



American Legion – Veterans Memorial Post 347

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Bimonthly Newsletter – January - February, 2017

Commander's Notes by **Tim Tierney**: Seasons' Greetings and Happy New Year. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and prosperous holiday season. As we begin another year as members of the Largest American Legion Post in the World, I would like to thank all of you, Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons of the American Legion members, who volunteer for our many programs and functions and would encourage all of you who are able, to contact one of our many program managers and offer your assistance for whatever time you are able to donate.

As stated in the Post's Constitution and By-Laws, the Post will hold annual elections on the day of the May membership meeting. That means that nominations will begin at the February membership meeting. I would encourage any and all members with the desire to do so to throw your hat in the ring and run for a Post Officer position. We will need candidates for Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, 3rd Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, and four (4) Members-at-Large. These positions require some of your time but it gives you the opportunity to help guide the Post into the future.

On Jan 5, 2017 at 5:00 PM, a team from the Pentagon will be here to distribute Vietnam War 50th Anniversary lapel pins. Anyone who was in uniform and on Active Duty from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 regardless of location is eligible to receive a pin. Come to the Post and be recognized. There will be a sign up sheet in the hallway between the main hall and the lounge. Please sign up so we can get a count. If you know of any Vietnam Era Veterans, even if they are not members of the Post let them know as they are welcome also. *Aim High. For God and Country. Commander Tim Tierney*

Chaplain's Corner: by **Chaplain Joerg Wartenberg**. Let us pray: Lord we thank you for all that you made possible with your guidance during last year. Continue your blessings in this New Year, so that we may continue to grow in our work at the American Legion through our members who give of themselves volunteering for the services needed. Give us the strength and wisdom to serve our Country, Veterans, Post, and needs in our Community. Amen. **Chaplain Joerg Wartenberg.**

From the desk of the 1st Vice Commander by **Al Varrone**: The Early Bird Dinner was held on Dec. 18th, I would like to Thank the Members of the Auxiliary, SAL and Legion that helped with this event. The next Initiation is scheduled for April 16, 2017. The Post is in need of volunteers, Door Greeters, Kitchen help, Queen of Hearts ticket sellers, etc. Anyone interested should contact Ellen Tierney, Joyce Varrone or Ed Lawson. **1st Vice Commander Al Varrone**

Auxiliary News: by, **Mary La Noce, Madam President**: I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we begin 2017 I am looking forward to helping our Veterans, Children and Community. Our Chairman did a marvelous job in 2016 and I am sure they will continue to excel for the New Year. We donated clothing, food, personal products, toys, blankets and money to many schools, food banks, hospitals, and the Transition House in Orlando. We did an Oktoberfest and donated the proceeds to The Final Salute, a charity for homeless female veterans.

As we enter the 2017 season we will have an Elvis impersonator entertaining us on January 27th, the ticket price is \$10.00. He will also play music so you can dance the night away. The bar will be open for your enjoyment and you may bring in your own snack to go with the beverages you purchase in the hall. We will be having spaghetti dinner February 18th; the proceeds for this event will be for Fischer House. If you haven't renewed your dues, as yet, the price is \$32.00 for seniors and \$4.00 for juniors.

For God and Country, **Mary La Noce, Madam President**

Sons of the American Legion by **William Preston**: For quite some time now you have heard the talk about "Teamwork"! This month we hope to show you the importance of your part as a member of the "Team". There are occasions when "Teamwork" makes all the difference between life and death. In World War II, for example, this practice was followed by Allied Naval Forces.

On many of our warships, a deck officer was stationed with a microphone, where he could observe the battle and give a play by play description over the ship's communication system. When a Kamikaze plane went down off the bow, every seaman knew it

immediately, and cheers came from every part of the ship. That kept every man on the "Team" united in purpose to perform their duties through the most critical hours of the battle! In that situation, everybody knew his stake in the outcome. But even then, there was a problem of keeping alive the common purpose particularly in the moment of danger. From the very nature of things, some people were so close to the situation they needed no reminders, but there were others who were removed from the scene of visible action, completely in the dark as to the developments and efforts of the rest of the ship's crew. Whether a man's down in the engine room and never sees the enemy, or out on the deck, he has to know the common purpose of the "Team"!

