

American Legion-Veterans Memorial Post 347

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SEPTEMBER 2020

Lounge is open!

SPECIAL CORONA-COVID 19 EDITION

Lounge is open!

<http://fl.legionsites.org> This is the temporary URL for the new website under construction. Check it out.

FROM THE EDITOR: We find ourselves in extraordinary times. Life as we know is totally upended. Since we are in CDC guidelines on social distancing, we are at minimum capacity. This newsletter will be, until further notice reduced to 2 pages. So, to all who contribute an article, please keep your comments brief. If it's highly important, I will highlight the article for special treatment. **(LOOK FOR THE NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!)**

Commander's Notes: Al Varrone

First of all, I would like to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to be the Commander of the largest American Legion Post in the World for a third term. It is truly a great honor. Secondly, I am looking forward to working with this year's executive committee as they are a great group of individuals. We will be hard at work trying to get back to some kind of normal because of Covid-19.

We were successful with the Department of Florida in getting our Post opened. **The Post and Lounge are now open.** The office is open from 9am to 4pm and the Lounge is open from 12 noon to 8 pm, 7 days a week. We request anyone entering the Post to wear a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines. **The rules are posted under "Lounge News".**

Please if you are feeling ill, do not come into the post.

The American Legion Post 347 Family sponsored a food drive on August 9th and it was a huge success.. This food drive benefited 3 local food pantries. A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the Auxiliary for being the lead on this project and the whole Legion family volunteers who made this happen.

And last but not least, **THANK YOU** to our community for your generous donations of food and monetary donations.

Hoping to continue to make this year a great one!

Aim High. For God and Country.

1st Vice Commander-Joan Suelter

My goodness, its September already! The beginning of Fall. A season treasured in traditions; A season full for those that love cooler weather, jeans, jackets, and Halloween. I, for one am excited.

Its also a time to considered renewing you American Legion Membership for 2020-2021 year. The membership team is in full swing, ready to aid in quick turnaround time on your new membership card.

Please stop by and say hello to any one of our office staff, or membership team. Currently we are at 51.5 percent renewal rate, which is awesome, however, we still have a long way to go.

Looking forward to seeing and serving with you.

Fair Winds and following seas.

Sons of the American Legion: Bob O'Neal-Adjutant

"The Squadron has appointed Danny Roe 1st Vice Commander and Doug White Historian.

The membership renewal campaign for 2021 has hit 31.3% and renewing members have donated \$2641 to help make up for lost revenue caused by the pandemic.

The Squadron is actively seeking a volunteer to chair the Children & Youth Committee and member Joe Urso is also seeking volunteers to mentor boys through the Big Brothers & Sisters. Joe can be reached at papajoe226@hotmail.com."

Auxiliary-Maureen Caswell, Madam President

It certainly has been an interesting few months for us. First, we had the "changing of the guard" so to speak with the resignation of Cathy Trout as President. Second, we faced the Corona Virus threat that caused us to shut down The Post for several months. Then we made the decision to hold officers over for another term. Wow...that's a lot of big stuff in a short amount of time!

Let me first thank you all for your support in becoming the Unit President. I have truly appreciated your notes, kind words and encouragement. It's been comforting to know that so many of you agreed with the decisions that we made regarding the shutdown and the cancellation of many of our favorite events. The safety of our membership was and continues to be our primary concern.

Speaking of membership, we are continuing to grow. We are estimating that we will reach 3,000 members by the end of this fiscal year. As a reminder, it is renewal time. You can renew your membership at the Post on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's between the hours of 10am-2pm.

Going forward, we will be busy working on rescheduling and planning what is appropriate for the opening phase that we are in. Stay tuned and please be safe! As always we look forward to seeing you at our monthly meeting the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:30pm.

In Spirit of Service, Not Self



POST EVERLASTING



Charles E. Patterson

Wayne Quigley

James Weinheimer



American Legion Riders-Chapter 347: Gene Haplea, Director

Chapter 347 took advantage of the brief Post opening in early July to hold a General Membership Meeting and conduct annual elections. The results of our election is posted on page 2. Feel free to contact them with any questions or concerns regarding ALR 347. Messages can be left at the Post Front Desk in person, or over the phone.

