

FLORIDA JCI SENATE

CHAMBERS

VOL 56 | ISSUE 3



PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

Happy New Year Fellow Senators,

I hope this email finds you well! I'm excited to share some important upcoming events and activities for the Florida JCI Senate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Executive Board Zoom Meeting - February 14 | 9:00 AM

Our Executive Board will meet virtually to discuss important Senate business and set the course for the year ahead.

National JCI Senate Conference – Melbourne, FL | January 15–18

Pack your bags and join Senators from across the country in Melbourne for an unforgettable weekend of networking, fellowship, and HOT TIMES!

Florida JCI Senate's First-Ever Cruise - February 19–22

Set sail with fellow Senators for our inaugural cruise experience, four days of relaxation, camaraderie, and memories in the making.

Calabash / Myrtle Beach Gathering - March 26–29

Join us in the Myrtle Beach area for a spring gathering filled with great company, fellowship, and coastal fun.

Year-In Ceremony – Melbourne, FL | May 15–17

Celebrate our incoming officers and reflect on the achievements of the past year during this meaningful and inspiring weekend.

We look forward to your participation in these exciting events and thank you for your dedication to the Florida JCI Senate.

An Honor to Serve,

Don Duffy #78415

56th President, Florida JCI Senate

PRESIDENT

Don Duffy #78415
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MANAGEMENT VP

Amelia Harrison #62082
aaharrison@aol.com

ADMINISTRATION VP

Lynn Whalen #44712
gmallynn53@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Debra Saunders #52883
debjaycee@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Kathy Pumphrey #57287
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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Michael Sawyer #36403
mikesf3@gmail.com



PET PROJECT | DO YOU GIVE A RUCK?

Do You Give A Ruck?, a nonprofit organization based in Vero Beach, Florida, made up of military veterans and supporters dedicated to improving the lives of veterans and strengthening our communities. This year, members of the Florida JCI Senate proudly participated in Do You Give A Ruck (DYGAR) events including **Ruck for Christmas Shopping** where our Senators helped support families during the holiday season. They also took part in the **3-Mile Ruck for Toys for Tots**, bringing joy to children while strengthening bonds of service and fellowship!

MANAGEMENT VP'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Friends!

Pic 3 Sweepstakes tickets are on sale now through March 31, so be sure to get yours while there is still time. Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25.

Several Florida Senators are already selling sweepstakes tickets, and we need everyone's help to make this year a sell-out. Thank you to those who have already sold tickets and turned in their money, your efforts are truly appreciated. We still have plenty of tickets available, so now is the time to jump in and support Florida.

Payment can be sent by mail, Venmo, or Zelle. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Amelia Harrison at 407-269-4378 or aaharrison@aol.com. Let's keep the momentum going — sell, sell, sell!

We will be holding a Zoom Board Meeting on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. This meeting is for the Florida JCI Senate Board of Directors only. The Zoom link will be emailed to Board members prior to the meeting.

Please note that we will not be holding a State General Membership Meeting in February, as the cruise will take the place of this meeting. We look forward to a fun and memorable time together. Board Meeting minutes and Committee Reports will be posted on the website following the meeting.

See you at the Year-End "Derby Days" event in May!

Amelia Harrison #44712
Management VP

**ADMIN VP'S LOG**

Hello fellow Senators,

From the photos we've all seen, it looks like everyone truly enjoyed the holiday season. After the Administrative Team delivered such a wonderful conference in November, it was easy for me to relax and focus on family — especially while celebrating my great-grandson Lake Lammlein's very first Christmas. He found as much joy in tearing into (and even tasting) the wrapping paper as he did in the toys. Thank you to the entire team for making that possible.

Looking ahead, our Cruise Conference will take place February 19–22, 2026. It has been suggested that attendees download the MSC mobile app to complete pre-check-in before boarding. Hospitality will be provided by the cruise line, along with more food than you can imagine.

Our Year-End Convention will be held May 15–17, 2026, in Melbourne, and the theme for the weekend will be the Kentucky Derby. Please plan to wear your best hat and feel free to share any ideas or suggestions with the Administrative Team to make the weekend even more fun.

