



**American Legion – Veterans Memorial Post 347**  
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### **Bimonthly Newsletter – January – February 2019**

**Commander's Notes by Al Varrone:** We hope all of our members had safe and enjoyable Holidays.

2018 was a very successful year for the Post and we are looking forward to continued success in 2019. We had our 30th straight year of all time highs in membership as we finished the year with 6459 members. As Eddie would say "The largest Post in the World".

January 12th we will hold the Saturday Breakfast. January 19th marks the return of Saturday night at the races. For \$5.00 you can eat all the Hotdogs you can eat and drink all the draft beer you can drink while enjoying the action at the track.

January 21st Receptions will be performing at the post. This is a talented troupe of college age singers and dancers the volunteer their time to perform at the VA Hospitals across the country. We will have 2 performances primarily for the benefit of our volunteers. February 2nd we will host the National Commander Brett Reistad.

February 10th we will have new member initiation. Ellen Tierney, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, will send out invitations in January.

***For God and Country. Commander Al Varrone***

**Chaplain's Corner: by Chaplain Joerg Wartenberg.** God over us all, we thank you for the blessings you have bestowed upon us in the year 2018. As we enter the New Year of 2019, continue to unite our thoughts and mission to serve our Country, Community, Veterans, and especially our members. Open our hearts and minds to best serve our Post 347. Keep in mind that we are and will continue to strive for being the largest post in the world, but more important than that, being the largest post in the world, is to strive to be the best. It is only possible with Unity and Moral obligation, with all personal agenda set aside, we can serve. "For God and Country".

Lord be with our Leaders that they will make the good decisions. Give strength and comfort to members of our Armed Service, who are actively engage to fight for our way of life to promote freedom and peace. That they will be home with their families soon. Let our way of life of peace and prosperity serve as an example to all nations. Amen

\*Note. Please, Notify our front desk, of any member that requires to be contacted. Chaplain assistance serving our members that are in Hospitals, going through procedures, in Assisted living, sick and recovering or any need for contact. **Joerg Wartenberg.**

**From the desk of the 1st Vice Commander Ellen Tierney: Happy New Year.** May 2019 be prosperous for you and the legion family. We are currently on track meeting the membership goals set by Department of Florida and National. As of early December we had 5185 paid members, approximately 80% of our goal to 6460 total members by June 30, 2019. In appreciation for membership renewed by November 11<sup>th</sup>, a raffle of 120 gift cards was drawn. If you won you should have received this gift card in the mail. These gift cards are instead of the spaghetti dinner that has been done in the past.

On February 10th we will have our next initiation of new members. This is by invitation only for those who joined in October, November, December and January. Again thank you all for making this the great Post it is.

**AIM HIGH, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY –1st Vice Commander Ellen Tierney**

**Auxiliary News: by, Ruth Sovern, Madam President:** First of all, Unit 347 is wishing all of our American Legion Family a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!! Hard to believe 2019 is already upon us, hope you have your 2019 Membership Card.

If you haven't paid your 2019 dues yet, you may pay at the Front Office, Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM. \$35 Senior members, \$5 for Juniors (under 18). Your card will be mailed as soon as possible to the address we have on file. You will be receiving a Second Notice for Renewal Dues from National if they didn't receive your dues before 12/10/18. Please remember it takes approximately six weeks to process your dues from the time paid, sent to the Department of Florida then on to National Headquarters. If you already have your 2019 Membership Card, please disregard the notice.

We thank you for a fantastic 2018 and especially the last six months for making our programs successful. If you would like to know all that our Unit accomplished in the first six months of this 2018 -2019 membership year, please see the Mid-Year report posted on the Auxiliary Bulletin board. You will be proud to know what your support of our fundraisers and membership dollars accomplish for our Veterans, Children & Youth and our Community.

With support from the American Legion Post 347 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 347, the Auxiliary filled 76 food baskets not only for Thanksgiving, but again for Christmas making the holiday season a bit brighter for 76 families in our community. A special "Thank You" to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this happen.

Upcoming Auxiliary sponsored Fundraisers:

During the month of January, if you would like to help our Children & Youth Program, we are in need of very gently used, or new, backpacks for foster children in our area to use as they move from house to house. (They move frequently and often with their belongings in a garbage bag). Donated items can be left with the front office Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM.

Sunday, January 13th, 2019: The Auxiliary will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner & Dance for Pam Kelly, a disabled Army Veteran. There will be basket raffles, 50/50 and the music will be provided by Al Brady. Tickets are on sale in the Lounge and Front Office, \$15 per person. Cut-off date for tickets is January 9th.

Sunday, February 17th, 2019: Second Annual Fashion Show. Fashions will include men, women and children's items, 2:00 PM, \$15 per person, includes light lunch. Look for tickets going on sale mid-January in the Lounge and Front Office.

