



American Legion – Veterans Memorial Post 347
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Bimonthly Newsletter – November - December 2018

Commander's Notes by Al Varrone: On Sept 15th approximately 40 Post members took a bus ride to Post 186 Spring Hill and Post 155 Crystal River. Although we overwhelmed Spring Hill, Crystal River stepped up and put out a nice spread for us. If we didn't have Trivia that night, we probably would have stayed there longer.

October 13th our monthly breakfast started back up. They will be running the second Saturday of each month until April. 7AM to 11AM, only \$7. Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage and Gravy, biscuits, coffee and OJ.

On October 14th we held our new member post initiation ceremony.

The Department of Florida fall conference will be held in Orlando November 1st thru the 4th . We will have a contingent of officers from the post attending.

On November 11th the Post will celebrating Veterans Day starting at 11 AM. That's 11/11 at 11.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for November 14th.

Tickets for our New Year's Eve Party go on sale on Nov. 14th. Tickets for our 5th annual Thanksgiving Dinner have sold out.

In order to give our Kitchen Volunteers, the holidays off, we will close the Kitchen the week of Dec. 24th . The Kitchen will reopen on New Year's Eve. Wishing Everyone a Happy Holidays. **For God and Country. Commander Al Varrone**

Adjutant's Notes: Some of you are receiving a renewal notice after you have paid your dues and have received your new membership card. Some question our bookkeeping, some think we drink too much, and some complain this happens to them every year. The renewal process is as follows: *Membership in the American Legion is on a calendar basis, January 1 to December 31. However due to the large membership National starts the renewal process in July prior to the end of the membership year. National makes a mailing in July with an American Legion Annual Dues Notice form that was printed in April based on Nationals rolls at that time. Whether you pay your dues at this time is your option. When you pay your dues, whether it is the first mailing or a later mailing your dues are paid to a local post unless you pay National with a credit card online. The local post processes your dues, mails out new membership card and sends dues paid notices weekly to Department of Florida in Orlando along with Department and Nationals share of the members' dues. Department of FL office process all dues notices paid at local post in state of Florida and mails paid dues notice to National. This process at times causes a time spread of 4 to 6 weeks from the time a member pays their dues to a local post until National update their records. Keeping in mind Renewal notices at National are printed a week to ten days prior to mailing. The time between mailing of renewal notices becomes shorter as the end of the calendar year approaches. This can cause a receipt of a renewal notice after paying of dues to a local post or even a credit card online. If you know you have paid your dues and have a new membership card PLEASE disregard the renewal notice.*
For God and Country, Mike Seidel, Adjutant

Chaplain's Corner: *by Chaplain Joerg Wartenberg.* CHAPLAIN CORNER: ITS AMAZING THE END OF THE YEAR 2018 IS ALREADY HERE. THE TIME SET ASIDE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, GETTING TOGETHER DURING THE FESTIVITIES CELEBRATED OF OUR CHOOSING.

LET US UNITE AND PRAY: GREAT CREATOR OF ALL, WE ARE THANKFULL FOR THE ENDLESS GRACE YOU GRANT EACH AND EVERYONE OF US. LET YOUR WISDOM GUIDE EACH ONE OF US, THAT WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE OUR OWN RIGHT DECISIONS. CONSIDERING RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER , COMPASSION AND COMRADESHIP.

WE AS **LEGIIONNAIRES** WILL STAND FOR AMERICANISM AND PATRIOTISM TO MAINTAIN OUR FREEDOM THAT IS PRESENT BECAUSE OF YOUR BLESSING FOR OUR COUNTRY AND ITS PRINCIPALS. THE SACRIFICE MADE BY OUR COURAGES VETERANS AND OUR ACTIVE MILITARY TODAY. **Amen Joerg Wartenberg.**

From the desk of the 1st Vice Commander Ellen Tierney: The end of early bird status for membership is getting closer. Hopefully you've renewed your dues for 2019 by NOVEMBER 11. This will entitle you to be entered into our drawing for one of the gift cards we will be giving out this year INSTEAD of the spaghetti dinner.

