

FLORIDA JCI SENATE CHAMBERS

VOL 56 | ISSUE 4



PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

Fellow Florida JCI Senators,

As we conclude the fourth quarter, the Florida JCI Senate reflects on a year defined by service, commitment, and meaningful impact across our communities.

One of our proudest ongoing efforts continues to be our support of the Do You Give a Ruck (DYGAR) initiative. Through both financial contributions and active participation, our members have remained dedicated to honoring and assisting our veterans—reinforcing our mission of service above self.

In addition to our work with veterans, we were proud to support organizations such as Roadheavers Boys Ranch, Wheelchairs for Kids, and the Florida JCI Senate Foundation. These partnerships have allowed us to extend our reach and make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people and families in need, further strengthening our commitment to community service across the state.

This quarter also marks an exciting transition as we prepare to gather for our **Year-End Conference on May 15th in Melbourne, Florida**. This event will provide an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, strengthen the bonds of fellowship, and recognize the outstanding efforts of our members.

I would like to extend **my sincere gratitude to the Executive Board** and all appointed leaders who have given their time and energy throughout this year. Your leadership, dedication, and teamwork have been instrumental in the success of our initiatives and the continued growth of the Florida JCI Senate.

Looking back, I am proud to say that we have met our goals and fulfilled our commitments. We set high expectations at the beginning of the year, and through hard work and perseverance, we rose to meet them. It has truly been a remarkable year filled with achievement and purpose.

As always, it has been an **"HONOR to SERVE"** this outstanding organization and to work alongside such dedicated individuals.

An Honor to Serve,

Don Duffy #78415
56th President, Florida JCI Senate

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Michael Sawyer #36403
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MANAGEMENT VP'S MESSAGE

WOW! Where did the year go? It's time to don your finest hats and bow ties... Derby Days style!

As we race toward the finish line of the 2025–2026 Florida JCI Senate year, “An Honor to Serve,” we’re excited to celebrate President Duffy, his incredible Board of Directors, and each and every one of you who made this year unforgettable. Your energy, dedication, and participation truly made it a winning season.

Join us for a Derby Days–themed Year-End Celebration!

Get ready for a weekend filled with fun, fellowship, and festive flair—culminating in our Saturday night banquet. Dress to impress in semi-formal or your best Derby attire—think bold colors, elegant dresses, sharp suits, and of course, those statement hats!

Important Dates to Remember:

- **Hotel Room Cut-Off:** April 15, 2025 – book early before rooms are gone
- **Registration Deadline:** April 20, 2025 – no photo finishes here... don't miss it!

If you have anything to add to the weekend agenda, please reach out as soon as possible—we want to make this celebration one to remember.

A big congratulations to our April Florida Sweepstakes winners, and a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sold tickets and supported the Florida JCI Senate. Your efforts truly make a difference.

To my amazing team—thank you for always going above and beyond. You continue to make magic happen!

It has truly been an honor to serve as your 2025–2026 Management VP. I'm so grateful for the memories, the friendships, and the incredible year we've shared.

So place your bets on a great time... and we'll see you at Derby Days!

Amelia Harrison #44712
Management VP 25-26



Amelia Harrison
#44712

ADMIN VP'S LOG



Lynn Whalen
#44712

If you're reading this issue of Chambers but haven't attended a conference in some time, I encourage you to join us for this year-end event, **May 15–17, 2026, at the Hilton Melbourne**. You may be surprised by the incredible hospitality—and the fun that awaits!

This year's theme is Derby Days, so dust off that extra-fancy hat from the back of your closet and come be part of the celebration. I've heard there will be horse races on Friday night and a semi-formal cocktail party on Saturday evening leading into the banquet.

We truly have one of the best Admin Teams ever assembled this year. I encourage you to take a moment to thank them—it's hard to single out just one, as each played a vital role: **Maria** for pricing, preparation, and organizing the food; **Marianne** for coordinating special needs, desserts, and breakfast; **Andrew** for ensuring everything was served seamlessly; **Marge** for making each event look incredible; **Tom** for keeping the bar running at every event; **Willy** and Janet for managing the trailer and keeping operations smooth; **Emily** for distributing dog tags and keeping numbers on track; **Mike P** for his guidance, suggestions, and support (and the trailer—no fingers lost!); **John** for managing the budget; **Bill** for handling hotel details and keeping everything clear; **Mike A** for creating a great bar experience—even on a tight budget—and making sure we had Pepsi!; **Linda** for bringing the team together while keeping it fun; and **Marsha** for ensuring communication stayed strong across the board.