Please join us at our General Membership Meeting held the 1st Wednesday of the month, social hour at 5:30, meeting promptly at 6:30 PM. We need your input and ideas to help us grow. Come learn and hear about our Programs and all that we do for our Veterans, our Community and our Children & Youth.

**For God and Country, Ruth Sovern, Auxiliary President**

**Sons of the American Legion.** It's been an action-packed holiday season for The Sons. Commander Adams decided, for health & family reasons, to resign as Commander effective December 22nd. We wish Danny and Wendy the best of luck as they relocate up north. Our new Commander is John Gorsuch, who transferred to our Squadron in 2017 from Maryland. John is excited to take on the new responsibilities and wishes to thank all our volunteers & officers for their dedicated support.

We visited the Gainesville VA hospital and Fisher House during the holidays and distributed small gifts to the recovering Veterans. This is the 3rd year we've done this and it's always a very rewarding experience. Our membership renewal & new rate is over 85% at the end of December; thanks to everyone for renewing in a timely manner. We're welcoming over 80 new members so far!

On February 15th we're holding an entertainment event with Elvis & Patsy Cline tribute performers. Details are on our website <[http://www.florida-legion.com/sons\\_events](http://www.florida-legion.com/sons_events)>. Also, join us for delicious meals every week: Sunday Bar Bingo noon-2:45; Monday Burgers & More 5-7PM; and Thursday Italian night 5-7PM. John Gorsuch, Commander SAL #347

**American Legion Riders** from **Michael Haynes Director**: Many Thanks to all Legion Family members and other supporters in the Tri-County area for taking part in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual ALR Chapter 347 "Basket of Cheer" Raffle in December. The lucky winner, Joan Bulmar, took home the custom Schwinn Trike and its attached basket filled with over \$2,500 in gifts and prizes! Congratulations, Joan!

Our Chapter is also very proud of the great Chapter member support and representation of Post 347 while providing motorcycle escorts at recent Villages Honor Flights and Wreaths Across America events. We had over a dozen members riding escort from Post 347 to the Lady Lake Cemetery for the vehicle carrying over 100 Christmas Wreaths to place on Veterans graves. It was a wonderful ceremony, and incredibly moving experience to take part in. Mark your calendars now for this event next December!

ALR 347 members are getting ready to join in on the "Vets Invade the Canyon" 2-day event taking place at Rock Crusher Canyon, Crystal River, FL, Jan 18-19; this event celebrates Florida Legion's Centennial and is sure to be fun for all, so join us! Our members will also be busy preparing for, and taking part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dept. Of Florida ALR Summit - 4-6 Feb in Cocoa Beach. This is a great training, education and comradeship conference that draws riders from all across the Sunshine State.

And it is a pleasure to announce that our less than 2-yr old ALR Chapter 347 continues to grow, adding 12 members in recent months, bring our total membership to 82 as of the end of 2018. We encourage everyone in the Legion Family to inform their friends and neighbors who enjoy motorcycling and may, or may not, be Legion Family members already to look into joining 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.

Or, visit our web page at <http://www.florida-legion.com/riders> **Michael Haynes, Director**

## Members who went to Post Everlasting in Sept-Oct 2018

DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name
10/2	Charles Gunion	10/9	George H. League	10/10	Pete J. O'Connel
10/13	Carl L. Barber III	10/20	Will T. Ardne	10/24	George Flueger
AUX Members		10/22	Jeanette Keller	10/25	Rosemary Bullen

### FUTURE EVENTS

#### POST IN NEED OF DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

We loan out donated wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, etc. to members and to the general public. We are currently *extremely* short of such equipment. If you have borrowed equipment and no longer have need for it, please return it to the Post. If you or a neighbor has such equipment that is no longer needed, please consider donating it. We do NOT accept commode/toilet items or motorized equipment. Harry Miller, Office Volunteer

**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.

**Tuesday night menus and SAL kitchen menus are posted on our website at [www.florida-legion.com](http://www.florida-legion.com)/Kitchen**

