American Legion Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117

March / April 2014 Issue No. 2





Monthly Events At A Glance . . .

MARCH

- Karaoke Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- **Taco Night** Every Tuesday except for Shirley's Fish Fry
- SAL Eastern Area Meet & Greet Saturday, March 1st
- Riders CPR Training Saturday, March 8th, See Flyer
- Shirley's Fish Fry Tuesday, March 11th, 2 to 7 pm
- District 12 Picnic Saturday, March 15th, All Day Event
- St Patrick's Day Dinner Monday, March 17th, See Flyer
- First Responder Picnic Saturday, March 22nd, See Flyer

APRIL

- Karaoke Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- **Taco Night** Every Tuesday except for Shirley's Fish Fry
- Shirley's Fish Fry Tuesday, April 8th, 2 to 7 pm
- **POW/MIA Ceremony** Wednesday 9th, 2 pm
- Tiki Party Saturday, April 12th, See Flyer
- Children's Easter Party Saturday, April 19, See Flyer

MAY

- Karaoke Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- Taco Night Every Tuesday except for Shirley's Fish Fry
- ♦ Cinco-de-Mayo Tiki Party Sunday, May 4th, See Flyer
- District Constitutional Conference Saturday, May 10th, Post 22
- Shirley's Fish Fry Tuesday, May 13th, 2 to 7 pm
- Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 26th, 2 pm

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: <u>www.al117.com</u> Legion Riders Website: <u>www.alr117.com</u>

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 .	Ray Yarnell
Historian	Open
Judge Advocate	Jim Fournier
Service Officers	James Stewart & Barry Roberts
Executive Committee	e:

Mike Demarte & Tom Giampino

American Legion Auxiliary Officers

PresidentDa	wn Burgess
1st Vice PresJan	et Podhola
2nd Vice PresSh	eila Cline-Burns
TreasurerKii	n Oaks
SecretaryNa	ncy Bristol
Sgt. At ArmsBa	-
ChaplainBa	rbara Simons
Asst. Sgt. At ArmsTa	keema Lewis-Figueroa
HistorianLi	nda Lanier
MembershipJar	et Podhola
Executive Members at La	arge:
Boots Kimber, Tere	esa 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,

Hello members of our great Post. This year is moving right along and soon Spring will be with us and we can look forward to very nice weather and opportunities to have some functions outside. We already have some Tiki Parties scheduled and rallies for the Riders and members of our Post. We have one of the greatest facilities around and wonderful group of people to support it.

Elections will happen within a few months and nominations for Officer candidates will be made at the next two meetings for all organizations. If you are thinking of running for any Officer position please let someone know so they can nominate you. The dates for nominations and the elections are posted in this newsletter. Please attend your meetings and support your candidates.

We recently replaced the building front overhang roof which was long overdue. I would like to thank the Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders for donating to this project. We also recently replaced the rear double doors to the hall. They were in rough shape and would no longer lock without brute force. Many thanks to the people who assist in getting jobs done around the Post. Without your support many of these items would go untouched or we would have to pay someone to do the work. The donation of your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

As many of you know by now, I will not be running for Commander in the upcoming election. I think it is time to let someone else take the reins to this organization and continue on with the great strides we have made in the past few years. I want you all to know how much I appreciate the support you have given me during my term of office. I have truly loved being the Commander of your Post. I will be there to support the new Officers to ensure there is a smooth transition.

Sincerely,

Duane Podhola

Commander, American Legion Post 117

Ways and Means Committee

Chairman: Members:

Duane Podhola 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: Members: Tom Giampino Jimmy Donovan Doug Ely Bob Wiseman Jesse Figueroa Mike Demarte



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

Canteen Staff

Canteen Manager: Volunteer Bartenders:



Sheila Cline-Burns Shirley Domonousky Sheila Culnan Linda Abbott Barbara Mohr Linda Pollock Haley Farris Terry Rook

Commander: Members:

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

Honor Guard









Auxiliary,

We have many projects and events coming up that I would like to highlight:



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

- March 4, 6:15 pm: EC Meeting held early to accommodate Girl's State Interviews at 7:00 pm.
- March 7, 2014: Department President Gerrie Bailey will be visiting our post for dinner at 5:00 pm. Please plan to attend and give her a big Unit 117 welcome!
- March 15: District Picnic at Post 117. Volunteers are needed, please contact me if you are interested in helping.
- March 18, 7:00 pm: General Meeting and FIRST NOMINATIONS for officers for 2014-2015. If you would like to get involved with the leadership of your Unit, please let your nominating committee know. Contact: Lorrie Fox, Mary Anne Spellman, Linda Lanier or Margie Pace. Second nominations will be held April, along with nominations for delegates to Constitutional Conference and Convention. We will be voting on new officers at the May Meeting.
- March 22, 11 am 1 pm: First Responder's Appreciation Luncheon
- April 15: Committee Reports DUE
- April 19, Children's Easter Party, details TBA.

