



American Legion-Veterans Memorial Post 347  
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### Bimonthly Newsletter – May-June 2019

**Commanders Notes by Al Varonne:** Congratulations and *THANK YOU* to all of the members who renewed their membership, transferred from another Post or are new members of Post 347. As of April 12, 2019, Post Membership was at 102% with 6642 members.

May 4<sup>th</sup> the 6<sup>th</sup> District Constitutional Conference will be held at Post 347.

May 8<sup>th</sup> will we be voting for all elected positions of the Legion of the Post. Voting will be held from 11AM to 1PM in the Hall and during the Membership Meeting in the evening.

May 26<sup>th</sup> flags will be placed at the grave sites at the Florida National Cemetery.

May 30<sup>th</sup> we will have our Memorial Day Celebration at Lady Lake Cemetery.

June 9<sup>th</sup> the next Post Initiation will be held, Ellen will send invitations to all the candidates.

June 14<sup>th</sup> we will have our Flag Day Ceremony Time to be announced.

Our many "SNOWBIRDS" have either left or are getting ready to leave for the frozen tundra up north. We hope they have a safe journey and we hope to see them when they return in the fall.

Finally, this is my last edition of Commanders Notes. I would like to thank my entire Executive Committee for putting up with me for the last few years. I could not have accomplished anything without their assistance. I would also like to thank the members of the SAL, Riders and the Auxiliary for their support and cooperation.

I would be remiss if I didn't give special thanks to Bill Walsh, Mike Seidel, Bob Johnson, and Tim Tierney. Thanks for the ride.

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

**Chaplain's Corner: by Chaplain Joerg Wartenberg:**

Almighty Creator of us all and all of the Universe. Let us give thanks for all you have blessed us with, compassion love and understanding, support and guidance to lead THE AMERICAN LEGION for over 100 years. Honor, support and assist all our veterans. Give our Leadership the wisdom and strength to continue providing new challenges to be solved with you Lord as the guide. We thank you for our nation to be the greatest possible. Always be with our soldiers that are actively serving so that we may be able to continue living as a free nation. May America be the example for other nations to follow?  
Keep Americanism for God and Country our mission and goal. AMEN **Joerg Wartenberg.**

**From the desk of the 1st Vice Commander Ellen Tierney:** 102.83% - 6642 members as of April 12, 2019. Thank you one and all, as I've said previously this is a family undertaking to achieve the membership goals set by the Department of Florida and we did it and DID IT IN A BIG WAY. As I come to the end of my second year, I appreciate your support of Post 347 and myself. Our next initiation of new members, which is by invitation only, is in June for those new members who joined in February, March, April and May. I look forward to seeing everyone enjoying all Post 347 has to offer, "The Largest Post in The World".

**AIM HIGH, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY** - Ellen Tierney

**Auxiliary News: by, Ruth Sovern, Madam President:** Happy Spring!! It's hard to believe the 2018 - 2019 membership year is almost over. The year-end reports are finished and we "**Thank You**" for a very successful year in supporting our programs through your dues and attending our fundraisers. Because of you Unit 347 was able to provide more than \$108,000 in donations and scholarships for our Veterans, Children and Youth (the future of our country) and our Community. We are asking that all Legion Family members set aside 2 hours of their time during our Poppy Days, May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be signing up volunteers at our May 1<sup>st</sup> membership meeting and also in the Post lobby, throughout May, on Tuesday evenings, 4

to 7 PM. If you would like to volunteer 2 hours of your time, at one of our 7 locations, please contact our Poppy Chairman Carolee McReynolds, 352-751-6111.

Our Unit Officer elections will be held at our May General Membership meeting. Hopefully, you will join us and make your vote count by choosing the members that will continue to keep our Unit successful and follow our mission, "In Spirit of Service, Not Self".

I thank you for giving me the honor and the privilege of being your 2018-2019 President. I'm sure you will continue to support the new incoming Officers as you have supported us this past year. **For God and Country, Ruth Sovern, Auxiliary President**

**Sons of the American Legion.** Thanks to everyone who volunteered and those who attended our March sold-out Vegas Night dinner-show event featuring Elvis and Patsy Cline tribute performers. Officer election season is upon us and we have nearly a full slate of candidates. Our income for the year has exceeded forecasts due to great turnout at our 3 weekly dining events and membership renewal/new breaking 110%.