So far we are on track meeting the goals set by Department and National for membership renewal. We achieved 55% (3553 members renewed) by September 5th and are on track for the next goal of 60% (3861 members) in October. We held our quarterly initiation of new members on October 14th. 182 new members were invited. Special thanks to the Honor Guard who assisted with posting of the Colors and presenting the certificates and welcome packets to those new Members who attended. The next initiation will be February 3rd. It is by invitation only for those NEW members who join in the months of October through January. AIM HIGH, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY –**1st Vice Commander Ellen Tierney**

Auxiliary News: by, Ruth Sovern, Madam President: Happy Fall y'all and welcome home to all of our seasonal members!! We have been busy planning our 2018 - 2019 year and with every ones help we'll have another successful year of service to our Veterans, Community and Children & Youth.

On Veteran's Day, November 11th, after the Veteran's Day Ceremony, as our Thank You to our Veterans, the Auxiliary will serving FREE lunch to our Veterans (Hamburgers and hot dogs with baked beans, potato salad, chips and dessert). For all other guests the cost will be \$5. The food will be served in the Lounge from 12 to 2 PM. If you would like to help by volunteering please contact us.

Our Unit is now serving snacks at the Mulberry VA Clinic three days a month, serving approximately 150 Veterans each day. Our Sunday Bar Bingo proceeds allow us to provide this service to our Veterans. We're considering expanding to 4 or 5 days a month if we find enough volunteers and have the funds to support our endeavor so, **Thank You** for your support when playing on Sundays!

Since July 1st, we've already donated well over \$25,000 to our VA Clinics, VA Hospitals, Fisher Houses, Scholarship Funds, Camp Boggy Creek, Special Olympics, Final Salute, our local Community, (including \$450 per month to 3 local food banks) and to our local schools. This is done though your support of Bar Bingo (Wednesday and Sunday), Thursday Bingo Kitchen, Trivia Food sales, our No Bake Bake Sale and the \$13.50 we get to keep from each of your annual dues of \$35.

You should have received your Renewal Dues notice from National Headquarters by now, either by email or regular mail. You also should have received our annual President's letter mailed in September with our No Bake Bake Sale flyer and a reminder it's time for 2019 dues. If you have not received any notice please contact us to verify we have your correct address on file: ALAUnit347@comcast.net (email) or, 352-751-5905 (leave a message).

Annual dues paid on, or before, Veteran's Day, November 11th, will be eligible for an "Early Bird" drawing for a \$25 gift card. Stop by the front office at the Post, Monday through Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM, leave your check or cash and we will mail you your card. You may also pay online, by credit card, through the National Website and they will send you your card. (<https://www.alaforveterans.org>).

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.

Future Events:

November 2nd - 4th: Fall Conference: Renaissance Sea World, Orlando

November 4th - Auxiliary New Member Initiation, Unit 347, 1 PM. Contact Cathy Trout. Must RSVP to attend.

November 7th - Next Auxiliary General Membership meeting. 5:30 Social Hour, 6:30 Meeting.

November 11th: Veteran's Day lunch, free for Veterans, \$5 all others.

November 16th - Thanksgiving Food Baskets, 8 AM - 6 PM. Contact Maureen Caswell if you want to help.

For God and Country Ruth Sovern, Madam President

Sons of the American Legion: I want to thank the many Sons members and others who have volunteered so far during my term; we don't survive without our many volunteers. We raise over a third of our funds from meal sales and kitchen/lounge volunteers are critical to that success. Our meal sales are on a steady increase compared to previous years due to menu adjustments, great cooks like Angelo Speziale, and effective promotion. I'm asking any interested volunteers, even if for only 4-8 hours per month, contact Bernie Harchar <bharchar@aol.com>, 440-724-2137, and sign-up. A great deal of volunteer hours are donated by our Officers and I thank them for their continuous dedication. Speaking of giving, our monthly bloodmobile drive started in October and will occur every 2nd Saturday morning in conjunction with the Post breakfast. Donate blood at the bloodmobile and the Post Cmdr will pay for your breakfast! Lastly, I urge each of our members to recruit at least one new member this year; with the goal of doubling the size of our Squadron by June 2019.