Finally, I would like to extend another big thank you to the Administrative Team. Because of your wonderful attention to detail and consistent follow-through this Senate year, I was honored to be recognized by U.S. JCI Senate President Bruce Sostak at our November conference. Your dedication truly makes a difference.

Lynn Whalen #44712
Admin VP 25–26



TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Fellow Senators,

Thank you to everyone who paid their dues last quarter. **We achieved 100% retention**, which is an incredible testament to how invested our Senators are in the Florida JCI Senate. Let's keep that momentum going this quarter.

We know this billing cycle may be more challenging as we have recently lost several Senators, and our hearts remain with their families and loved ones. Your continued participation and support mean more than ever.

Our next dues payment is **due by the end of February**, so please don't wait. If you need a new invoice, simply email me at debjaycee@gmail.com and I will gladly send one your way. You may also access your invoice through the Senate website. We are happy to accept Zelle as a payment option as well.

And yes... I may be known as "Debt Collector Deb," but only because I care so much about keeping our Senate strong.

Debra Saunders #52883

Florida JCI Senate Treasurer 2025–2026

P.S. Thank you to everyone who reached out with emails, cards, and kind messages following the passing of my younger brother, Richard. He battled Myasthenia Gravis for the past three years, then became very ill with the flu, and the outcome was heartbreaking. Please take care of yourselves and seek medical attention if you ever become so congested that breathing becomes difficult.



Debra Jeanne
#52883

SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

Hello Fellow Senators,

The 2nd quarter brought fun times to the Senate in Tampa. Here are a few highlights:

First, the hospitality team, led by **Admin VP Lynn Whalen #44712** did an amazing job with the Polar Express theme. There was plenty of good food and fun all weekend. Senators were invited to wear their favorite Christmas PJs. A fine group of middle age people we were. It was a weekend of partying with a purpose, and so good that even Santa came to dinner! There were plenty of meetings going on.

However, I'm thinking that the Vino Bellas was probably the most fun!

We were happy to host guests, including US JCI Senate President **Bruce Sostak #52655**. He spoke about what's happening on the National level. He recognized **Lynn Whalen #44712**, **Mike (#58312)** & **Linda (#71434) Andrews**, **Mindy Gallagher #79578**, and **Steve Sutherland #27073** with his presidential pin for their contributions to the JCI Senate.

Speaking of recognitions, **Dawne Sutherland #68900** was recognized as appointee of the quarter, **Scott Jacobs #51911** as RD of the quarter, and **Lynn Whalen #44712** as VP of the quarter. **Dee Stone #59531** and **Maria Kuntz #62122** were both recognized for becoming life members. Two cakes were presented, one to **Mindy Gallagher #79578** to celebrate her graduation from college and one to **Marty Harrison** to celebrate her 91st birthday.

You can find the complete official minutes (that means without my opinions and editorial comments) on our website once they have been approved by the membership. Hoping for a peaceful, productive and healthy 2026 for all of you.

Kathy Pumphrey #57287

Secretary



Kathy Pumphrey
#57287



Mike Sawyer
#36403

COB CORRESPONDENCE

Fellow Senators,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed some well-deserved time with family and friends. As we look ahead to the coming year, we invite Senators who are interested in serving our organization at a higher level to consider running for office. Serving on the board is a meaningful way to give back, support your fellow Senators, and help guide the future of the Florida JCI Senate.

All candidates must submit their letter of intent and required fee to our Treasurer, Debra Jean Saunders, no later than the **last week of February**. In addition, candidates should email me at mikesf3@gmail.com with the office they intend to run for.

Candidate Zoom meetings will be held during the last week of February. Candidates will be notified of the date and time as we get closer to the end of the month. **Kelly Koch** will serve as the administrator of the Zoom meetings.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We look forward to your involvement and leadership as we continue building a strong and engaged Florida JCI Senate.

In Senate Friendship,
Mike Sawyer #36403
Chairman of the Board 25-26



Scott Link
#51911

WHAT'S GREAT IN 8

Region 8 has an exciting lineup of fellowship events planned, offering plenty of opportunities to connect, travel, and have fun together across the state.

On **Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 11:00 AM**, Senators are invited to Snow Cat Ridge in Pasco County for a unique winter-style experience in Florida. The cost is \$33.95 per person, and the venue is located at 27839 Saint Joe Road in Dade City. More information can be found at snowcatridge.com.

