



American Legion – Veterans Memorial Post 347
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Bimonthly Newsletter – Nov-Dec, 2017

Commander's Notes by Al Varrone: September started off with a bang as Hurricane Irma came knocking on our door on Sept 11th. The front of the building took the brunt of the storm. We had shingles blown off the peak of the roof near the lounge and had damage to the soffits along the east and south sides of the building. After checking with the insurance company we found that the costs of the repairs were less than the deductible on the insurance policy. Consequently, the repairs were made at a cost of \$835.00 which was taken out of the post contingency fund. I would like to thank Dan Martin for putting in the extra hours to coordinate the repairs with the contractor.

I would also like to thank Paul Holzinger and Joyce Varrone for making ice blocks to give to our members that lost power for days after the storm. They were also able to store some of our member's perishables in the post's walk in freezer until power was restored.

On October 11th the post hosted a small group of WW2 veterans with a Turkey dinner. The veterans are part of the approximate 20 WW2 veterans who reside at Sumter Place in The Villages. The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1036 try to take these gentlemen out once a month and it was our pleasure to have them with us this month.

On October 29th we had our new member post initiation ceremony. As of this writing there are 75 new members scheduled for initiation.

The Department of Florida fall conference will be held in Orlando November 2nd thru the 4th. We will have a contingent of officers representing the post attending.

On November 11th the post will celebrate Veterans Day starting at 11 AM. That's 11/11 at 11.

The Saturday morning Pancake Breakfast originally scheduled for November 11th will be moved to November 18th due to a conflict with the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for November 8th. The Lake Wier High School JROTC will be presenting colors at this meeting. The precision these high school kids have is truly amazing to see.

Tickets for our 5th annual Thanksgiving Dinner are sold out. Have a good Thanksgiving.

For God and Country. Commander Al Varrone

Chaplain's Corner: by Chaplain Joerg Wartenberg. "Let us pray" Lord, place your protection over us during our travels and activities. Families and friends getting together for the Holidays, Enjoying our Freedom, to Celebrate that which our Veterans have fought to protect, giving the Ultimate Sacrifice when there was no other choice. Let us always HONOR ALL who served, Honor and pray for our soldiers who are now serving to keep us safe and free. Give them Strength, Wisdom and Courage. Comfort them and their Families during this time. Also Lord remember our sick and shut in, going to rehabilitation and Medical procedures. Be with the families who have Lost love ones. Amen Chaplain: **Joerg Wartenberg.**

From the desk of the 1st Vice Commander: Have you renewed your membership for 2018 yet? Everyone who renews by Veterans Day receives EARLY BIRD STATUS; this makes you eligible for our "World Famous" Early Bird Dinner. This dinner is currently scheduled for January 14, 2018. If everyone renews by the end of the year, the Post receives 100% status. As of this writing we are at our November 1st goal of 65%. So PLEASE RENEW YOUR DUES NOW. The post held initiation of new members on October 29th. A special thanks to the staff, Honor Guard and Auxiliary for their assistance in making this a successful event. We had over 60 new members attend with guests. Our next initiation is scheduled for February 2018. Volunteers are the backbone of this organization - we thank each and every one of you who help. We are always looking for volunteers especially in the kitchen. If you have a few hours open in your schedule, please contact the kitchen manager or any one of our officers to volunteer. **AIM HIGH, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY. 1st Vice Ellen Tierney**

From the Adjutants Desk: My fellow Legionnaires, it's that time again. End of year is approaching. As you know your membership card is valid until December 31st. The National organization, in an attempt to get all Post 100% renewed by December 31st, has started sending out renewal notices in July via snail mail and e-mail. If you renew during the period of July to December, you will get your 2018 membership card and it is valid from the day you receive it until December 2018. As an extra incentive to renew early, dues paid before November 11th, Veterans Day, will qualify you as an Early Bird and eligible for a free Spaghetti dinner, date to be announced later. You may renew in person (at the Post), the mail, or on line. If you renew on line, please bring the computer generated membership card to the Post and we will give you your membership card.

National will continue to send out renewal notices until your renewal is processed so you may receive a notice even after you have paid, things cross in the mail, Bob and I with the help of the Membership team process them daily and from the Post your renewal has to go to Orlando, and then to Indianapolis, after National process the renewal the notices will stop. Thanks, renew early and avoid the Christmas rush. **Adjutant Mike Siedel**

Auxiliary News: by, **Mary La Noce**, Madam President: Jean Flake, our 1st Vice President has resigned for health reasons. I wish to thank her for all her hard work for the Auxiliary. I have appointed Cathy Trout to take over her position, until the end of the year, when we have our next election. Cathy is a current member of the executive board and her position on the board will be taken over by Mary Seidel.

We will be making up holiday baskets for 2 schools for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Post has offered to assist us and we are very grateful for their help. We have been doing this with the Post for The Villages Elementary School for many years and have now added Wildwood Elementary, as they also need assistance.