Please keep an eye on the bulletin board and Facebook page for more upcoming events.

I would also like to take the time to thank Ann King Smith for visiting our Unit and sharing her "Project Suds" program. Unit 117 member Lorrie Fox stepped right up and implemented the project here, with great success and support from the community and our members. Way to go Lorrie, and everyone else who has helped over the past few weeks! You are making a big difference in the lives of our local homeless heroes, and we are all very proud of you.

We are still trying to fit in more projects and events to round out the year. Please come to the meetings to find out how you can help, or submit your own ideas on ways to serve our veterans and community!

Dawn Burgess

American Legion Auxiliary President, Unit 117 <u>dburgessFL@gmail.com</u>

SAL Members,

As I write this letter we are making plans for the SAL District Meet and Greet. We have had a great response to our invitation. Looks like we will have a great turn out. Plans are being discussed for next year.



I would like to thank Dick Kissinger again for his excellent work he did to bring the Special Olympics Fund Raiser

together. Dick was presented a Certificate of Appreciation during our January 2014 general meeting. Not to leave anyone out, Special Thank You to all the people who helped. Dick put a lot of time and miles to get this event together.

Nominations for Officers for 2014 - 2015 year will start March 13th, 2014 at our General Membership Meeting. Join us and if you are interested in running have your name nominated. We will have a second round of nominations on April 10th, 2014 and voting will be held on May 8th, 2014 at the General Membership Meetings.

We still need help in the kitchen and for steak shoot. First Thursday, Friday and Sunday of the month. Please any little bit helps.

Bruce Walkowiak

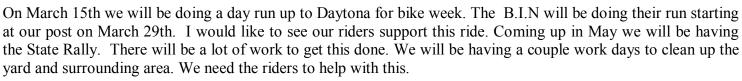
Sons of the American Legion Commander Squadron 117



Fellow Legion Riders,

Here in the next couple of months we will be open for nominations for new officers. Starting with Director, Assistant Director, Treasurer, Sgt-at-Arms, Historian, and Chaplain. The election will be held on the 1st of May. I am hoping the riders will come out and support the candidate of their choice.

Over the last couple of months we have had a few rides. On Feb.1st there were 14 bikes and 17 riders that went to Post 359 for their bike day. We had a safe trip and had a good time. On Feb.12th our Sgt-at-Arms lead a group of riders to escort the 715th National Guard Unit from the Melbourne Airport to the armory. A job well done.



I want to thank all the riders for their support at the steak shoot and Friday night dinner and Sunday breakfast.

Richard Kissinger

Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 117



Project "Suds"

A recently new program started with Unit 117 Auxiliary to help our homeless veterans preserve some of their dignity by assisting them to get their laundry done here in Palm Bay. These veterans do their own laundry; the auxiliary furnishes the money for their washing and provides the soaps, bleach, fabric softener, spot remover, and dryer sheets. They also provide coffee, water, and snacks to our veterans. This program is sponsored by donations from the Post members, and local businesses.

Unit 117 Auxiliary has partnered up with VFW 1005 for this program. We are all collecting donations to support Project Suds. By dona-

tions we are looking for cash, laundry soap, bleach, spot remover, fabric softener, dryer sheets, and anything else we can provide for these special people. The team meets at 9:00 a.m. at Sabal Palm Laundry 4700 Babcock St. Palm Bay every Thursday. NVHS contacts these people to inform them on what is going on, and helps transport these veterans and their spouses to the laundry mat.

The program started with 5 veterans and is growing fast. Each week it gets bigger, and the cost goes up. We need your help to keep this going each and every week. If you would like to help out or have any questions see Barb Mohr, Shelia Culnan, Janet Podhola, Judy Doiel, or myself.

Special thanks to Sabal Palm Laundry for the use of their facility and donating all costs for the drying of their clothes and blankets, Johnny's doughnuts and Einstein's Bagel bakery for all their donations of food for our veterans, and Ann King Smith Unit 163 for introducing the project to Unit 117, and Dorothy Walsh NVHS for all of their support helping us to get this program going.

Respectively submitted,

Lorrie Fox





Honor Guard Accomplishments

Our Honor Guard is moving right along. We are one of the best dressed, equipped and trained and proud to represent Post 117. We now have a banner and transparent hooded ponchos for inclement weather. T-Shirts have been ordered for all Honor guard members. The colors are Legion blue and the letters are printed in gold. We have been rehearsing twice a month to improve our skills.

