

# American Legion

## Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117

January / February  
2014  
Issue No. 1



### Monthly Events At A Glance . . .

#### JANUARY

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 3 to 7 pm
- ◆ Taco Night - Every Tuesday except for Shirley's Fish Fry
- ◆ National Commander Visit - Monday, January 6th, 11 am
- ◆ Shirley's Fish Fry - Tuesday, January 14th, 12 to 7 pm

#### FEBRUARY

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 3 to 7 pm
- ◆ Taco Night - Every Tuesday except for Shirley's Fish Fry
- ◆ Super Bowl Bash - Pot Luck & Chili Cook-Off, See Flyer
- ◆ Shirley's Fish Fry - Tuesday, February 11th, 12 to 7 pm
- ◆ Murder Mystery Dinner - Saturday, February 15th, See Flyer

#### MARCH

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 3 to 7 pm
- ◆ Taco Night - Every Tuesday except for Shirley's Fish Fry
- ◆ Miss-ter America Paegent, Saturday, March 8th, Time TBA
- ◆ Shirley's Fish Fry - Tuesday, March 11th, 12 to 7 pm
- ◆ District 12 Picnic - Saturday, March 15th, All Day Event
- ◆ St Patrick's Day Dinner - Details TBA
- ◆ First Response Picnic - Saturday, March 22nd, Details TBA

#### Post Meetings:

Legion Meeting – 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm  
SAL Meeting – 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm  
Auxiliary Meeting – 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm  
Legion Riders Meeting – 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm  
40 & 8 Voiture 1621 – 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm  
La Femmes – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Post Website: [www.al117.com](http://www.al117.com)

Legion Riders Website: [www.alr117.com](http://www.alr117.com)

American Legion, Charles F Thomas IV Post 117 Inc.  
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, FL 32909  
Veterans Organization Certificate #15-00-064930-58C  
Florida Department of Revenue

### American Legion Officers

Commander ..... Duane Podhola  
1st Vice Com ..... Bob Wiseman  
2nd Vice Com ..... Bruce Thurber  
Adjutant ..... Jesse Figueroa  
Finance Officer ..... David Fox  
Chaplain ..... Charlie Christy  
Sgt. At Arms ..... Matt Zirwas  
Asst. Sgt. At Arms ... **Open**  
Historian ..... Ray Yarnell  
Judge Advocate ..... Jim Fournier  
Service Officer ..... **Open**  
Executive Committee:

Mike Demarte & Tom Giampino

### American Legion Auxiliary Officers

President ..... Dawn Burgess  
1st Vice Pres..... Janet Podhola  
2nd Vice Pres ..... Sheila Cline-Burns  
Treasurer..... Kim Oaks  
Secretary..... Nancy Bristol  
Sgt. At Arms..... Barbara Ward  
Chaplain..... Barbara Simons  
Asst. Sgt. At Arms... Takeema Lewis-Figueroa  
Historian ..... Linda Lanier  
Membership..... Janet Podhola  
Executive Members at Large:

Boots Kimber, Teresa Linton, & Sheila Culnan

### Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander. Bruce Walkowiak  
1st Vice S.C..... Bruce Thurber  
2nd Vice S.C..... Tony Gannon  
Sgt. At Arms..... Ray Yarnell  
Finance Officer ..... Ray Mohr  
Asst. Sgt. At Arms..... Stephan Raspante  
Historian..... Doyle Hughes  
Adjutant ..... Jesse Figueroa  
Chaplain..... Dick Kissinger

### American Legion Riders Officers

Director ..... Dick Kissinger  
Asst Director..... Jim Fournier  
Secretary..... Sheila Cline-Burns  
Treasurer..... Warren Wallace  
Chaplain..... Matt Burns  
Sgt. At Arms..... Duane Podhola  
Historian..... Dawn Burgess  
Safety Officer..... Terry Doiel

# Commander's Corner

Dear Legion, Aux, and SAL Members,

Happy New Year everyone. First of all I would like to thank everyone for making 2013 a very successful year for our Post. We accomplished a lot of things last year, many thanks goes out to all the volunteers who worked diligently at our events, dinners, and activities. My thanks to the Officers of the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders for their support throughout the year and accomplishments they have made.

Some of the items we accomplished this year included putting some finishing touches on our Tiki Bar, building a stage for our outside entertainment, refinished and landscaped our memorial, widened our driveway apron, painted the hall, and many other repairs and replacements around the Post. My thanks to the many volunteers who give their time and money to make these things happen. I would also like to thank the Committee Members for their support this past year as well as the Canteen Staff for their dedication and hard work.

