

# American Legion-Veterans Memorial Post 347

Mail: P.O. Box 1534

699 W. Lady Lake Road

Lady Lake, FL 32158-1534

(CR 466 & Rolling Acres Blvd)



Phone: 352-750-2099

Fax: 352-750-2202

Lounge Phone: 352-750-0639

Web site: [www.florida-legion.com](http://www.florida-legion.com)

E-mail: [alpost347@comcast.net](mailto:alpost347@comcast.net)

**AUGUST 2020**

## SPECIAL CORONA-COVID 19 EDITION

**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.*



### AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY POST 347 FAMILY FOOD DRIVE

**DRIVE BY/DROP OFF--SUNDAY-AUGUST 9--9AM TO 2PM**

**HERE AT THE POST!**



**IN THE PARKING LOT..WE WILL TAKE THE GROCERIES OUT OF YOUR CAR!**

#### 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 request anyone entering the post wear a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines. Please if you are feeling ill, do not come into the post. We will continue to work with the Department of Florida to try to get all the Florida posts reopened and back on track. We appreciate your patience as we work through these trying times.

As of now the post is open to attend to everyday business functions and organization meetings as long as social distancing is observed. Due to the regulations placed upon us by the State of Florida we are unauthorized to open the lounge at this time.

The American Legion Post 347 Family will be sponsoring a food drive on August 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM until 2 PM, at the post. This food drive will benefit local food pantries. Suggested items to bring are cereal, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, canned fruit, canned vegetables, tuna, drink packs, toilet paper, wipes, bread, rice etc. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Hoping to make this next year a great one! **Aim High. For God and Country.**

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

#### 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.

Chapter 347 continues to grow, even in the midst of COVID-19, adding several new members in recent months. We are also adding members in our newly created category of "Support Member". Support Members play an important role in our Chapter as we grow and become more active around the Post and in the community. We encourage everyone in the Legion Family to inform their friends and neighbors who enjoy motorcycle and may, or may not, be Legion Family members already to check out our ALR Chapter 347. It would be a "double win" if they joined the Legion Family **and** ALR 347!!

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/>

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

The SAL ended the fiscal year in June at 806 members, a new record and was praised by 6th District Commander George Worton for our membership drive spearheaded by 1st Vice Commander Doug White and his assistant Danny Roe. In other news, the Squadron Executive Board voted, since there were no submitted nominees during the posted nomination period, to carry over the existing officers for the coming year.

Gary Blanchard has stepped down from his position as Squadron Historian due to health issues. The Executive Committee has voted, pending approval from the membership at the next General Meeting, to appoint Doug White Historian and Danny Roe as 1st Vice Commander.

Danny has been working with Doug for several months on Squadron membership. He came to the SAL with experience as Membership Director of the 1300 member Villages Parrothead Club for two years.

Another appointment is Terry Haskell, CPA, as assistant Treasurer to work with Bill Grieco.

The SAL income has been devastated by the pandemic, causing the Executive Committee to vote to cut the 2020-2021 budget in half. The original budget will only be reinstated if income later in the year recovers. One bright spot is that some members are making one-time donations while renewing their memberships for 2021. All those donations are earmarked for charities the SAL supports.



## POST EVERLASTING



Arthur J. Hoffman

Philip R. Munden

Thomas Ralph

Thomas J. Wennstrom



Joseph Kellams

Romeo St.Pierie

Dirk Zettlemoyer

### 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.

### Lounge News-Ed Lawson, Manager

*\*Lounge remains closed but is ready to reopen at any time.*

*\*After reopening, we will allow members and their spouses or significant other admission, including Tuesdays.*

*\*Mask are required.*

*\*Entertainment on hold until the end of August.*

*\*Queen of Hearts:*

*Raffles will continue in the hall every Tuesday night at 7 pm.*

*Tickets on sale in the main lobby from 12 noon to 4 pm, Monday thru Friday.*

### Kitchen Talk-Harriett Turnbull, Manager

*We are only having a limited menu due to COVID-19 on Tuesday nights only*

#### MENU

HOT DOG **\$3.00**

LEGION BURGER-8 oz Angus **\$7.00**

CHICKEN TENDERS (4)

W/ FRENCH FRIES **\$7.00**

FRENCH FRIES **\$2.00**

ONION RINGS **\$3.00**

**NO SUBSTITUTIONS**

### 1st Vice Commander-Joan Suelter

Hello fellow legionnaires and family members. It has been a tumultuous few months, but I can honestly say Its “Fair winds and following Seas” going forward.

Although our member lounge is not opened for adult beverages, our administrative office, veteran services, membership renewal, new members, and post memberships transfers are in full gear. Please stop by, see one of our front office staff, or Command Staff for your needs. We are here to assist you and our family. Please stay safe!

### LEGION

### AUXILIARY

### S.A.L.

### LEGION RIDERS

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