



American Legion-Veterans Memorial Post 347
Mail: P.O. Box 1534 Lady Lake, FL 32158-1534
(CR 466 & Rolling Acres Road)
699 W. Lady Lake Blvd.
Phone: 352-750-2099 / Fax: 352-750-2202
Web site: www.florida-legion.com
Lounge Phone: 352-750-0639
Email: alpost347@comcast.net

Bimonthly Newsletter for July – August 2019

From the Desk of Commander Elect, Bob Kiley: To the largest (and greatest) Post in our American Legion:
First off, I would like to say thank you to everyone who voted in our election. It does not matter who you voted for, just that you voted, period. To me, it shows that there are members that really care about our post, and they said so when they voted.

Second: I really don't have too much to report, due to the fact that I am not the Commander until July 1st. That being said, I want to inform you that we (the Commander and I), are having a smooth transition. I plan to keep our general membership meetings open to all members of our post 347 family. It is your Legion and your post, so I see no reason to segregate ourselves from the other members, (Sons, Auxiliary, Riders, etc). We are family in all respects.

Third: I noticed when I was the 6th District Commander and the Eastern Area Commander, that many of the Posts, just like other organizations, have people that are members that do nothing except bad mouth, back stab, and complain. Well, we are not just any other organization, WE ARE LEGION, and that makes us special. If there are complaints or problems, please don't make a mountain out of a molehill. We are here to serve all of you and will do our best to help any way we can. If you respect yourselves, and each other, we will have an even better post, every day, a place you look forward to coming to, to see old and good friends. I will be at the Convention in Orlando 27/29 June and then back, to get ready to take over my duties as Commander. You have given me your trust to take care of the post, now it is my job to merit that trust. Remember, I can't do it alone, I will need the advice and help of all members to get the job done for all. **For God and Country, Bob Kiley, Commander Elect of the best Post in the World.**

From the desk of 1st Vice Commander Joan Suelter. Hello fellow legionnaires: What a Way to start our 2019-2020 year with the US Senate, passing the Legion Act (S.504), "The Right to become a Legionnaire" This is exciting news. The passage of this act will open the doors to so many veterans, allowing them to have access to American Legion Programs and benefits. And anyone that has donned a uniform of our armed forces should have that right. The bill is now headed to the House of Representatives. I'll circle back with further information.

On a more personal note: I look forward to my new role as your 1st Vice Commander, the "largest post in the world." Please don't be a stranger, come in say "hello". A smile and hello cost nothing, but the impact is contagious in a good way. See you all soon.
"Forged by the Sea" Joan Suelter 1st Vice Commander

Auxiliary News: by, Cathy Trout, Madam President: First, I would like to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to be the President of Unit 347. It is truly a great honor.

As we begin the summer season, I would like to ask everyone to remain safe during all your summer activities and celebrations. We would like to see all of you return happy and healthy in the fall.

On August 10, we will have the installation of the new officers for the Auxiliary and the Post family officers. I am looking forward to working with all the pillars of the Legion family.

Our Unit membership finished this year with 2415 members. We are looking forward to meeting many new volunteers for our great organization. **For God and Country, Cathy Trout, Auxiliary President**

Sons of the American Legion. It is renewal time for membership in The Sons of the American Legion. As you know, membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Your membership dues contribute to the programs our Squadron sponsors and help to keep our membership growing. You and your continued membership are very important to us. ANNUAL DUES are \$30.00 for Regular, \$12.00 for Juveniles (Under 19) and \$12.00 for Dual Members.

"EARLY BIRD" renewal is before November 11, 2019 to be eligible for a year-end raffle of \$25 gift cards. Please print and fill-out the renewal form (see link below) and return it promptly with your annual dues check. Please make dues renewal checks out to: "Sons Squadron #347"

Renewal Form: <http://florida-legion.com/sons_images/Sons_347_Renewal_Letter_2019-2020.pdf>. Visit our membership web page: <http://florida-legion.com/sons_membership>. Mailing Address: Sons of the American Legion Squadron #347 P.O. Box 1534 Lady Lake, FL 32158

In case you did not renew for 2019, we miss you and we're hoping you decide to return with The Sons of the American Legion. You can still renew for 2020 by adding \$8 for back dues to the normal renewal dues. ANNUAL DUES are \$30.00 for Regular (\$38 w/back dues), \$12.00 for Juveniles (Under 19) (\$20 w/back dues) and \$12.00 for Dual (\$20 w/back dues). Please fill out the renewal form and return it promptly with your annual dues check, including the \$8 back-dues fee.