Our membership renewals in all the organizations are looking pretty good but we still need to push for that 100%. Bartenders will be asking to see your current membership cards after the New Year so please cooperate with them and show your card with pride. It is an honor to be a member of this great organization so let them know you are proud to be a member and thank them for asking.

We have a lot of activities coming up in the next few months so please mark your calendar and participate in them. Nominations for Post Officer positions will begin in March and April and Post elections will occur in May. Election day will be posted. Thanks again for a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

*Duane Podhola*

**Commander, American Legion Post 117**



## Ways and Means Committee

**Chairman:** Duane Podhola  
**Members:** Bruce Thurber  
Bruce Walkowiak  
Dawn Burgess  
Sheila Cline-Burns  
Dave Fox  
Teresa Linton  
Sheila Culnan  
Jim Fournier  
Dick Kissinger



**Meeting: 1st Monday of Month, 7:00PM**

## House Committee

**Chairman:** Tom Giampino  
**Members:** James Kimber  
Jimmy Donovan  
Doug Ely  
Bob Wiseman  
Jesse Figueroa  
Mike Demarte



**Meeting: 2nd Monday of Month, 7:00PM**

## Canteen Staff

**Canteen Manager:** Sheila Cline-Burns  
**Volunteer Bartenders:** Shirley Domonousky  
Sheila Culnan  
Linda Abbott  
Barbara Mohr  
Linda Pollock  
Haley Farris  
Terry Rook



## Honor Guard

**Commander:** Matt Zirwas  
**Members:** Jim Fournier  
Bruce Thurber  
Tom McCausland  
Ray Yarnell  
Bruce Walkowiak  
Donna Walkowiak  
Stephan Raspante  
Mike DeMarte  
Jesse Figueroa  
Brandon Thurber



Auxiliary,

Happy New Year! The holiday season is now behind us and we look forward to the months ahead with more events, fundraising activities and service to our community and veterans. I would like to thank all the Unit members, volunteers and Post family for your support of our efforts over the holidays. Because of you, we were able to surpass our season goals.



**AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY**

Thanksgiving dinner baskets were delivered to twenty-four families; over seventy community children received presents for Christmas via the Angel Tree; fourteen families in need received Christmas presents; and over fifty members' children and grandchildren enjoyed their own party, presents and visit with Santa. Special thanks to the Legion Riders for escorting Santa to the party. You are all truly amazing!

Our Unit also donated to NVHS, 4 The Kids of Brevard (who helped us with Christmas presents for needy children), and many hours serving our Post and veterans. Unit 117 received a Silver Award for our contribution to Special Olympics this year. Our own Dorothy Walsh and Barbara Simons received national recognition and a plaque for all their hard work as Chairwomen for Homeless Heroes initiatives. Way to go ladies!

Again, I can't stress how proud I am of all of you and the things you do to help our Unit thrive. Big or small, your actions are making an impact in the lives of others. Thank you! Next up, our Second Annual Chili Cook-Off, Valentine's Murder Mystery Dinner, and a special luncheon for community First Responders. Keep an eye on the board in the Canteen, or on Facebook for the latest info. Until next time, I hope 2014 brings you all health, happiness and prosperity. For God and Country,

*Dawn Burgess*

**American Legion Auxiliary President, Unit 117**

### *National Commander Visit*

On Monday, 6 January 2014, the American Legion National Commander, Daniel Dellinger will be visiting our Post between the hours of 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. He will be accompanied by his Aide Bob Renner, NEC Dennis Boland, Department Commander Art Schwabe, District Commander Ken Wakefield, and others. They will be having lunch at the Post and if the weather is good it will be served in the Tiki Bar. They will be given a tour of our facility and offered the opportunity to do the Chip Challenge. I would encourage Legion Post Officers to be in attendance if they are available.



Dan Dellinger of Vienna, Va., was elected National Commander in Houston, during the 95th National Convention. He became an Army infantry officer after graduating with a degree in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He served at Fort Benning, Ga., during the Vietnam War and entered the U.S. Army Reserve in 1972, separating from the service in 1984 at the rank of captain.

SAL Members,

The Holidays are behind us. I hope everyone had great times with family and friends. There was Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner offered at our Post. I would like to thank SAL members and everyone who made this possible. With our great family at Post 117 holidays are a great enjoyment for all of our family and us. I myself missed out on the Santa escort and other holiday events I enjoyed because of other obligations, but I was glad to hear it was enjoyed by others.



**SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN LEGION**

We have several upcoming events in the next two months. Please look at the calendar and make plans. I will not put all of them here. I will poke the SAL meet and Greet March 1st 2014. This is a district greet and meet so come out and enjoy the company of fellow SAL members. Live music, food, and great festivities.

Looking ahead March meeting 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 we will have our first nominations for officers for 2014/2015 year. Are you interested in running for an office? Think about this and get ready for this year upcoming nominations. As always we are in need of help in the kitchen on our week, first Thursday, Friday and Sunday of the month. Please, any little bit helps.

*Bruce Walkowiak*

**Sons of the American Legion Commander, Squadron 117**



Fellow Legion Riders,

Here we are at the end of a busy year, a lot has happened in the last two months. First the Riders helped with the Special Olympics and had a successful poker run. Next we rode with the Wild Dogs benefit which was very nice. We went to a Meet and Greet at Post 163 and met a lot of new friends and riders from our area. Then we did a fun run with Post 189 in Sebastian.



Then the fun stuff came about with the Toy Run out of Merritt Island. Some of us couldn't get there because of the heavy rain but the ones that left early got a little wet. Next we did a Toys for Tots ride out of Earls. We had a good time. The most important thing we did this month was the one year celebration of our Tiki Bar with lots of food and drinks. We had a band that was very good.

Members you need to get your money in for 2014. We have had 6 new members in the last two weeks and the outlook is good for our Riders. I want to thank you for volunteering for our activities. I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I'm looking forward to working with the Riders in the upcoming year.

*Richard Kissinger*

**Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 117**

### *Special Olympics Benefit*

On November 2, S.A.L had an event to raise money for Special Olympics. The community and businesses in the area joined together and made this event a success. I want to thank all the organizations at Post 117 for their help and donations. We made \$ 3300 with the selling of food and raffles. We also had about 65 riders taking part.

Then on December 7th we parked cars at the post for the Christmas parade. We ended up parking 65 cars and made \$195.00. So we ended up with about \$3500.00 and this money will stay in Brevard County. Again I would like to thank everyone for their help.

*Richard Kissinger*

**S.A.L. Chaplain, Squadron 117**

### *Honor Guard Accomplishments*

The Honor Guard had a very busy year. We held ceremonies on most major events at the Post and supported memorial services for several veterans. After many of them we received donations from the families of deceased veterans and the facilities. We appreciated their support. As the Honor Guard Commander, I am proud to be their leader. We will be conducting rehearsals sometime on the weekends after the New Year. I would like to thank the following members for giving their time in support of the Honor Guard:

|                 |                 |                  |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Jesse Figueroa  | Jim Fournier    | Bruce Thurber    | Tom McCausland  | Ray Yarnell  |
| Bruce Walkowiak | Donna Walkowiak | Stephan Raspante | Brandon Thurber | Mike DeMarte |

Some of the events we covered this year included Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Marine Corps Birthday, and numerous funerals. If any member is interested in joining our Honor Guard, then please contact me at 321-216-6015.

*Matt Zirwas*

**Commander, Post 117 Honor Guard  
Sergeant-At-Arms, American Legion Post 117**



## *40/8 Voiture 1621*

The Forty and Eight group of comrades has finished a successful year. Many fundraisers (St Patrick's Day, Oktoberfest, and others) allowed us to award \$500 to a nursing scholarship and to provide Thanksgiving meals to 25 hungry families. With 34 members, we were number two in the state for membership.



Though no longer directly affiliated with the American Legion, most 40/8 members are Legionnaires from several Posts, the VFW and elsewhere from Port St John to Sebastian. Active duty and honorably discharged service men and women are eligible for membership by invitation. To learn more, please see our pages on the AL117.com website.

We thank the members of Post 117 for its support in providing a place for us to meet and for hosting our activities. We look forward to our mutually beneficial relationship in the year ahead. Happy New Year to you all from the men and women of the Forty and Eight.

*Bill Craig*

**Chef de Gare**

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## *La Femmes Cabane 1621*

La Femmes is a national organization, chartered in 1963, celebrating our 51<sup>st</sup> year. Our sole purpose is to support the programs and principals of the Forty and Eight, which has been chartered since 1919 by veterans returning from WWI.



Our La Femmes Cabane 1621 has been chartered since 2007 and our energies have focused on some of the 40/8 priorities, especially CHILD WELFARE to include:

- ◆ Providing continued support of Camp Boggy Creek, a medical camp for critically ill children
- ◆ Providing contributions to local children's charities
- ◆ Supporting timely special projects for families at holiday times

Our organization supports the 40/8 POW/MIA national program with monthly financial donations toward direct scholarships for validated veterans and direct descendants of POW/MIA. We educate and provide treatment for Hansen's Disease, (Leprosy, still a threat to Floridians,) through the CARVILLE STAR, a national priority program for the 40/8 for 6 decades.