Our two Dine-to-Donate events at Texas Roadhouse were successes, thanks for coming out for them. If we can get a few volunteers we'd be able to do this every month, please help out! Bernie Harchar developed a course to teach Sons who we are and what we do. We'll be scheduling class every 3rd Wednesday at 5:30, before the General Meeting, and we encourage everyone to attend.

Visit our website for more information about The Sons Squadron #347: <http://florida-legion.com/sons>

**For God and Country, 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 the outstanding support of the monthly ALR Sunday Dinners - the response to our Winter Menu of Shepherd's Pie was very positive and we will bring that entre back next winter! The dinners will continue in May, but with a new twist - through a very exciting agreement with our Post 347 Sons Squadron, ALR 347 has been offered, and has accepted, full responsibility for the kitchen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month! That means that a regular bar style snack menu will be available during 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, from Noon to 5pm, 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 are busy preparing for 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, will be holding its final event in 2019. Our members will be joining other ALR Riders from Florida on their trip north and will represent Post 347 on this historic event. We wish them a 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". We were thrilled to have as our first Support Members our Post Cdr Varrone and his wife, Joyce! 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 the previous Newsletter, 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. Or, visit our web page at <http://www.florida-legion.com/riders>

**Michael Haynes, Director**

## Members who went to Post Everlasting in Mar-April 2019

<b>DOD</b>	<b>Member's Name</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Member's Name</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Member's Name</b>	<b>DOD</b>	<b>Member's Name</b>
03/31	Paul W. Bishop	03/23	Robert J Quick	04/04	Frank Sangillo	04/06	Fred G. Klein

### 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](http://www.florida-legion.com)/Kitchen

Legion Officers 2019		Auxiliary Officers 2019		SAL Officers 2019	
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>	Doug White	<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 Worton	<i>Finance Officer</i>
Joerg Wartenberg	<i>Chaplain</i>	Kathy Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>	Ben Kisielica	<i>Chaplain</i>
Mike Seidel	<i>Adjutant</i>	Ann Huxtable	<i>Historian</i>	Vacant	<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>	Members at Large		Charlie McGlone	<i>Member at Large</i>
John Trenkle	<i>Service Officer</i>	Mary LaNoce (Past President)		Mike Shebel	<i>JAG</i>
Guy Knaak	<i>Member at Large</i>	Carol Pirone-Udell		Robert O'Neal	<i>Adjutant</i>
Lois Glosch	<i>Member at Large</i>	Mary Seidel		<b>Legion Riders 2019</b>	
Bob Soultter	<i>Member at Large</i>	Marcia Silva		Mike Haynes	<i>Director</i>
Ron Monat	<i>Member at Large</i>			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>

## May 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Noon-2:30pm Bar Bingo Meal</b>	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

~May 2019 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM  Auxiliary Meeting 530 Social Hour 630 General Meet	2 Executive Board Meeting 4:30  Legion Riders 6:30 pm  Trivia Small Team	3 Lounge DJ Norm 6-10pm	4 6 <sup>th</sup> District Constitutional Conference Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
5  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	6  Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	7  Queen of Hearts  Pat Murphy Lounge 5-8pm	8  Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM Post Voting 11AM to 1PM in the Hall <b>POST MEETING</b> 5:30-8 PM	9  Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	10  Lounge Amee Reese 6-10pm	11  Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
12  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	13  Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	14  Queen of Hearts  Johnny Ray McCullah Lounge 5-8pm	15  Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM SUBMARINE VETS 12 - 3PM S.A.L. MEETING 7-830 PM	16  Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	17  Lounge Pam Valli 6-10 PM	18  Sat Night at The Races \$5.00
19  Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM SONS	20  Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	21  Queen of Hearts  Mike & Terry in Lounge 5-8pm	22  Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM 40 & 8 Meeting 6-10 PM	23  Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	24  Poppy Days  Lounge Al Brady 6-10pm	25  Poppy Days  Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
26  Placing Flags at Florida National Cemetery Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	27  Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	28  Queen of Hearts  Just Mike in Lounge	29  Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM	30  Memorial Day Celebration at Lady Lake Cemetery Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	31  Ride Lounge Joe Allen 6-10pm	1  Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Ride
<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						

## June 2019

### AMERICAN LEGION Weekly Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Noon-2:30pm Bar Bingo Meal	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

## ~ June 2019 ~

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