NEW MEETING DATES: Chapter 347 has adopted a new monthly meeting day for regular Chapter Meetings. Starting in Sept, we will meet on the **4th Wednesday** each month. The monthly Exec. Board Meeting will also change in Sept to the 3rd Thursday at 1630.

For anyone interested in learning more about our Chapter, please join us at our regularly scheduled monthly meetings in the Main Hall of Post 347 on the first Thursday each month at 1830. Our social and networking hour starts at 1730 with a Cash Bar and **complimentary pizza**.

Join our Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALR347/>

Lounge News-Ed Lawson, Manager

***Lounge is now open Sunday to Saturday 12 noon to 8 pm for members, their guest or significant other. We also are admitting Legionnaires from other posts with the same restrictions.**

***Everyone must sign in. (for contact tracing)**

***Sanitize hands when entering post.**

***Face masks are REQUIRED. (Mask may be removed when you are seated but must be worn when moving about the post with NO drink in your hand.**

You must be seated to be served.

***These are CDC guidelines and we will strictly enforce them. Please cooperate.**

Bar snacks are available. Hot dogs, Sliders and Popcorn are not available at this time.

All group activities are on hold at this time.

Kitchen Talk-Harriett Turnbull, Manager

We are only having a limited menu due to COVID-19 on Tuesday and Friday nights only.

TUESDAY MENU

HOT DOG	\$3.00
LEGION BURGER-8 oz Angus	\$7.00
CHICKEN TENDERS (4) w/ Fries	\$7.00
FRENCH FRIES	\$2.00
ONION RINGS	\$3.00

FRIDAY MENU

SHRIMP FRY (6) w/ Fries & Slaw	\$9.00
FISH FRY w/ Fries & Slaw	\$9.00
LEGION BURGER-8 oz Angus	\$7.00
CHICKEN TENDERS w/ Fries	\$7.00
FRENCH FRIES	\$2.00
ONION RINGS	\$3.00
COLE SLAW	\$1.00

All meals are served from the kitchen. You must pick up. No wait service.

LEGION

AUXILIARY

S.A.L.

LEGION RIDERS

COMMANDER	Al Varrone	PRESIDENT	Maureen Caswell	COMMANDER	John Gorsuch	DIRECTOR	Gene Haplea
1ST VICE	Joan Suelter	1ST VICE	Marie Ray	1ST VICE	Danny Roe	ASST. DIRECTOR	Sherri Ward
2ND VICE	Dave Musser	2ND VICE	Carol Pirone-Udell	2ND VICE	Bud Bowyer	ADJUTANT	Linda Haynes
3RD VICE	Dan Martin	TREASURER	Kathy Allen	FINANCIAL OFFICER	Bill Grieco	FINANCE	Louise Labbe
CHAPLAIN	Lon Hertel	SECRETARY	Beth Musser	CHAPLAIN	Ben Kisielica	SGT-AT-ARMS	Felicia Rawls
ADJUTANT	Mike Seidel	HISTORIAN	Nancy White	HISTORIAN	Doug White	CHAPLAIN	Robert Johnson
FINANCE	Ken DeMello	SGT-AT-ARMS	JoAnn Thomas	SGT-AT-ARMS	Tony Watkins	RIDE CAPTAIN	Larry Pekoe
SGT-AT-ARMS	George Zablocki	CHAPLAIN	Maureen Merlette	MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Dave Callies		
ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS	Sheldon Gotesky	M.A.L.	Maureen Caruso	MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Charlie McGlone		
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Tom Murphy		Judy Samuelson	JAG	Paul Pitts		
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Joe Holdreith		Mary LaNoce	ADJUTANT	Bob O'Neal		
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Fred Jary		Mary Seidel				
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Guy Knaak	PAST PRESIDENT/MAL	Ruth Sovern				
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Bob Suelter						
PAST COMMANDER	Bob Kiley						
HISTORIAN/EDITOR	Phil Crouthamel						