



FLORIDA JCI SENATE

CHAMBERS

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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The Presidential Buzz



Debra Jeanne Saunders
#52883
57th President

Hello fellow Senators!

I am honored and excited to serve as the 57th President of the great Florida JCI Senate! Our team is already buzzing—we have every conference planned, every position filled, and we're ready for an incredible year.

My theme this year is BEE KIND to Everyone! I hope you'll see that spirit reflected in everything we do.

I really enjoyed attending the National Convention in San Antonio and getting to meet my fellow State Presidents from our region, the Flying Aces. We will be under the wings of our fearless

leader, Alex "Hitman" Willis, as we AIM High... My call sign is Maverick!

I also attended a bowling social with Region 12 Senators, RD Tammy, RD Shelly, and some Hollywood Jaycees! Team Hollywood was in the house!

At our first conference, I will be celebrating being the 57th President with Heinz 57, maybe a cold draft beer, and a big kosher pickle...yes! Cheeseburger in Paradise! That's the theme for Saturday night, so wear your tropical attire!

At the meeting on Saturday, we will be collecting school supplies in lieu of fines... <Insert SignUpGenius link>. Remember, you do not need to buy all 30 needed items—save some for others!

I hope you'll make it to one of our conferences or the BASH and come see what all the buzz is about!

Debra Jeanne



Leading the Hive

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Management at the Hive...



Welcome to summer 2026 with the management worker bees. We are hard at work for the FL JCI Senate.

Here's the buzz...

- Registration for the **FL JCI Senate August 21–23, 2026**, meeting is underway. [Click here to download the 1st Quarter Registration Form](#)
- Agendas are "in process." If you need to be on the weekend/meeting agenda, please contact me.
- Fundraising—the FL JCI Senate Pick 3 tickets are available to purchase and/or sell. Contact me, and I will get them to you.

Let me leave you with this quote:

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." — C.S. Lewis

-Kathy

Meet the Management Team



Kit Caruso

#64925

PRESIDENT'S PET PROJECT

Please see her article for more information on the upcoming President's Pet Projects for the year!



Willie Orr Jr.

#38326

HISTORIAN

We're looking forward to "A Moment in FL Senate History" at our August meeting.



Irene Shanley

#65316

ON-TO CHAIR/ROSTER CHAIRMAN

aka. "cat herder"

The next National Meeting is September 17–20, 2026, in Topeka, Kansas. You can find the registration form at USJCISenate.org.



Administrative Vice President
Amelia Harrison #62082
aaharrison@aol.com



Honey Bees Hard at Work...

The Beehive is buzzing with excitement, and your Honey Bees (Administrative & Hospitality Team) have been working bee-hind the scenes to create a sweet weekend for everyone at our **"Heinz 57 Cheeseburger in Paradise" Conference, August 21-23**, at TownePlace Suites Orlando Airport.

Now it's your turn to bee part of the fun! Don't wait—bee sure to register and book your room in our hotel block before the hive fills up!

Pick the Registration That Suits Your Hive

- **Hospitality Only** – Just the Hospitality Room with a bar and light snacks. No meals are included, but there's plenty of time to mingle and create a little buzz!
- **Dinner Only** – Join the swarm Saturday evening for our tropical Cheeseburger in Paradise dinner.
- **Off-Site Stay** – We understand if you choose to stay elsewhere or use hotel points. But if you can, bee kind and book in our room block! Every room helps us meet our contract and earns complimentary benefits that keep costs down for the entire hive.
- **Full Registration** – The sweetest deal! You'll enjoy: Hospitality Room access, Saturday lunch (Tuna Salad, Chicken Salad, PB&J, chips, and dessert), and Saturday's Cheeseburger in Paradise dinner featuring cheeseburgers, potato sticks, fruit and pasta salads, desserts, and a chicken option for those who don't eat beef.

Have dietary restrictions or want to sweeten the pot with a donation? Please contact **Marianne Romano** at bustermtnl@bellsouth.net.

Bee Part of the Hive!

Many hands—or wings—make light work! Our Administrative Team is always looking for a few more honey bees to help before, during, or after the conference. Volunteering even a little of your time lets everyone enjoy the weekend while keeping the hive humming.

Interested in lending your wings? Contact Amelia Harrison at aaharrison@aol.com.

Whether you help for an hour or the whole weekend, every volunteer helps our hive thrive!

As we kick off another amazing year, let's continue to:

- Bee Helpful
- Bee Connected
- Bee Involved
- Bee the Difference!

So grab your flip-flops, your Hawaiian shirt, and your best island spirit. Let's create a buzz, share some laughter, and make this conference one of the sweetest yet!

We'll bee seeing you in Orlando!