From **Friday, February 6 through Sunday, February 8, 2026**, join Region 8 for a KOA Cookout Weekend in Broward County as we visit with Regions 12 and 13. A cookout by the campfire will take place at 6:00 PM on Saturday, February 7. The KOA campground is located at 3800 SW 142 Avenue in Davie. Additional details are available at koa.com/campgrounds/Davie.

Also on **Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM**, Senators can attend a tour of the Ancient Spanish Monastery in Miami-Dade County, located at 16711 West Dixie Highway in North Miami Beach. More information is available at spanishmonastery.com.

Looking ahead to **March, on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM**, join us for the 39th Annual Floral City Strawberry Festival in Citrus County. Admission is \$5 per person, and the festival will be held at 9530 South Parkside Avenue in Floral City. Learn more at gostrawberryfest.com.

To RSVP for any of these events, please text 352-397-8846 or email jci51911@netscape.net.

Keeping 8 Great!
Scott Link #51911
RD Region 8

FROM THE DESK OF REGION 12

Fellow Senators,

The third quarter is shaping up to be full of exciting opportunities to connect, serve, and strengthen the bonds that make our Senate so special.

Our Q3 community project was truly a magical success. On December 6, we proudly participated in the City of Hollywood's 100-Year Celebration during the Holiday Candy Cane Parade. We were thrilled to be joined by JCI Senators Jay and Patsy, who delighted the crowd as Mr. and Mrs. Claus. A special thank you to Senators Tammy Coughlin and Debra Jean Saunders for helping represent our region and spreading holiday cheer.

Our next joint social will be a private guided tour of the Spanish Monastery, led by our very own JCI Senator Alan Sokol, alongside our friends from Regions 8 and 13. The tour will take place on **Saturday, February 7, from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM** at 16711 W. Dixie Highway in North Miami Beach. The cost is \$25 per person and includes the tour, lunch, and a donation to President Duffy's pet project, Do You Give A Ruck.

Our Q3 fundraiser will focus on spending quality time with our nation's heroes through a special Bingo for Veterans event. The day will include bingo games and social activities with the residents of Sandy Nininger State Veterans Nursing Home, with Region 12 generously donating all prizes. The event date will be announced soon, so please stay tuned for updates.

Stay tuned for more fun and excitement as we continue to grow together.

Stacy Mahar #81584

RD Region 12

REGION 13 NEWS

Hello Senators,

Region 13 enjoyed a wonderful 2025 and is already looking ahead to an exciting lineup of events in 2026. The year closed with a fun social on December 20 at Olive Garden in North Miami, where 12 Senators from our region gathered. We were pleased to welcome **Sonny DiBlasi** for his first event, and it was also **Conrad Taylor's** first appearance of the year.

Looking ahead, Region 13 will host a social on **Sunday, January 25 at 6:00 PM** at La Birra Bar, located at 14831 Biscayne Boulevard in North Miami Beach. Mark your calendars as well for **February 7**, when Regions 8, 12, and 13 will come together for a joint special event at the Ancient Spanish Monastery in North Miami Beach, located at 16711 West Dixie Highway. A special thank you goes out to my fellow Regional Directors, Staci Marie and Scott Link, for their collaboration.

The Ancient Spanish Monastery is the oldest European-constructed building in the Western Hemisphere. President Duffy will be attending with his Chief of Staff, Irene. The tour begins at 10:00 AM, followed by a delicious lunch provided by **Shelly Sokol**. The \$25 fee covers the guided tour, lunch, and a donation to President Duffy's charity. Our own Alan Sokol will lead the tour and share the fascinating history of the monastery. Please RSVP to Catherine as soon as possible, as a headcount is needed.

Additional socials and events are being planned for the coming months, and your ideas are welcome. Please email your suggestions to cmcmansjd@gmail.com or contact Catherine at 240-888-4110.



Catherine McManus

RD Region 13

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello Florida JCI Senators,

This quarter has been a busy one with the holidays and family visits. Our Chaplain, **Brenda Swank**, has been ill and has asked me to assist her for a while by sharing updates on health, happiness, and heartbreak. Please send any information to me via Facebook (**Kat Collins**) or by text at 561-386-5080.

