



FLORIDA BLAST

THE OFFICIAL EBLAST OF THE FLORIDA JCI SENATE

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT MARCH 2025

What a weekend! If you missed the 55th Anniversary Celebration, you missed a magnificent event. The program began Friday night with a celebration of life for Ron Whitmore #25946. Stories were shared, bringing both laughter and tears to many. Despite a packed agenda, the business meeting was conducted in under two hours!

The evening started with a memorial service for all the Senators and CW who have passed away since our 50th anniversary. At the same time, we welcomed two new Senators, David Gooch #83695 and Tammy Coughlin #83701, both from the Hollywood Jaycees. After speeches from myself and President Bruce Sostak #52655, I presented 14 medallions to Senators who made an impact in the FL JCI Senate. Jaci Newmark #56368 and her committee did a stellar job with this event.

I would like to thank Sheriff Doyle Sewell #63344 and Mike Phillips #50063 for raising \$600 for the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation of Florida Inc. This organization provides hearing aids free of charge to children and adults who cannot afford to purchase them, serving all 67 counties in Florida. As we age, many of us lose some hearing and adjust by wearing hearing aids. Without them, it is hard to understand what is being said. I have worn a hearing aid since 1958 and have seen the evolution of hearing aid technology. If you are having difficulty hearing, please make an appointment with an audiologist. There is no shame in wearing a hearing aid.

The only travel I will be doing this month is to the Calabash in Myrtle Beach for our Region 4 spring meeting. We will have the opportunity to meet and greet the candidates for the upcoming year. If you are planning to attend the national convention, deadlines are approaching for hotel reservations and registration.

Finally, the year-end meeting is around the corner. It will be held from May 16-18 at the Embassy Suites in Tampa, the same place where we held our national convention last year. The theme will be "The Godfather," which many consider the greatest film ever made.

Michael Sawyer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 8th @ 9am
Region 8 Social
Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales

Thursday, March 13th @ 6pm
Region 13 Social
PF Changs - Aventura

Sunday, March 30th
Region 12 & 13 Social
Bowelro Davie - Email Catherine for details



SECRETARY UPDATE

Hats off to Jaci Newmark and her team for all the details that made the 55th Anniversary celebration beautiful. Thanks to Cindy Brandel and Debra Jean Sanders for the delicious food throughout the weekend. Who knew Reif Rum would be so good?

I would really like to express my appreciation to Laura Hall for the Legacy Grief program. Everyone who attended was encouraged by the ideas and thoughts shared in the group. Laura's history on the Empty Table reminds us of all our Veterans have done and continue to do for us.

REGION 8 UPDATES

Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 9 AM

We will meet at Blue Palmetto Cafe in Bok Tower Gardens, located at 1151 Tower Blvd, Lake Wales, FL 33853. The entrance fee is \$20. Bring a picnic lunch or buy food at the cafe. Mobility carts are available for those who need them. There will be bell concerts at 1 PM and 3 PM.

Saturday, April 12, at 10:30 AM

We will meet at McKay Visitors Pavilion in The Ringling, located at 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, FL 34243. The entrance fee is \$30. Bring a picnic lunch or eat at one of the three restaurants. Transportation assistance is available.

55TH ANNIVERSARY

Thank you to everyone who made it out to our glorious 55th Anniversary Celebration. In all, we had 109 attendees for the banquet, including 26 Past Presidents, 7 Past National Presidents, our current NVP Carla, and our current National President Bruce. It was a great night to reminisce with old friends and see two more Jaycees become Senators. Congratulations to David Gooch and Tammy Coughlin from Hollywood on their senatorships.

Please post all pictures that you may have taken on the Florida JCI Senate page. Once again, thank you to my team for giving us all "The Time of Our Lives."

COB UPDATE

Slated Officers for the 2025-2026 Florida JCI Senate Year:

- President** - Don Duffy, Jr.
- Management VP** - Amelia Harrison
- Administrative VP** - Lynn Whalen
- Treasurer** - Debra Jeanne Gronvold
- Secretary** - Kathy Pumphrey

Positions are open until one month prior to the elections at our May Convention (April 17th).

CHAPLAIN UPDATE

Thanks to David Gooch, Kelly Koch, Jaci Newmark, Yvonne Mason and Mike Phillips for the success of our 55th Anniversary Memorial Service. They all stepped up and made FL look great. If you receive this email and your birthday was missed, please let me know.

Please send me all of your prayer requests and good news!
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or 561-386-5080