Raffle: We will raffle off 10 gift cards (\$25) to our early bird group of renewers. Yours in God and Country Bob O'Neal Adjutant

American Legion Riders from Gene Hapala Director: Many thanks to our outgoing Board of Officers, who have served our Chapter well during our first two years in operation. Your efforts and dedication to the Legion Riders mission have been much appreciated! And Congratulations to our new slate of Officers elected in May, who will serve for 2019-20: Director - Gene Hapala; Asst. Dir. - Jim Ward; Secretary - Charlotte Wilson; Treasurer - Louise Labbe; Sgt-at-Arms - Felicia Rawls; Chaplain - Sherri Ward. We are fully behind our new Executive Board to take Chapter 347 to even higher accomplishments and greater support of our Veteran community.

Thanks also to all Legion Family members and other supporters in the Tri-County area for the outstanding support of the monthly ALR 3rd Sunday Kitchen Time - the response to our Summer Menu Special of Home-Smoked Pulled Pork has been very positive and we will keep that item on the Sunday Menu thru the summer! As a reminder, this means that a regular bar style snack menu will be available during the 3rd Sundays and Bar Bingo, as well as a monthly "special" menu item such as a special sandwich or other interesting entre item. So come on out on the 3rd Sundays, from Noon to 3pm, and enjoy some fun food and if you like, some Bar Bingo! Monthly special menu items will be posted on Lounge TVs and on flyers posted on hallway bulletin boards.

A large group of our members took part in a week-long ride North to Washington, DC over Memorial Day Weekend to take part in the final Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Ride. After 31 years of increasing support and interest in this event, which began as a demonstration in support of POW's & MIA's from Viet Nam, and has grown to advocate for all Veterans left behind or unaccounted for from all wars, increasing costs and red tape will likely make this the final event in 2019. Our members joined other ALR Riders from Florida on their trip north and will represent Post 347 on this historic event. We are grateful that they all had safe and memorable journey!

Chapter 347 continues to grow, adding more several new members in recent months, including 4 new members in our newly created category of "Support Member". Support Members will 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 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!!

As we announced in previous Newsletters, it was announced by the American Legion National Commander at a dinner at Post 347 in February that Post 347 was selected to be the official Departure Point for the 2019 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Motorcycle Run. This is a HUGE honor for both our ALR Chapter and Post 347 and will see over 500 ALR members from across the state and region converging on Post 347 in mid-August to participate in this very special event. Preparations are continuing at a steady pace for the Post to host a first-class 3-day event in August. It was also announced at a recent Post 347 Monthly Meeting that the S.A.L and Auxiliary have both pledged \$5,000 to sponsor 5 ALR riders each to cover registration and trip expenses. Thank You, Post 347 Family!! You can learn more about this event at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

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. You can also visit our web page at <http://www.florida-legion.com/riders> and check out legacy info at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy> **Gene Hapala, Director**

Members who went to Post Everlasting in Mar-April 2019

DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name
05/02	William Campbell Jr.	05/02	Peg Henkel F.	05/04	Donnel H. Fox	05/04	John H. Shirley
05/11	Pasquale N. Terry	05/12	Clifford Cardinal F.	05/12	Carl Anderson	05/14	Roger Lauzon P.
05/16	Clarence Berry L.	05/16	Joseph A. Edmonds	05/19	Richard F. Radford		

FUTURE EVENTS

Don't forget your food bank items.

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.