Our local group has a 2014 goal to financially support the Florida medical clinic in Miami. NURSE'S TRAINING has been a well-supported program, both locally and nationally, and Voiture 1621 has provided nursing scholarships to BCC students since inception of the local charter. We are a service-oriented active group, feel free to ask us about our programs.

*Sharon McCausland*

**La Presidente**

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## *Upcoming Events*

As we leave 2013 behind we will begin a very busy 2014. Each of the Legion Family organizations have many Projects and Fundraisers. Let's all support each other and make everything that 117 does a huge success. If your group is planning an event please insure that the Ways and Means gets it on the books in advance so they can eliminate scheduling conflicts. Some of the upcoming events are:

Visit by the National Commander, 6 Jan  
Legacy Run Stop TBA

Super Bowl Party, 2 Feb  
SAL Eastern Area Meet and Great

District 12 Picnic, 15 Mar  
Florida Riders Rally, 16-17 May

*Bruce Thurber*

**2nd Vice Commander**

# Boosters

Bill Butler (5/15)  
Elaine Griswold (7/14)  
Duane & Janet Podhola (1/15)  
Barbie & Ken (7/14)  
Howard & Kathy Print (3/15)  
Chet Jenkins (9/13)  
Ruben & Asia Rodriguez (9/14)  
Ernie & Shirley Winslow (1/15)  
Barb & Ray Mohr (3/14)  
Tom Sullivan (7/14)  
Robert & Sandra Mack (9/14)  
Dianne Thibodeau (11/15)  
Jimmy "D" & Millie (11/14)

## ~ FROM OUR CHAPLAIN ~

Our Chaplain can be contacted regarding deaths, illness or requests for help

Charlie Christy (321) 795-1427  
298 Jaro Street  
Palm Bay, FL 32908

## Booster Information

Due to the rising cost of printing and postage for the newsletters, we are asking you to help defray the cost by participating as a booster every year. A \$15 donation will allow you two names for one year.

*Note:* The numbers after your name indicate what month & year you need to renew your booster check made out to the "American Legion Post 117".

## Hall Rental Information

Our Post Hall is available for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc.  
Call the Legion at 321-729-8089 for prices & booking info

## Service Officer Support

*Our Post Service Officer, Larry Richardson, recently moved out of the area and we are looking for someone to take that position. He has informed me that he will continue to work those cases he had prior to leaving. Below is his address and phone number if you need to contact him.*

**Larry Richardson**      **814-520-5109 (Home)**  
**3313 Maple Street**      **321-305-7999 (Cell)**  
**Erie, PA 16508**

## Volunteers

*Our Post is currently made up of around 1200 members, 700 Legion, 350 Auxiliary, and 150 Sons of the American Legion. One would think that out of that quantity we would have plenty of volunteers to help with meals, bingo, steak shoot, and support for Post activities. However, this is not the case. We are always in need of more volunteers to avoid burning out those that are continuously tasked to make meals, decorate, serve food, etc. If you have some spare time please get involved with your organization and give a little of your time. You will be greatly appreciated and who knows, you might even have some fun doing it. Please attend your Post meetings and get involved. Become part of the team.*

Thanks,  
**Commander**



## Karaoke Entertainment Schedule



| Date       | Entertainer(s)  |
|------------|-----------------|
| 03 January | Jimmy "D"       |
| 05 January | Tropical Nights |
| 10 January | Dan Haber       |
| 12 January | Jimmy "D"       |
| 17 January | Tropical Nights |
| 19 January | Dan Haber       |
| 24 January | Chuck Body      |
| 26 January | Chuck Body      |
| 31 January | Tropical Nights |

| Date        | Entertainer(s)    |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 02 February | <b>No Karaoke</b> |
| 07 February | Jimmy "D"         |
| 09 February | Jimmy "D"         |
| 14 February | Dan Haber         |
| 16 February | Dan Haber         |
| 21 February | Tropical Night    |
| 23 February | Chuck Body        |
| 28 February | Chuck Body        |

### Legion Shirts For Sale

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| T-Shirts (Tan) .....      | \$12 |
| Polo-Shirts (White) ..... | \$25 |

### Riders Shirts For Sale

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| Men's Tank Tops (Black)..... | \$10 |
| Men's Muscle Shirts (Black). | \$10 |
| Ladies Tank Top (Black)..... | \$15 |
| Ladies V-Neck (Black).....   | \$15 |
| T-Shirts (Maroon).....       | \$15 |
| Denim (Lt Blue).....         | \$25 |
| Long Sleeve (Black).....     | \$25 |
| Small Patch.....             | \$5  |
| Large Patch.....             | \$20 |