Amelia

Meet the Admin Team



Tammy Coughlin
#83701
BASH CHAIRMAN



Treasurer

Lynn Whalen #44712
gmallynn53@yahoo.com

Treasurer Mega Buzz



Do you know what the numbers 23406, 33570, 14166, 51228, 34930, 50844, 84927, 54671, 42680, and 42050 mean to anyone? I know ten Senators who will understand them completely. It has been a joy to receive the membership dues during the last month. Looking at the Senate number with a name reminds me of seeing many of those members receiving their Senatorship.

I would encourage each of you to fill out the form completely, along with your check, and return it even before your dues are up for another year. Life Members, please complete and return the form even if all the information is the same. Thanks, Cathy B! If you use Zelle or PayPal, PLEASE complete and return the form.

Did you know there are 14 main species of bees? Megachilidae bees are known mostly as effective pollinators. So, the Treasurer/Membership Team are the Mega Bees. Want the buzz in the south part of the state? Kelly Koch at kci69508@bellsouth.net; the center is Nina Nadeau at ninanadeau@aol.com; the north is Patrick Allison at patrick.64624@comcast.net; and Linda Andrews at linda71434@gmail.com is welcoming first-time and returning members. John Robinson at john3607@ptd.net is the Financial \$\$ Bee.

Please reach out to any of the Mega Bees with any questions about dues, donations, and membership. The Florida JCI Senate has 120 members up for renewal in September, which means we will have the dues package done by August 28, 2026.

I will NOT be collecting fine fees at the first conference. Pres. Queen Bee, Debra Jean Saunders, has requested that all of us bring school supplies for local teachers. Check her article for details.

I am truly looking forward to having FUN, seeing returning members, and trying to Bee Kind to Everyone.
Checks in the mail,

Lynn

Meet the Money Money Mega Bee Team



Kelly Koch
#69508
MEMBERSHIP (SFL)



Nina Nadeau
#49287
MEMBERSHIP (CF)



Patrick Allison
#64624
MEMBERSHIP (NF)



Linda Andrews
#71434
S.O.A.R CHAIRMAN



John Robinson
#55768
FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER



Keeping the Hive Connected...



Secretary

Catherine McManus #81988

cmcmanusjd@gmail.com

I am both honored and excited to begin the new JCI Senate year serving as your FL JCI Senate Secretary! I look forward to serving you by keeping an accurate record of our general membership meetings at each conference, along with the many other responsibilities of the office.

I am also delighted to introduce the members of our team: Chaplain Kathy "Kat" Collins and Communications Director Mindy Gallagher. I am fortunate to be working alongside two experienced leaders. This is Mindy's fourth year serving as Communications Director and Kat's second year serving as Chaplain. Their dedication and experience will be a tremendous asset to our organization this year.

Mindy has already distributed the schedule for Chambers and E-Buzz submission deadlines. Please be sure to review the schedule and note the respective due dates. We appreciate everyone's help in submitting articles on time so we can keep our members informed throughout the year.

Catherine

Meet the Communications Team



Mindy Gallagher
#79578
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



Kathy "Kat" Collins
#64926
CHAPLAIN

Fellow Senators,

It is with pleasure that I will Bee serving as your state chaplain this year. As part of our Bee Kind theme, I am hoping to share not just deaths, prayers for health but the joys in our lives too. New babies in the family or anniversaries with a 0 or 5. If you have anything you wish for me to post please send it to me via email kc86auburn2@gmail.com or text 561-386-5080.

Respectfully,

Kat

Chaplain's Corner



Marianne Romano here and as your RD in 6, I am so excited for this year! We are Hiving and Living in the Heart of It All! 🐝

We have so much fun ahead with my team, starting with Social Director Keith Adams and Jaci Newmark, who will be helping with fun events and community projects. 🐝

Our first event is set for Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at VIA Entertainment, 10401 US Hwy. 441, #2004, Leesburg, FL 34788. We'll be bowling, playing arcade games, and enjoying great food together!

We'll also be supporting President Deb's Pet Project by collecting school supplies at the event. If you're unable to bring supplies, you can participate in our 50/50 raffle instead. If you can't attend the Summer Conference, don't worry—we'll take all the collected supplies with us.

We're looking forward to seeing you! 😊 Just wait until you see what we have planned for the rest of the year. Region 6 is here to Bee Kind to Everyone! 🐝

Marianne



This is Tammy Coughlin and I am honored to serve as your RD for 12! As we embrace this year's theme, "Bee Kind," I am excited for the opportunity to help Region 12 hive stay connected, engaged, and buzzing with activity.