Yours in God and Country **Danny L. Adams Jr.** Commander SAL #347

Members who went to Post Everlasting in Sept-Oct 2018

DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name	DOD	Member's Name
9/02	William P. Brophy	9/03	John a. Leneve	9/09	Donald D. Hillwig
9/13	Harry Pirvo	9/14	Charles A. Schimmel	9/16	John Barkus
9/18	Joseph B. Johnson	9/19	Raymond J. Podkowa	9/30	Roger E. Rolston
10/2	Charles Gunion	10/9	George H. League		

FUTURE EVENTS

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

November 2018

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

~November 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Legion Fl Dept Conference Orlando 1-4 Nov	2 Lounge Pam Valli 6-10pm AUX Fall Conf Orlando FL	3 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM AUX Fall Conf Orlando FL
4 Aux Initiation Dinner 1PM Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM AUX Fall Conf Orlando FL	5 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	6 Queen of Hearts Mike & Terry Lounge 5-8pm	7 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM Auxiliary Meeting 530 Social Hour 630 General Meet	8 Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM Executive Board 430PM Legion Riders 6:30 pm	9 Lounge Joe Allen 6-10pm	10 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM Breakfast 7-11AM \$7.00 this year
11 Veterans Day Lunch (Free for Veterans) Boy-Cub Scouts 2-4PM	12 Medical Marijuana Seminar 12:30-4:30 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	13 Queen of Hearts Pat Murphy Lounge 5-8pm	14 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM POST MEETING 5:30-8 PM	15 <i>New Year's Eve</i> <i>Tickets go on Sale</i> <i>Today in Lounge</i> Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	16 Lounge Amee Reese 6-10pm Thanksgiving Baskets 8AM-6PM	17 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
18 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	19 Dr. Sheri 11:30 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	20 Queen of Hearts Just Mike 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 Small Team Trivia 6PM	23 Lounge DJ Norm 6-10pm	24 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
25 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	26 Lounge Karaoke David Baldwin 6-10	27 Queen of Hearts Lou Gatto in Lounge	28 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM 40 & 8 Meeting 6-10 PM	29 Lounge Small Team Trivia 6PM	30 Lounge Al Brady 6-10pm	
<p>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</p>						

December 2018

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

~ December 2018 ~

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 6-10	4 Queen of Hearts Just Mike 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 Pat Murphy in Lounge 6-10pm	8 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM Breakfast 7-11 \$7 this year.
9 Post New members Initiation Dinner 1-3PM Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	10 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10	11 Queen of Hearts Bubba in lounge 5-8pm	12 POST MEETING 5:30-8 PM Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM	13 Lounge Trivia Small Team	14 Amee Reese in Lounge 6-10pm	15 Wreaths Across America Noon, Lady Lake Cemetery Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
16 AUX October Feast 5-9PM Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	17 Dr Sheri 11:30 Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10 pm	18 Queen of Hearts Mike Michaels 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	21 Al Brady in lounge 6-10pm	22 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
23 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	24 SAL Casino Night Lounge Karaoke by David Baldwin 6-10 pm	25 Queen of Hearts Merry Christmas	26 Lounge Bar Bingo Members & Their Guests 2:15PM	27 Lounge Trivia Small Team	28 Johnny Ray McCullah in lounge 6-10pm	29 Lounge Team Trivia Al Brady 6:30 PM
30 Lounge Bar Bingo 2PM	31 Lounge DJ Norm and Pam Valli	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.				