National Vice Commander South
Calendar Year End Report December 30th, 2016

The 2016-2017 election of and installation of the Sons of the American Legion National Commander Jeff Frain (Superman) and his (Super Hero) Vice Commanders on August 28, 2016, answered the leading candidate’s question, “R u Ready” The answer was Yes, because “Knowledge is Power.” The Knowledge is Power Tour started as the gavel dropped with Commander Frain’s Aide Chuck Treat and our National Vice Commander’s Team unveiled and distributing to each member leaving the Convention Hall our 2016-2017 Plan Booklet. This tool was designed to assist our Detachment/Squadron Commanders and Adjutants with their yearly management of our membership and programs.

Our Southern Region Knowledge is Power Membership Tour got off to a fast start leading the nation and making the September 10th Target Date. Our region convened its first Conference Call on Sunday September 25th. We had 7 Detachments on the call that included our National Commander Frain, Leading Candidate Smith, VA&R Chairman Bolt, National Membership Chairman Rippe and other Commission & Committee Men. The Region by consensus choose to move its Conference Calls to Tuesday evening and we finalized plans for the Southern Region Social Dinner move to Mooresville IN. Post 103.

The Florida American Legion 5th District bestowed on us by inviting us as an honored guest at their dedication of a Legion Family Monument at the Jacksonville, FL. National Cemetery. We were further honored by FL 5th District Commander Fred Matthews to participate in as an instructor at the Legion’s Officers Training. Proving again, with training comes Knowledge and with that is Power.

Just over 40 days after installation the Knowledge is Power Tour reconvened in Indianapolis IN, for the National Executive Committee Meetings in October. While my home state of FL. was being pounded Hurricane Matthew we met to conduct the business of the Sons of the American Legion. We conducted our Commanders and Adjutant Training, a big thank you goes out to our National Member Training & Development Committee and trainers. We also placed in every Commander & Adjutants hand a copy of the 2016-2017 SAL Plan Book for them to apply the Knowledge and attain the Power. At NEC our Region attained its 2nd Consecutive Target Date by continuing to lead the nation in membership. The Southern Region Social Dinner at Post 103 was a hit with only one glitch. Thank you to Indiana Post/Squadron 103 Mooresville for their hospitality and excellent steak for our Region.

The month of October finished up with our 2nd Conference Call on our new night Tuesday October 25th. Southern Region Membership Chairman Steve Gower gave the good news on membership that we were still in 1st place, well done. Children & Youth Committee Chairman John Waite filled us in and announced the C&Y Fall Newsletter would be out soon. Child Welfare Foundation Committeeman Gary Temple briefed us on the CWF Commanders Project.

November arrived with the Southern Region surpassing its 3rd Consecutive Membership Target Date a full 10 Days in advance of the Date. The Florida Delegation prepared for an official visit from our National Commander Jeff Frain. Commander Frain was greeted on his 1st National visit by FL. ANEC Kirk Miller, Detachment Commander Steve Gordon, Adjutant & PNC Jim Roberts and JA & NAA Ed Sheubrooks. Commander Frain brought along and distributed a 100 SAL 2016-2017 Plan Books. The Commander received enthusiastic welcome from the entire FL Legion Family. Commander Frain spoke before the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and ALR. and attended the Department/
Detachment & President’s Banquet on Saturday evening. November ended with the Southern Regions 3rd Conference Call and still leading the nation in membership. The Southern Region by consensus choose to forgo the December Conference Call Due to its proximity to the holidays wishing all well.

December started off with the Southern Region surpassing its 4th consecutive membership target date of 45% again a week ahead of schedule. What a great job these Detachments and Squadrons in Southern Region have done, Congratulations to all for their hard work. We were bestowed a great honor and privilege this year by our National Organization and SAL Commander Frain by inviting his SAL National Vice Commanders to accompany him at their own expense, to the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii with tours of the USS Stennis CV74, USS Missouri BB63, the V.A. Hospital Fisher House and other facilities at Pearl Harbor. The Department/Detachment of Hawaii hosted a wonderful banquet in honor of the American Legion National Leaders. A big thank you to the Department/Detachment of Hawaii for all their hospitality. December 7th, 2016 began very early to insure our seating at the memorial service which was stirring and very emotional. The highlight was accompanying the American Legion Family Leaders on a trip to the USS Arizona Memorial and laying a wreath for the fallen heroes.

After returning safely from an outstanding visit to Hawaii we got back to the business of membership. The 1st place Southern Region along with three other regions attained the 45% Target Date and that push the SAL National Membership over the Target Date too. Ending the year on a high note except for the loss of Commander Frain’s Mother during the holiday season, we wished him and his family condolences on their loss. We wished our American Legion Family a Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year while preparing for 2017 as the Knowledge is Power Tour moves on towards Reno in August.

Respectfully submitted for God & Country