We also lost our first team member, Jane, early on. In her short time, she reminded me that while people may step in because they're asked, they stay because they are Florida Senators committed to supporting their team.

A special thank you as well to Caryn, Dee, Cheryl, Kelly, Anne, and Lisa for their support behind the scenes.

I have truly enjoyed serving this year as Admin VP and look forward to the years ahead.

Lynn Whalen #44712

Admin VP 25-26

TREASURER'S REPORT

I must say, serving as Treasurer has been one of the biggest challenges of my Jaycee career—but also one of the most rewarding.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who paid their membership dues this year. The quarterly closeouts brought back a bit of nostalgia and reminded me of the "old days"!

We achieved nearly 100% retention throughout the year, which speaks volumes about your dedication to the Florida JCI Senate. As the number of Jaycee chapters continues to decline, it's more important than ever that we reconnect with "lost Senators" and continue to grow our organization. There are many Jaycees out there who truly deserve the honor of becoming a JCI Senator—and we need that new energy to keep our organization strong.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who supported me throughout the year—not only with membership efforts, but also with the Winter Board meeting and helping manage the budget. Your support made all the difference. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Year-End Conference so I can thank you in person.

Debra Jeanne Saunders #52883

Treasurer 25-26



Debra Jeanne
#52883

SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

The membership meeting minutes from the 1st and 2nd quarters are available on the Florida JCI Senate website for review. Please take a few moments to review them prior to our next meeting.

As we move through the 4th quarter, I would like to take a moment to recognize some outstanding individuals for their contributions throughout the year.

Thank you to Communications Director **Mindy Gallagher #79578**—fun, creative, incredibly skilled, and infinitely patient with those of us who may not be as tech-savvy. From managing the website to producing the Blast and Chambers, she works tirelessly behind the scenes to support our organization.

Thank you to Roster Keeper **Irene Shanley #65316** for keeping our ever-changing roster organized and up to date, as well as managing the distribution of Chambers and the Blast.

Thank you to Chaplain **Brenda Swank #67214** for her heartfelt posts, prayers, and encouragement for our Senate family. And a special thank you to **Kathy Collins #64926**, who stepped in during Brenda's illness and provided support for much of the year.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors and Region Directors for their written reports and for consistently meeting deadlines for Chambers and the Blast.

It truly has been **an honor to serve**.

Kathy Pumphrey #57287

Secretary 25-26



Kathy Pumphrey
#57287



Mike Sawyer
#36403

COB CORRESPONDENCE

The panel, consisting of **Jaci Newmark #56368**, **Cindy Brandel #54928**, **Bianca Deal #71182**, **Jim Warren #42752**, and **myself**, met via Zoom on February 25 to interview candidates for the upcoming year.

I am pleased to announce the following slate of officers for the 2026–2027 year:

- **Debra Jeanne Saunders #52883** – President
- **Amelia Harrison #44712** – Administrative Vice President
- **Kathy Pumphrey #57287** – Management Vice President
- **Catherine McManus #81988** – Secretary
- **Lynn Whalen #44712** – Treasurer

At the conclusion of the Business Meeting in Melbourne, there will be a ten-minute break before the election is conducted. No changes to this slate or additional nominations will be accepted after **April 16**, and there will be no nominations from the floor on election day. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Finally, this marks my last Chambers article of the year—and my final one as a member of the Executive Board. Since 2020, I have had the honor of serving on the Board, including my time as the 55th State President. To those who have offered guidance, support, and friendship along the way, I am truly grateful and will never forget it.

Now it is time to step aside and allow the next generation of Senators to lead and guide this great organization forward. Thank you for the opportunity to celebrate our 55th Anniversary and to continue **“Engaging Senators... Assisting JCI Florida”**

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

WHAT'S GREAT IN 8



Scott Link
#51911

De Soto Grand Parade – Volunteers Needed

William Orr #38326 is looking for help with parade setup starting at 12:00 PM.

Event Details:

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Pre-Parade Block Party: 3:30 PM (Old Main Street)

Parade Starts: 7:30 PM

You can find us at - 8th Street between 5th Ave (westbound/Manatee Ave) & 6th Ave (eastbound)

One of the largest parades in the Southeast, featuring 150+ entries and over 100,000 spectators—complete with illuminated floats, bands, and festive throws.