Legion Officers 2018	Auxiliary Officers 2018	SAL Officers 2018
Al Varrone <i>Commander</i>	Ruth Sovern <i>President</i>	John Gorsuch <i>Commander</i>
Ellen Tierney <i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</i>	Cathy Trout <i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>	TBD <i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander</i>
T.C. Biddle <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</i>	Maureen Caswell <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	Tony Watkins <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander</i>
Bill Behn <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander</i>	Peggy Hearlson <i>Secretary</i>	George Worten <i>Financial Officer</i>
Joerg Wartenberg <i>Chaplain</i>	Ruth Collver <i>Treasurer</i>	Ben Kisielica <i>Chaplain</i>
Mike Seidel <i>Adjutant</i>	Ann Huxtable <i>Historian</i>	Robert O'Neal <i>Historian</i>
Ken DeMello <i>Finance</i>	Betty Spencer <i>Sgt At Arms</i>	Angelo Speziale <i>Sgt-At-Arms</i>
George Zablocki <i>Sgt at Arms</i>	Maureen Merlette <i>Chaplain</i>	David Callies <i>Member at Large</i>
Bill Walsh <i>Judge Advocate</i>		Charlie McGlone <i>Member at Large</i>
John Trenkle <i>Service Officer</i>	Members at Large:	Mike Shebel <i>Judge Advocate</i>
Guy Knaak <i>Member at Large</i>	Mary LaNoce (Past President)	Doug White <i>Adjutant</i>
Lois Glosch <i>Member at Large</i>	Carol Pirone-Udell	<b>Legion Riders 2018</b>
Bob Soultter <i>Member at Large</i>	Mary Seidel	Mike Haynes <i>Director</i>
Ron Monat <i>Member at Large</i>	Marcia Silva	Bill Lynn <i>Asst Director</i>
Tim Tierney <i>Past Commander</i>		Daniel Martin <i>Treasurer</i>
Mike Horn <i>Historian/Editor</i>		Betty Martin <i>Secretary</i>
		Craig Bonfant <i>Sgt At Arms</i>
		Jim Dollins <i>Chaplain</i>
		Felicia Rawls <i>Ride Captain</i>

## January 2019

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	Doors Open 0730 am For Bingo 5-7pm Italian Night:	5-7 - Kitchen Open Lounge Music and Dancing	6:30 - 8 pm Lounge Team Trivia

~January 2019 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Queen of Hearts  Bubba Lounge 5-8pm	2 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM  Auxiliary Meeting 530 Social Hour 630 General Meet	3 Executive Board Meeting 4:30  Legion Riders 6:30 pm  Trivia Small Team	4 Lounge Amee Reese 6-10pm	5 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
6  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	7  Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	8 Queen of Hearts  Mike & Terry Lounge 5-8pm	9 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM  <b>POST MEETING</b> 5:30-8 PM	10 Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	11  Lounge Pat Murphy 6-10pm	12  Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM  Breakfast 7-11AM \$7.00
13 AUX Spaghetti Dinner \$15.00  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	14  Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	15 Queen of Hearts  Pam Valli Lounge 5-8pm	16 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM SUBMARINE VETS 12 - 3PM S.A.L. MEETING 7-830 PM	17 Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	18  Lounge Al Brady 6-10pm	19  Sat Night at The Races \$5.00
20  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	21 Recreations Show  Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	22 Queen of Hearts  Just Mike in Lounge 5-8pm	23 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM 40 & 8 Meeting 6-10 PM	24  Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	25  Lounge Joe Allen 6-10pm	26  Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
27  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	28 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	29 Queen of Hearts Pat Murphy in Lounge	30 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM	31  Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM		
<b>Notes: Front Office Hours: M-F: 9am - 4pm Sat: 9am - 12pm</b> 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						

## February 2019

### 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	Doors Open 0730 am For Bingo 5-7pm Italian Night:	5-7 - Kitchen Open Lounge Music and Dancing	6:30 - 8 pm Lounge Team Trivia

## ~ February 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pat Murphy in Lounge 6-10pm	2 National Commander's Dinner 6PM Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
3 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	4 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10u	5 Queen of Hearts  Just Mike in Lounge 5-8pm	6 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM  AUXILIARY MEETING 6-8 PM	7 Executive Board Meeting 4:30  Legion Riders 6:30 pm  Trivia Small Team	8 Amee Reese in Lounge 6-10pm	9 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM  Breakfast 7-11 \$7 this year.
10 New members Initiation Dinner  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	11 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	12 Queen of Hearts  Mike & Terry in lounge 5-8pm	13 POST MEETING 5:30-8 PM  Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM	14 Lounge Trivia Small Team 6PM	15 SONS Elvis & Patsi Cline Tribute.  Al Brady in lounge 6-10pm	16 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
17 AUX Fashion Show 2PM \$15  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	18 Dr Sheri 11:30  Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10 pm	19 Queen of Hearts  Lou Gatto In Lounge 5-8pm	20 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM  SUBMARINE VETS 12 - 3PM S.A.L. MEETING 7-830 PM	21 Lounge Trivia Small Team 6PM	22 Pam Valli in lounge 6-10pm	23 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
24 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	25 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10 pm	26 Queen of Hearts Johnny Ray McCullah 5-8PM	27 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM	28 Lounge Trivia Small Team 6PM		
<p><b>Notes: Front Office Hours: M-F: 9am - 4pm Sat: 9am - 12pm</b>            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>						