Please come to our meeting held on the first Wednesday of the month. 5:30 meet and greet and 6:30 business meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

Our next event is the 2nd Annual Craft Show on Saturday, December 2nd. Be sure to come and do some holiday shopping with our various vendors.

Dues are being collected now, take your check into the office or drop it in the mail, whatever is convenient for you. The amount is \$32.00, the same as last year.

Our Christmas party will be held at our December 5th meeting. We would love to have you attend. We ask for a dish to pass and we will supply the meat, as we have done every year. There will be further details at the November meeting, I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. For God and Country **Mary La Noce, Madam President**

Sons of the American Legion: Family, as we move into the Holiday season, many reflect with thoughts of family. There are many types of family, the one we were born or were adopted into, and the family we choose to associate ourselves into for the greater good. We can rejoice in that we can keep in contact and help those in need in our personal families and help a host of others by joining together to assist those in the community in need.

Our chosen family, built around The American Legion is a true family; we have The Legion itself, The Auxiliary, our own Sons, and the newest family member at Post #347, The Riders. Each are great organizations by themselves, but together we are one powerful force in the community.

Our focus is built around helping Veterans, the Community, and Children and Youth. Each of our Family members has specific charities and organization that we support that provide much needed support. Sometimes these organizations have touched us or someone we know and made a difference in their lives.

During the upcoming season, take some time to reflect how you can help to make someone's lives better by helping them directly OR by helping us support these worthwhile organizations. You can sign up to volunteer for Monday, Thursday, or Sunday meals, or any of the other functions that we support. Donuts for the VA clinic, the various dances and fund raisers help us to help those in need.

Many of us have found that whatever time and effort we spend to make someone's lives better is paid back many times over. We help provide a way to make our community better and many of the volunteers tell us that they have a fun time as well.

Your family, your Sons of The American Legion is a great way to make a difference and whether you can help out once a week, once every other or as needed we need you to get involved. Contact any officer to see where you might fit in and we will try and get you matched up where you can do the most good.

Yours in God and Country, **George M. Worton, Commander, Sons of The American Legion**

American Legion Riders from **Michael Haynes President**

The American Legion Riders had four members participate in the District 6 Unity ride. We rode to Fruitland Park, Mt. Dora and Fern Park. The next meeting is Nov. 2nd at 6:30 in the Legion Hall. Safe Riding to All.

Members who went to Post Everlasting in Sep-Oct 2017

Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name	DOD
Allan O'bryan	10/03	Jerry P. Gordon	10/06		

FUTURE EVENTS

Team Trivia Tournament in Main Hall 7PM doors open at 6PM. Second Friday of each month. \$5 per person, Max 8 to a Team
 50-50 Door Prizes Lounge opens for dinner 5-7 Pm or Legion, Hot Dog and Fries Available.
 Call Ed Lawson 352-750-0639 for Reservations and Information.

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).

All Tuesday night menus are posted on our website at www.florida-legion.com

Lounge and Hall Entertainment information if changed will be updated on the Legion website.

Legion Officers 2017		Auxiliary Officers 2017	
Al Varrone	<i>Commander</i>	Mary La Noce	<i>President</i>
Ellen Tierney	<i>1st Vice Commander</i>	Jean Flake	<i>1st Vice President</i>
T.C. Biddle	<i>2nd Vice</i>	Wendy Adams	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
	<i>Commander</i>	Lynn Barbarotta	<i>Secretary</i>
Bill Behn	<i>3rd Vice</i>	Donna Hodge	<i>Treasurer</i>
	<i>Commander</i>	Ann Huxtable	<i>Historian</i>
Joerg Wartenberg	<i>Chaplain</i>	Betty Spencer	<i>Sgt At Arms</i>
Mike Seidel	<i>Adjutant</i>	Donna McGlone	<i>Chaplain</i>
Ken DeMello	<i>Finance</i>	Ruth Sovern	<i>Membership</i>
George Zablocki	<i>Sgt at Arms</i>	Members at Large	
Tom Murphy	<i>Judge Advocate</i>	Carol Pirone-Udell	
John Trenkle	<i>Service Officer</i>	Barb Kajda	
Guy Knaak	<i>Member at Large</i>	Lois Glosch	
Lyle Koch	<i>Member at Large</i>	Cathy Trout	
Johnny Gibbons	<i>Member at Large</i>	Maureen Caswell	
Ron Monat	<i>Member at Large</i>		
Tim Tierney	<i>Past Commander</i>		
Mike Horn	<i>Historian/ Editor</i>		
SAL Officers 2017		Legion Riders 2017	
George Worton	<i>Commander</i>	Mike Haynes	<i>President</i>
Paul Pitts	<i>1st Vice Commander</i>	Bill Lynn	<i>Vice President</i>
David Booth	<i>2nd Vice Commander</i>	Daniel Martin	<i>Treasurer</i>
Danny Adams	<i>Financial Officer</i>	Betty Martin	<i>Secretary</i>
Jack Dirga	<i>Chaplain</i>	Craig Bonfant	<i>Sgt At Arms</i>
Cory Meloni	<i>Historian</i>		
Gary Blanchard	<i>Sgt-At-Arms</i>		
David Callies	<i>Member at Large</i>		
Bill Gray	<i>Member at Large</i>		