Please keep the following in your prayers or good thoughts:

- **Brenda #67214, Johnny #44479, and Brandi Swank** — all are home from the hospital and working toward recovery in preparation for the upcoming cruise.
- **Mike Sawyer #36403**, who is having surgery on January 28, 2026, but plans to join us for Hot Time in Melbourne.
- **Amelia Harrison #62082**, who was recently in a car accident and is on the road to recovery.
- **Bill Hagarty #76308**, as he recovers from a recent motorcycle accident.

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to the following families:

- **William "Bill" Marren #64382**, husband of Lisa Cordova Marren, who passed away on December 27, 2025. Arrangements have been posted on our Facebook page.
- **Debra Jean Saunders #52883** and family on the loss of her brother, Richard, on December 31, 2025. Private family services will be held on February 8, 2026.

In closing, please continue to keep your fellow Jaycees and Senators — including unspoken requests — in your prayers and good thoughts.

Brenda Swank, Chaplain, c/o

Kathy "Kat" Collins #64926

JCI FL SENATE FOUNDATION BRIEFING

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Scholarship Chair **Yvonne** has reported that scholarship applications are steadily coming in, with the deadline set for January 12. We are currently offering eight named scholarships, and we sincerely thank everyone for your continued support in helping us grow this program. Donations may be mailed to:

Kay Elliott, 5018 Greenbrook Lane, Lakeland, FL 33811

Attention Trustees:

Traditionally, elections are held during the February meeting; however, because this year's meeting will take place during the cruise and not all Trustees will be able to attend, elections will be conducted via Zoom. The meeting will be held on **February 11 at 7:00 PM**. Kelly Koch will set up the meeting and send invitations to all Trustees.

Anyone interested in seeking an office should contact Jay Edmondson at JCI41977@outlook.com no later than **February 8th**.

Have a wonderful start to 2026. To all Senators joining the cruise, have a fantastic time — and we look forward to seeing everyone in May.

Kay Elliott #61747

President, Florida JCI Senate Foundation

PRESIDENT'S PET PROJECT REPORT

I want to personally thank everyone for their continued support of President Duffy's Pet Project, Do You Give a Ruck. Since our last meeting, President Duffy and I had the pleasure of shopping for children, the elderly, and veterans alongside the wonderful DYGAR team. We spent about six hours Christmas shopping in Vero Beach on a Friday night, and even managed to break a few registers at Walmart! It was well past President Duffy's usual bedtime, but he stuck it out, haha!

The following morning, we were up bright and early to join DYGAR again for their annual Ruckmas march. With backpacks full of donated toys, we proudly participated in a three-mile ruck march and finished strong, whoo-hoo! DYGAR is truly making a positive impact along the east coast, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed by community leaders. After taking a month off to be with their families, the group is now back in action, so keep an eye out for upcoming events.

I hope you'll consider joining some of these activities. One of DYGAR's ongoing fundraisers is Bingo night every Monday — who doesn't love BINGO? If you're interested in attending, let me know; I'm ready to go again!

We also appreciate your efforts to include fundraisers at your regional events. Together, we hope to finish the year by presenting a large donation check at our year-end meeting. We're excited to announce that Jimmy Jackson, President and Founder of DYGAR, plans to attend. So please keep up the fundraising momentum, and don't forget to have some fun (and maybe a little mischief) at the meeting. You never know... there might even be a few Sheriffs on the cruise!

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and commitment.

Irene Shanley #65316
President's Pet Project Chairman



LEGACY SPOTLIGHT

Did you know that in 2020 FL JCI Senate President **Dawne Sutherland #68900**, moved by the photos of Arlington National Cemetery at Christmas time and having a personal connection with her dad and brother being buried at the National Cemetery in Bushnell-Dawne led the FL JCI Senate's first involvement with Wreaths Across America.

In 2022, Senator **Bill Hossman #41293** introduced the program to the US JCI Senate and became the first national program manager. This year marked the 5th year of participation.

Thank you Dawne and Bill for leaving a legacy!

Source: *Mentors, Volume 54, Issue 2, p 42.*