All Tuesday night and SAL kitchen menus are posted on our website at www.florida-legion.com/Kitchen

Legion Officers 2019		Auxiliary Officers 2019		SAL Officers 2019	
Bob Kiley	<i>Commander</i>	Cathy Trout	<i>President</i>	John Gorsuch	<i>Commander</i>
Joan Suelter	<i>1st Vice Commander</i>	Maureen Caswell	<i>1st Vice President</i>	Doug White	<i>1st Vice Commander</i>
T.C. Biddle	<i>2nd Vice Commander</i>		<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Wayne Bower	<i>2nd Vice Commander</i>
Dan Martin	<i>3rd Vice Commander</i>	Beth Musser	<i>Secretary</i>	George Wooten	<i>Financial Officer</i>
Farrell Massey	<i>Chaplain</i>	Kathy Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>	Ben Kisielica	<i>Chaplain</i>
Mike Seidel	<i>Adjutant</i>	Nancy White	<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>	Lois Glosch	<i>Members at Large</i>	Charlie McGlone	<i>Member at Large</i>
John Trenkle	<i>Service Officer</i>	Mary Seidel	<i>Members at Large</i>	Mike Shebel	<i>JAG</i>
Guy Knaak	<i>Member at Large</i>	Maddie Romanoski	<i>Members at Large</i>	Doug White	<i>Adjutant</i>
Dave Musser	<i>Member at Large</i>			Legion Riders 2019	
Bob Soultter	<i>Member at Large</i>			Mike Haynes	<i>Director</i>
Bob Suelter	<i>Member at Large</i>			Bill Lynn	<i>Asst Director</i>
Al Varrone	<i>Past Commander</i>			Daniel Martin	<i>Treasurer</i>
Phil Crouthamel	<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>

July 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

~July 2019 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	2 Queen of Hearts Johnny Ray McCullah Lounge 5-8pm	3 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM Auxiliary Meeting 530 Social Hour 630 General Meet	4 JULY 4th Legion Riders 6:30 pm Trivia Small Team	5 Executive Board Meeting 4:30 Fred Campbell inLounge 6-10pm	6 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
7 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	8 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	9 Queen of Hearts Just Mike In Lounge 5-8pm	10 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM POST MEETING 5:30-8 PM	11 Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	12 Pam Valli In Lounge 6-10pm	13 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
14 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	15 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	16 Queen of Hearts Mike and Terry In Lounge 5-8pm	17 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM SUBMARINE VETS 12 - 3PM S.A.L. MEETING 7-830 PM	18 Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	19 Al Brady In Lounge 6-10 PM	20 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
21 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM SONS	22 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	23 Queen of Hearts D J Norn in Lounge 5-8pm	24 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM 40 & 8 Meeting 6-10 PM	25 Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	26 Joe Allen N Lounge 6-10pm	27 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
28 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	29 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	30 Queen of Hearts Fred Campbell in Lounge 5-8pm	31 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM			
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						

August 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

~ August 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Executive Board Meeting 4:30 Legion Riders 6:30 pm Trivia Small Team	2 Amee Reese in Lounge 6-10pm	3 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
4 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	5 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10u	6 Queen of Hearts Bubba in Lounge 5-8pm	7 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM AUXILIARY MEETING 6-8 PM	8 Lounge Trivia Small Team 6PM	9 Pam Valli in Lounge 6-10pm	10 Post /Aux Installation Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
11 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	12 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	13 Queen of Hearts Just Mike in Lounge 5-8pm	14 POST MEETING 5:30-8 PM Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM	15 Lounge Trivia Small Team 6PM	16 Al Brady in Lounge 6-10pm	17 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
18 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	19 Dr Sheri 11:30 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10 pm	20 Queen of Hearts Mike & Terry In Lounge 5-8pm	21 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM SUBMARINE VETS 12 - 3PM S.A.L. MEETING 7-830 PM	22 Lounge Trivia Small Team 6PM	23 DJ Norm in Lounge 6-10pm	24 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
25 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	26 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10 pm	27 Queen of Hearts Pat Murphy In Lounge 5-8PM	28 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM 40 & 8 Meeting 6-10 PM	29 Lounge Trivia Small Team 6PM	30 Joe Allen in Lounge 6-10pm	31 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
30 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM		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.				