November 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	5-7 pm Hamburgers 6-10pm - Karaoke	5-7pm - Kitchen Open 5-8pm - Music Queen of Hearts Drawing	12 - 2 pm Philly Cheese Steaks 2:30pm Bar Bingo	11am - 3:30 pm Bingo 5-7pm Italian Night: Small Team Trivia	5-7 - Kitchen Open Lounge Music and Dancing	6:30 - 8 pm Lounge Team Trivia

~NOVEMBER 2017 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Honor Guard Banquet 11-2 AUXILIARY MEETING 6-8 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	2 Legion Riders 6:30 pm	3 D.J. Norm Lounge 6-10pm	4 Buffalo Wrestling Club Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Al Brady
5 Johnny Ray McCullah Dance 5-8 PM	6 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	7 Queen of Hearts Just Mike in Lounge 5-8pm	8 POST MEETING 5:30-8 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	9 BINGO 8AM-4PM Trivia Small Team Max 6 per team	10 Pam Valli in Lounge 6-10pm Team Trivia Tournament 7PM until ??? \$5 person Max 8	11 Veterans Day 11/11@11 (Lounge)Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Al Brady
12 Auxiliary Installation 1-3 PM	13 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	14 Queen of Hearts Lou Gatto Lounge 5-8pm	15 SUBMARINE VETS 12 - 3PM S.A.L. MEETING 7-8:30 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	16 BINGO 8AM-4PM Trivia Small Team Max 6 per team	17 Al Brady in Lounge 6-10pm	18 Breakfast 7-11 AM Police Bike Safety Training 8-12AM (Lounge)Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Ed and Carol
19 Johnny Ray McCullah Dance 5-8 PM	20 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	21 Queen of Hearts Pat Murphy in Lounge 5-8pm Pam Valli in Hall	22 40 & 8 Meeting 6-10 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	23 Thanksgiving Dinner Post Closed	24 Amee Reese in Lounge 6-10pm	25 Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Al Brady
26	27 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	28 Queen of Hearts Joe Allen in Lounge Johnny Ray McCullah in Hall 5-8pm	29 Bar Bingo 230-4PM	30 BINGO 8AM-4PM Trivia Small Team Max 6 per team		
<p>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</p>						

December 2017

AMERICAN LEGION Weekly Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	5-7 pm Hamburgers 6-10pm - Karaoke	5-7pm - Kitchen Open 5-8pm - Music Queen of Hearts Drawing	12 - 2 pm Philly Cheese Steaks 2:30pm Bar Bingo	11am - 3:30 pm Bingo 5-7pm Italian Night Small Team Trivia	5-7 pm - Kitchen Open Lounge Music and Dancing	6:30 - 8 pm Lounge Team Trivia

~ December 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pam Valli in Lounge 6-10pm	2 Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Al Brady
3 Johnny Ray McCullah Dance 5-8 PM	4 Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	5 Queen of Hearts Just Mike in Lounge 5-8pm Mike Michaels Hall	6 HONOR GUARD MEETING 10-12 AUXILIARY MEETING 6-8 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	7 Executive Board Meeting 4:30 Open to all BINGO 8AM-4PM	8 Amee Reese in Lounge 6-10pm Team Trivia Tournament 7PM until ??? \$5 person Max 8	9 Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Al Brady
10 Pam Valli Disco Dance 6-9 PM	11 Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	12 Queen of Hearts Lou Gatto in lounge 5-8pm Hall "Bubba"	13 POST MEETING 5:30-8 PM Bar Bingo 230-4PM	14 BINGO 8AM-4PM Trivia Small Team	15 Al Brady in Lounge 6-10pm	16 Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Al Brady
17 Johnny Ray McCullah Dance 5-8 PM	18 Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	19 Queen of Hearts Pat Murphy Lounge 5-8pm Pam Valli in Hall 5-8pm	20 SUBMARINE VETS 12 - 3PM S.A.L. MEETING 7-830 PM Bar Bingo 230-4pm	21 BINGO 8AM-4PM Trivia Small Team	22 D.J. Norm in lounge 6-10pm	23 Trivia 6:30 - 8:30 PM With Al Brady
24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas from Post 347	26 Queen of Hearts Joe Allen in Lounge Johnny Ray McCullah Hall 5-8PM	27 40 & 8 Meeting 6-10 PM Bar Bingo 230-PM	28 Trivia Small Team Ed and Carol 6-8pm	29 D.J. Norm in lounge 6-10pm	30
31 New Years Eve Lounge D.J. Norm Hall Pam Valli	<p>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 Check out the Post Website for the latest updates on entertainment in the Lounge and Hall.</p>					