Text 941-773-0176 if you can assist.

Keeping 8 Great!
Scott Link #51911
RD Region 8

FROM THE DESK OF REGION 12



Region 12 is Ending Strong!

What a year it has been! From high-energy socials to heart-centered service, Region 12 has shown that we're at our best when we're working—and celebrating—together. As we wrap up the 2025–2026 year, here's a look at the impact we've made.

Service in Action - Our commitment to the community never wavered. This year, we made a difference through:

- Monthly Special Needs Dances
- Thanksgiving Basket Project
- Back-to-School Shopping Spree
- Veteran Bingo

Socials & Sightseeing - We truly embraced “work hard, play hard,” creating unforgettable moments along the way:

- Retro fun at Silverball Arcade
- A peaceful visit to the Ancient Spanish Monastery
- Countless nights of great food and even better company



Spotlight: Veteran Bingo

March 21 | Alexander “Sandy” Nininger, Jr. State Veteran Nursing Home
Our Veteran Bingo event, in partnership with the Kiwanis of Pembroke Pines, was a huge success—bringing smiles, laughter, and connection to our local heroes.

With President Duffy in attendance, we provided prizes, music, and entertainment. A special shout-out to Treasurer **Debra Jeanne Saunders**, who stepped in last minute as our Bingo Caller!

The Buzz: Due to its success, this may become an ongoing service project in Hollywood.

Fundraising for a Cause - Every event this year also supported President Duffy's Pet Project, Do You Give A Ruck! Thank you for your generosity and continued support of this meaningful cause.

Thank you to Regions 12 and 13, and the Florida JCI Senate, for your unwavering support and energy. You helped make this year truly exceptional.

Stacy Mahar #81584
RD Region 12



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**Good News from the FL JCI Senate**

We are grateful to share that many of our recent prayer requests have been answered. The following Senators have returned home from the hospital:

- **Martha Hofmann #49686**, 12708 Copper Springs Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32246
- **Emily Harrow #68739**, CW 104, 1999 Juana Road, Boca Raton, FL 33486
- Past President **Mike Sawyer #36403**, 600 Jimmy Ann Dr #918, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

If you would like to send well wishes, their addresses are included above.

In Remembrance

Please keep the family and friends of **Robert B. Hawkins Jr. ("The Hawk") #33554**, who passed on 2/15/26, in your prayers. As always, please continue to lift up the unspoken prayer requests within our Senate family.

Kathy "Kat" Collins #64926
Interim Chaplain, FL JCI Senate

JCI FL SENATE FOUNDATION BRIEFING

I hope you all had a wonderful cruise for the February JCI Senate meeting. As this was the Foundation's election meeting, we held our session via Zoom on February 11th.

I'm pleased to announce the 2026–2027 Florida JCI Senate Foundation Officers:

- **President:** Kay Elliott
- **Vice President:** Randy Windham
- **Treasurer:** Ken Clements
- **Secretary:** John Robinson
- **Chairman of the Board:** Steve Sutherland

Additionally, **Bill Hossman** has been appointed Scholarship Chairman, and we welcome new Trustee **Kat Collins**.

Scholarship winners will be announced at the May meeting in Melbourne. Thank you all for your generous donations this past year—your support allows us to continue growing and awarding scholarships to deserving seniors across Florida.

In lieu of a fundraiser at the upcoming meeting, I will simply ask for your generous contributions at the banquet following a brief recognition of giving. Donations of \$25 or more will be credited to your account. If you would like to check your current giving level, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Florida JCI Senate Foundation. I look forward to seeing you all 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, #DoYouGiveaRuck (DYGAR). We're close—but not quite there yet. We are currently about \$600 short of our goal, and we're counting on one final push!

On Friday night, we'll be hosting Derby Day horse races, with all proceeds benefiting DYGAR.

- \$5 to be a jockey
- Bet any amount on your favorite horse

We'll run as many races as possible to help reach our goal—so please bring extra cash and join in the fun for a great cause. Donations are also welcome, and there's still time to fundraise at your upcoming socials.

We're honored to have Jimmy Jackson, President and Founder of DYGAR, join us on Saturday morning to share more about the organization and accept our contributions.

Let's come together and finish strong! Thank you again for your continued support.



Irene Shanley
#65316

Irene Shanley #65316

President's Pet Project Chairman