Without a common purpose, you can't have a "Team". Whether it is in battle, business, sports, a ship's crew, or The American Legion Family! People move together only when they are going in the same direction. If every member of the "Team" is trying to score a touchdown by himself, they are all likely to lose. If every member of a band plays a solo concert you won't get the harmony needed to blend a melodic tune. We in the American Legion Family have a common purpose which is clearly stated in our Preamble. We may not have the dramatic dangers of a war to be won but we do have a purpose. Connected with this societal purpose is the objective of bringing about public awareness to programs such as National Security, Americanism, Children & Youth and Community Service.

Your membership to our organization plays a vital role in maintaining the rights and privileges of our American Veterans through the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Services!

Your elected officers and chairmen of all levels are the deck officers and "You" the member are the integral participant that makes our "Team" successful! When we take on a project or program it is your membership and participation that makes the difference. Our battle can only be won through your continued efforts and your lasting dedication as a member of "The Team".

We believe that each of you have something to offer; come share it with us, make our "Team" successful in our service to God, Country and America's Veterans! Remember too, that our strength is in our numbers, so if you have not paid your 2017 membership dues or know of someone who hasn't, please get them to renew and don't forget to sign up that much sought after new member!

We thank you for your support and remember that the "Team's" success depends on "You"! Until the next time may God bless each and every one of you as you continue to serve your God, and Country and The American Legion Family!

Yours in Service **William C. Preston, Jr. Squadron #347 Commander**

See Legion Post 347 website at www.Florida-Legion.com click on SAL Button for latest minutes

Kitchen Menu for January Tuesday Nights

1st Tuesday Night: Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll & Butter

2nd Tuesday Night: Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Gravy, Roll & Butter

3rd Tuesday Night: Stuffed Shells, Sausage, Salad, Roll & Butter

4th Tuesday Night: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Gravy, Green Beans, Roll

5th Tuesday Night: Baby Back Ribs, French fries, cole slaw, Roll & Butter

Lounge News: by Ed Lawson

See Calendars for Lounge Entertainment information

Special Lounge Events: January 5th, Vietnam Era Veterans can receive a Lapel Pin for your service during Vietnam Era years. 5PM at the Post. All veterans are invited and you don't have to be a member of the Post.

Jan 14, Night at the Races, be there for food, fun and beverages.

Karaoke every Monday night 6-10 pm

Queen of Hearts Weekly Drawing Every Tuesday at 7PM

Members who went to Post Everlasting in Nov-Dec 2016

Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name	DOD
Gilbert F. Belair	11/06	Walter Swope	11/07	Robert L Reutenauer	11/08
Richard W. Brown	11/18	Walter E. Anderson	11/19	Larry E. Lilly	11/25
Gary J. Bauknecht	11/27	Charles Amsey	11/28	Clinton J. Westberry	12/10

FUTURE EVENTS

HONOR FLIGHT IS LOOKING FOR WWII and KOREAN VETERANS

If you are a WWII or Korean War veteran and have not yet gone on an Honor flight to visit the memorials in Washington, D.C. you should contact Honor Flight. You can go to their website, www.VillagesHonorFlight.org and print out an application. You may also pick up applications from the Post 347 front Office, or phone Honor Flight at [352-432-1382](tel:352-432-1382).

Don't forget our Saturday morning breakfast deal on Jan 14 and Feb 11. All you can eat breakfast, hot pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy, bacon, biscuits, coffee and OJ. Open to the public so bring you friends and family.

