

FLORIDA SOCIETY, SAR, REPORT TO SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

29 December 2016

The Florida Society (FLSSAR) continues to make progress in improving on the excellent foundations established by past FLSSAR leadership administrations. We have established to first FLSSAR Strategic Planning Committee and they have been tasked with doing a top to bottom review of the Society, evaluating strengths and weaknesses, and formulating a Strategic Plan with short, intermediate, and long term goals and objectives.

The Strategic Planning Committee has exceeded all expectations and will be presenting a draft at our February Board of Management meeting and will be submitting a final plan for approval at our annual meeting in May 2017.

The final plan will have an emphasis on SAR Youth Education Outreach programs, funding of additional awards, and increased participation. The plan will also include NSSAR goals and objectives as well as President General initiatives with emphasis on how the Florida Society can contribute to their success.

As a side note, the Florida Society donated \$4000.00 to PG Tomme's youth program increased funding initiative. The Florida Society supports this initiative and will work towards increasing FLSSAR youth program awards.

The Florida Society continues to support an initiative started by Past FLSSAR President, Lawrence Fehrenbaker of traveling throughout the state and holding Regional meetings. These meetings allow the FLSSAR leadership to bring information to members who usually don't attend a Board of Management meeting or Annual Meeting. The Regional meetings have been an overwhelming success and have been well received by the membership. Many members have found a way to enter the discussion of FLSSAR business when they were not able to participate before. We set a goal of holding a Regional Meeting in all seven regions for the fiscal year of 2016-2017 and that goal will be achieved.

We set an additional goal of becoming a partner of the National Committee to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. We applied for partner membership and were accepted. We held a FLSSAR "Welcome Home" celebration of Vietnam era veterans at our October 2016 Board of Management banquet where PG Tomme participated in presenting Presidential Proclamations, commemorative pins and specially designed service ribbons to 42 members of the Florida Society who qualified because of their Vietnam service.

We have also initiated a new Ethics Committee Charter and have appointed a committee of six including a chairman and five members. The committee was formed as an ad-hoc committee and will be made a permanent standing committee at a future Board of Management meeting. The charter mirrors the NSSAR Ethics Committee responsibilities. The FLSSAR Ethics Committee will review ethics complaints submitted by members and forward recommendations to the FLSSAR Executive Committee.

The Florida Society has a very active Ladies Auxiliary. Their membership continues to grow and their support the Florida society's Youth Programs has been exemplary. The ladies hold gift basket auctions at our banquets and use the proceeds to supplement the Youth Program prize awards.

**Respectfully Submitted:
Raymond F. Wess
President
Florida Society 2016-2017**