### SAL Items For Sale

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Flag Poles.....   | \$50 |
| US Flag.....      | \$20 |
| POW/MIA Flag..... | \$30 |
| SAL Hats.....     | \$10 |



# Pet Services

## Free Services for Member's Pets

- ◆ Nails Trimmed or Dremeled
- ◆ Ear Hair Removed
- ◆ Ears Cleaned
- ◆ Anal Glands Drained

When: Second Tuesday of the Month  
 Time: 9:00 am till 12:00 pm  
 Place: American Legion Post 117  
 Provided By: Sharon McCausland



**"PETS MUST BE ON LEASH OR IN CRATE"**

# Tuesday Lunch and Dinner Specials

*Shirley has her special  
 Fish Fry on the second  
 Tuesday of each month  
 from 12:00 till 7:00pm.  
 Cone out and try it you  
 can't get a better meal  
 for the price*



*On the remaining Tues-  
 days, the Post will have  
 Soft or Hard Shell Tacos  
 with all the trimmings  
 from 5:00 till 7:00pm.*



**"Come out and enjoy  
the great meals"**



*Auxiliary Unit 117 Presents*  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
*Save the Dates!*

**2ND ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF**

FEBRUARY 2 - Super Bowl Sunday, 1 - 3 pm

*Can your special recipe take home the grand prize, or will defending champion Warren Wallace keep the title? You have to enter to find out! Entry forms and details will be available by January 15. Volunteers needed, see Dawn Burgess, President.*



**VALENTINE MURDER MYSTERY DINNER**

FEBRUARY 15 - Time TBD

*If you didn't make it to our last Murder Mystery Dinner, you don't want to miss it this time! Look for details coming soon. Reservations will be required. Volunteers needed, see Sheila Cline-Burns, 2nd Vice.*

**FIRST RESPONDERS LUNCHEON**

March 22 - Time TBD

*We will host a special luncheon to commemorate all of our community First Responders - Police, Fire, and EMT's. Volunteers needed, see Sheila Culnan, Community Service Chair.*



**American Legion Riders Unit 117**



2nd Annual

**Miss-ter American  
 Legion Rider Pageant**

**Saturday, March 8, 2014 - 2-6pm**

**Post 117 Tiki Bar - Palm Bay, FL**

Join us for our 2nd Annual Pageant for lots of laughs, entertainment and all around silliness as our favorite bikers get their "girlie" on! People's Choice - Vote for your favorite!  
 (Proceeds go to charity)

To enter, see Dawn Burgess or Dick Kissinger.

Volunteers needed, see Dawn Burgess.

**FOOD FUN!**  
**MUSIC 50/50s**  
**MORE!**



***NFL TICKET IS HERE***

Come watch the games at the Post  
 Seven Screens Available in Canteen  
 Food and Beer Specials

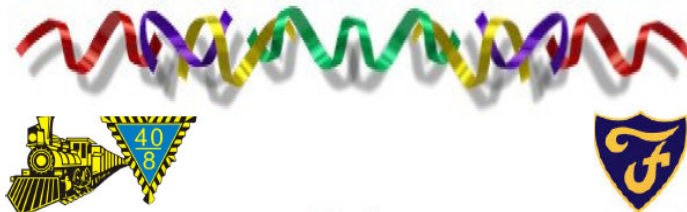
**10 WINGS & PITCHER OF BEER - \$11**



***KARAOKE @ TIKI***

If you are not watching the NFL Ticket  
 Come to the Tiki to do Karaoke  
 Sunday Karaoke will be on the Stage

**FOOD ITEMS MAY BE AVAILABLE**



**40 & 8 Voiture 1621  
 & La Society de Femme  
 St Patrick's Day Dinner**

Details will be published  
 In the March / April  
 Newsletter and Post  
 Flyers



Select items from our  
 Chinese Auction

**Note: All proceeds go toward Nurses  
 Training Scholarships**







American Legion Post 117  
189 Veterans Way SE  
Palm Bay, FL 32909



# Party

**Sunday February 2nd, 2014**

Snacks will be served throughout the day following the Chili Cook Off

**Brats, Hot Dogs, Appetizers' and More**

**Our Mixologists will have some specials also**

### *Newsletter Mail Request*

If you are requesting the newsletter be mailed to your residence please fill in the form below and mail to: American Legion Post 117  
189 Veterans Drive SE  
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_