Post 347 – List of Officers – 2016 – 2017

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347

Tim Tierney,	<i>Commander</i>	Mary La Noce,	<i>President</i>
Al Varrone,	<i>1st Vice Commander</i>	Jean Flake	<i>1st Vice President</i>
T.C. Biddle ,	<i>2nd Vice Commander</i>	Rose Trippodo	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Bill Behn,	<i>3rd Vice Commander</i>	Wendy Adams	<i>Treasurer</i>
Joerg Wartenberg	<i>Chaplain</i>	Lynn Barbarotta	<i>Secretary</i>
Mike Seidel,	<i>Adjutant</i>	Ann Huxtable	<i>Historian</i>
Ken DeMello,	<i>Finance</i>	Betty Spencer	<i>Sgt-At-Arms</i>
George Zablocki,	<i>Sgt at Arms</i>	Donna McGlone	<i>Chaplain</i>
Tom Murphy,	<i>Judge Advocate Historian</i>		<i>Members at Large</i>
John Trenkle,	<i>Service Officer</i>	Carol Pirone-Udell	
Guy Knaak,	<i>Member at Large</i>	Maureen Caswell	
Lyle Koch,	<i>Member at Large</i>	Bev Briggs	
Johnny Gibbons,	<i>Member at Large</i>	Donna Hodge	
Ron Monat,	<i>Member at Large</i>	Sandi Tomasko	
Terry Briggs,	<i>Past Commander</i>	Cathy Trout	
Mike Horn,	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>		

AMERICAN LEGION Weekly Events for January 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	5-7 pm Hamburgers 6-10pm - Karaoke 7pm - close - Lounge Games	5-7pm - Kitchen Open 5-8pm - Music 7pm - Legion, Aux. SAL Queen of Hearts Drawing	12 - 2 pm Philly Cheese Steaks 2:30pm Bar Bingo	11am - 3:30 pm Bingo 5-7pm Italian Night: Italian Food and Karaoke	5-7 pm - Kitchen Open 6pm - closing - Lounge Music and Dancing	6:30 - 8 pm Lounge Team Trivia 8 - 9 pm Music and Dancing

~ January 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 FLORIDA VETERAN ALLIANCE 9-11 am Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	3 Queen of Hearts 5-8 pm Lounge Pat Murphy Hall Mike Michaels Meal: Ham Steaks	4 HONOR GUARD MEETING 10-12 NOON Bar Bingo 230-4PM AUXILIARY MEETING 6-8 PM	5 Trivia Small Team 6-8PM Host: Ed Lawson Vietnam Era Veterans Lapel Pin 5PM	6 Lounge Amee Reese 6-10PM	7 GOLD STAR MOTHERS
8	9 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	10 Queen of Hearts 5-8 pm Lounge Joe Allen Hall Johnny Ray Meal: Pot Roast	11 POST MEETING 5:30-8 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	12 Executive Board Meeting 4:30 Open to all Members BINGO 8AM-4PM Trivia Small Team 6-8PM with Ed	13 Lounge Al Brady 6-10PM	14 Breakfast 7-11AM Auxiliary Girl Scouts 5-9 PM Night At the Races
15	16 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	17 Queen of Hearts 5-8 pm Lounge Just Mike Hall Pam Valli Meal: Stuffed Shells	18 SUBMARINE VETS 12 - 3PM S.A.L. MEETING 6 - 8 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	19 BINGO 8AM-4PM Trivia Small Team 6-8PM	20 Lounge Mike Michaels 6-10PM	21 Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With All Brady
22	23 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	24 Queen of Hearts 5-8 pm Lounge Lou Gatto Hall D.J. Norm Meal: Salisbury Steak	25 40 & 8 Meeting 6-10 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	26 BINGO 8AM-4PM Trivia Small Team 6-8PM	27 Lounge Pam Valli 6-10PM	28 Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Ed Lawson
29	30 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	31 Queen of Hearts 5-8 pm Lounge D.J. Norm Hall Bubba Meal: Baby Back Ribs				

Notes: Front Office Hours: M-F: 9am - 4pm Sat: 9am - 12pm

Updates to this schedule of events will be posted on our website, in your local newspaper, or you may contact the post at 750-2099 or the lounge at 750-0639

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~ February 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HONOR GUARD MEETING 10-12 NOON Bar Bingo 230-4PM AUXILIARY MEETING 6-8 PM	2 Trivia Small Team 6-8PM Max 6 to a Team With Ed Lawson	3 Lounge Amee Reese 6-10PM	4 GOLD STAR MOTHERS Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Ed Lawson
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