of our officers; IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY MEMBER. Soon we will rounding Third Base on our way to Home Plate and 100% +5%.



My travels this year have been inspiring were ever I have gone. The last couple has been exceptional. I noted in my last report that I was attending Seminole Post/Squadron 252 on Thanksgiving but I need to relate more. What a sight of over 275+ veterans being bused in from the Bay Pines VA Medical Center and fed a Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Our National, Department/Detachment Officers and Legion Family at Post 252 did a great job of hosting our veterans. This is what it is all about and I would like to personally say thanks to Ron, Mike and the rest of the 252 Legion Family for a **JOB WELL DONE!**

The other trip was on Pearl Harbor Day, 70 years from the Day of Infamy. We were privileged to attend a Memorial Service at Mayport Naval Station in Jacksonville along with the Department Commander Williams and Department President Rousseau. We were treated to hear the inspiring words of members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association recounting their exploits that day. It was hard to find a dry eye at the service. God Bless Our Nations Greatest Generation.

Commander Williams and President Rousseau made their 5th District Visit that week in December. I attended the VAVS Christmas Party at Lake City VA Medical Center. We attended the Department & Detachment Commander's & President's Banquet and 5th District Meetings at Post 129. We addressed our Legion Families District Meetings and visited Post/Squadrons 37, 194, 233, 88, 283, & 316. We received a warm welcome were ever we went. Unit 137 hosted a Dinner for President Rousseau and the 5th District which I also attended and had a good ham dinner. Thanks to our 5th District Legion Family Officers Wilson and especially Jerry & Robin. Thank You.

Don't forget to follow me wherever I go at Bill_Kelly@Facebook.com.



Adjutant's Corner

Ed Sheubrooks, Detachment Adjutant (detadjutant@floridalegion.org)



Gentlemen,
I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year! Now that the busy holiday schedule is behind us, we need focus our attention on Membership. At this time, we still have 7 "Goose Egg" Squadrons in the state. In addition to this, we have five Squadrons that are under Charter strength. Twelve (12) Squadrons out of 164 with no membership, or with very little membership at all. If we are to attain our Goal of 14,500 members, we need to make some serious changes and quickly. So let's head to the "Batter's Box" and get some extra practice in. We are just heading into the Half Way Mark or ALL STAR BREAK! Who will be Crowned the Detachment Champions and win the pennant?

National Commander Jim Roberts' Homecoming will be held March 16th and 17th, 2012 in Lakeland, Florida. There will be a dinner on Friday evening at Post #8 in Winter Haven. The actual Homecoming dinner will be held on Saturday, March 17th at the Imperial Swan Hotel in Lakeland. The dinner is limited for 300 hundred people, on a first come basis. Please get your tickets early. For more information please see our website, or contact Homecoming Chairman John Jennings.

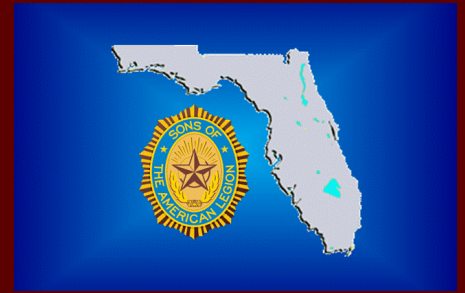
Plans are being worked out for our upcoming Detachment Convention in June. We will be moving to a new hotel this year. It is the Renaissance Sea World in Orlando. We are also moving the Convention up two weeks. This year's Convention will be held on June 8 – 10, 2012. We will once again

have all of the Committee and Commissions meet on Friday. The DEC will also meet on Friday as well. This will free up time on Saturday, and hopefully will allow more input from you the members. Convention is not just a time to party and visit; it is also a time that a tremendous amount of business is conducted. Please visit the Website to make you plans to attend.

I know it's early, but our year end is just six months away from now! And yes, I am talking about year-end reports, as the saying goes, the Early Bird get the worm! The deadline is moved to May 15th, 2012 with Convention moving up. I hope that every Squadron is recording their man hours and dollar contributions to date. If not take a few minutes to go back and log down what your Squadron did from August to December. Keep a monthly log from now until May. When it comes time in May to complete the reports you will have the information close at hand. It doesn't matter how small the donations or the amount of man hours, all are important and all count towards our goals. In addition to our usual reports, we will also have the Consolidated Squadron Report form to complete for National. This report will be mailed to all Squadrons in April. This report must be completed and submitted to National Headquarters. This is the only report form that National accepts. Until next month!!!



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sons-of-the-American-Legion-Detachment-of-Florida/90401483803>



New Detachment Officer Email Addresses

The new addresses are as follows:

Detachment Commander Bill Kelly
detcommander@floridalegion.org

Det Vice Commander West Johnnie Wilson - detvcwest@floridalegion.org

Det Vice Commander North Joe Eckenrode - detvcnorth@floridalegion.org

Det Vice Commander East Gary Scott - detvceast@floridalegion.org

Det Vice Commander Central Kirk Miller - detvccentral@floridalegion.org

Det Vice Commander SW Ron Lechner - detvcsw@floridalegion.org

Det Vice Commander South Larry Smith - detvcsouth@floridalegion.org

National Executive Committeeman John Jennings - detnec@floridalegion.org

NECA Allen Holley
detneca@floridalegion.org

Detachment Adjutant Ed Sheubrooks - detadjutant@floridalegion.org

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Jim Roberts - detasstadj1@floridalegion.org

Detachment Assistant Adjutant Tim Bell - detasstadj2@floridalegion.org

Detachment Historian Paul Micieli - dethistorian@floridalegion.org

Detachment Chaplain Herb Swoope - detchaplain@floridalegion.org

Detachment Sgt-At-Arms Mike Bowen - detsaa@floridalegion.org



Endorsements

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

- Jim Love - Squadron 136 Pine Island

National Executive Committeeman

- Bill Kelly - Squadron 137 Jacksonville

National Executive Committeeman Alternate

- Steve Gordon - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda

Detachment Vice Commanders

Southwestern Area

- Ron Lechner - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda

Central Area

- Kirk Miller - Squadron 275 Dunedin

Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms

- Mike "Doc" Bowen - Squadron 119 Largo

DISTRICT COMMANDERS & VICE COMMANDERS

13th District Commander

- Steve Gordon - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda

13th District Vice Commander

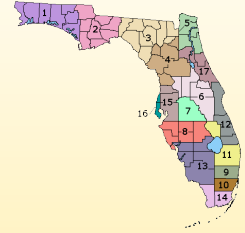
- Jeff Dececchis - Squadron 103 Punta Gorda





Area Conferences

If any Area Commander is scheduling an Area Conference, please let us know. This would be the perfect time to conduct that Training Seminar.



District Happenings

Please let us know what is happening within your Districts so that we can share it with everyone!

Special Olympics

Stan Viergutz, Special Olympics Committee Chairman
(Bonstan1jags@aol.com)



I want to thank everyone that submitted donations at the Fall Conference. We had a banner year last year in donations. Please do not let the Athletes down this year. I know you will answer the challenges that have been set before us.

SOURCE ARTICLES

This is your newsletter. We are looking for input and information from the Districts and Area's to print. Please send all articles to Ed Sheubrooks by the 10th of every month. We go to print on the 15th. Articles can be e-mailed to Fishermn9@aol.com or detadjutant@floridalegion.org.



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 13,500 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