One of my goals as Regional Director is to create quarterly gatherings that bring Senators together for fellowship, fun, and service. After all, when we work together, we can accomplish amazing things—just like a hive working toward a common goal.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Quarter 1 Social – Bee Together: Strikes, Bites & Spotlight Nights on June 26th. It was an evening of bowling, dinner, karaoke, and plenty of laughs! It was wonderful to see so many Senators and guests come together for our first Region 12 social of the year.

To close out the quarter, our annual Back-to-School Shopping Spree is coming up. This project helps local students head back to school while taking some of the sting out of back-to-school shopping for families. Keep an eye out—we'll be sending the buzz with more details soon!

As we know, bees don't just make honey—they help communities blossom and grow. In that same spirit, I hope our region will continue to pollinate new ideas, cultivate stronger relationships, and support the next generation of JCI leaders.

I am excited to work alongside each of you to make this a year worth buzzing about. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year. Tammy

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Hello, fellow JCI Senators in our great state of Florida! This is your Region 4 Director, Pat Caruso #64032, saying hi! We're so excited to be working with our Queen Bee, Debra, this year.

We'll be "Catching the Buzz" up here in Region 4 and working with the rest of the colony to do great things in the coming months. We will be working hard to keep the honeypot filled while having fun building the hive. I look forward to seeing and hearing from y'all. If there's anything you need from this worker bee, please contact me at pjc.pascual77@gmail.com

Pat



Hello, fellow JCI Senators!

Scott Link #51911 here and I'm excited to serve as your Region 8 Director this year again and look forward to seeing everyone around the region. We have a great year planned, and I hope you'll come out and join us for some fun and fellowship.

Our next get-together will be on Sunday, September 6, 2026, in Clearwater. We'll start at 12:00 p.m. at Hatchet Hangout for a little friendly axe throwing, then head over to Abe's Place Tap & Grill at 2:30 p.m. to grab some food, relax, and catch up.

Whether you're from Region 8 or just in the area, we'd love to have you join us. It's always a great time when Florida Senators get together.

I look forward to seeing everyone this year. Until then, remember to Bee Kind to Everyone!

Scott



This is Shelly Sokol #75110 your RD for 13! As we get this new year underway, I'd love to hear your ideas! If you have suggestions for activities, projects, or ways to make Region 13 even better, please don't hesitate to reach out. This is our region, and I want to plan things everyone can enjoy.

Life has been keeping me busy lately, but you're all still on my mind. I may not have many updates just yet, but I'm looking forward to reconnecting with everyone and making this a fun and memorable year.

Bee Kind, Bee Connected, and I'll see you soon!

Shelly

12

13





A Cheeseburger-in-Paradise Classroom Edition

This quarter, we're serving up a little Cheeseburger in Paradise magic—classroom style. Instead of fines at our general meeting, we're asking everyone to bring school supplies to support our Adopt a Classroom Pet Project. Think of it as building a tiny island of relief for three local teachers who could use a little paradise of their own.

To keep our teachers from feeling like they're stuck with a soggy bun and no toppings, please bring the good stuff:

- Reams of printer paper
- Boxes of Kleenex
- Disinfectant wipes
- High-quality pencils (the kind that don't snap if you breathe near them)
- Dry-erase markers
- Hand sanitizer
- Notebook paper

Let's help these teachers feel like they've got a fully loaded cheeseburger—extra pickles, perfect bun, sunshine, and all. Don't cheap out. Paradise requires premium ingredients.

And just to keep things spicy: If you run amuck during the meeting and show up empty-handed, fines will absolutely still apply... and we might just double them. Consider it the "hot sauce" of accountability.

Bring your supplies, bring your spirit, and let's build a little paradise for our classrooms.

Kit



Wreaths Across America

One of our VERY important projects is Wreaths Across America, a national initiative that the Florida JCI Senate proudly supports.

I am Janet Orr, FS #16, your 2026 Wreaths Across America Chairman. My goal this year is to sponsor **100 wreaths**. When you sponsor a wreath online using the Florida JCI Senate group id (FL0833) to honor a veteran, \$5 of the \$17 sponsorship is returned to the Florida JCI Senate. Thank you for your support! As we did last year, those funds will be used to purchase even more wreaths. In fact, for every three wreaths sponsored, we are able to provide one additional wreath.

www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/FL0833

When sponsoring online, you have several options for where your wreath may be placed:

A family veteran's gravesite

A cemetery of your choice

The National Wreaths Across America program

Or, if you don't have a preference, I would ask that you consider Mansion Memorial Park in Ellenton. There are approximately 1,700 veterans buried there, and in 2025, only 500 wreaths were available.

Because Bill and I are unable to attend the First Quarter Conference in August, Dee Stone has graciously agreed to share information and provide my report. Thank you, Dee!

We will continue our Wreaths Across America business at BASH in October.

Janet



Photos from the Hive...



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