Activities Involved:

- Flag folding for the Junior Members Meeting with Barbara Mohr on 1 March 2014
- A 21-Gun Salute on Merritt Island for the Last Naval Battle Re-enactment on 8 March 2014

During the upcoming months, we will be hosting picnics and BBQs with entertainment for the veteran affiliated assisted living facilities. I am proud to be Commander of the Honor Guard with dedicated members who do their best in every aspect.

For GOD and Country,

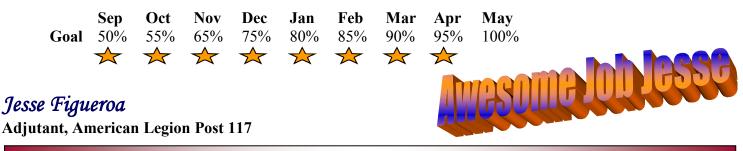
Matt Zirwas

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

Legion Membership

Our membership status is on a roll! According to the membership status reported at the 19 February 2014 General Membership Meeting, we are now at 96%. The Monthly Goal of 85% for 5 February 2014, 90% for 5 March 2014, and 95% for 2 April 2014 have all been achieved. Thanks for your support! Please continue to renew your dues so that we can reach 100% before the 7 May 2014 Annual Goal date. You still have the option to renew online at <u>http://www.legion.org/renew</u>.

For GOD and Country,





Honor Flight

What is Honor Flight? It is a one-day round trip that takes you from Melbourne to Orlando by bus, a flight to Baltimore International Airport, and a bus ride to visit the memorials. There you will visit the WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and Iwo Jima memorials and the changing of the fthe Helmourn Soldian in Arlington National Compton.

guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Meals are provided for the entire day.

Space Coast Honor Flight is privileged to honor our World War II and Korean War Veterans by providing an opportunity to visit your Memorial in Washington, D.C. on an **all expense paid trip**. On each trip, they transport 25 Veterans, 25 Guardian Escorts, and 25 wheel chairs.

Each of our trips consists of: 1. A Mandatory Pre-Trip Orientation two weeks prior to the flight, 2. The trip to Washington, and 3. A Celebratory Reunion a month after the trip. Spouses are not allowed to travel on the flight, but can attend all of the events in Melbourne.

If you are a WWII or Korean War Veteran and would like to take this trip you can fill out an application at the web site below or see the Commander for a printed application. There are 7 flights scheduled this year so don't miss the opportunity to make the trip. Sign up today.

http://www.spacecoasthonorflight.org/VETERAN_INFO.html





Bill Butler (5/15) Elaine Griswold (7/14) Duane & Janet Podhola (1/15) Barbie & Ken (7/14) Howard & Kathy Print (3/16) 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) John & Judy Greed (3/15) Tom & Les Giampino (3/15)

~ 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.

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



prices & booking info

Service Officer Support

We now have two new Service Officers assigned to Post 117. They will both be going to the Department Convention in June for training and certification. Please join me in welcoming James Stewart and Barry Roberts to the Legion Officer staff and to their new positions. If you need their services they can be reached at the numbers below.

James Stewart - (832) 315-7670

Barry Roberts - (863) 661-9999

<u>Volunteers</u>

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)
02 March	Tropical Nights
07 March	Jimmy "D"
09 March	Jimmy "D"
14 March	Dan Haber
16 March	Dan Haber
21 March	Tropical Nights
23 March	Chuck Body
28 March	Chuck Body
30 March	Jimmy "D"

Date	Entertainer(s)
04 April	Jimmy "D"
06 April	Tropical Nights
11 April	Dan Haber
13 April	Jimmy "D"
18 April	Tropical Nights
20 April	Dan Haber
25 April	Chuck Body
27 April	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





<u>Free Services for Member's Pets</u>

- 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"



Legion

1st Nominations - March 19th, 2014 2nd Nominations - April 16th, 2014 Elections - To Be Announced

Auxiliary

1st Nominations - March 18th, 2014 2nd Nominations - April 15th, 2014 Elections - May 20th, 2014

SAL

1st Nominations - March 13th, 2014 2nd Nominations - April 10th, 2014 Elections - May 8th, 2014

Legion Riders

1st Nominations - March 6th, 2014 2nd Nominations - April 3rd, 2014 Elections - May 1st, 2014







Drinks, Food, Music, Games, Raffles, and Lots of Fun!!!! Post 117



Children's Easter Party Saturday, 19 April 2014



Florida Legion Riders AERICAN MERICAN Legacy Run 27 March - 2 April 2014 Day 1 - Jacksonville Beach - Crystal River, 172 Mile Posts 129, 250, 16, 149, 58, 237, 155 Day 2 - Crystal River - Palm Bay, 189 Miles Posts 77, 347, 35, 53, 1, 359, 117 Day 3 - Palm Bay - Bradenton, 211 Miles Posts 80, 34, 8, 138, 309, 24 Day 4 - Bradenton - Fort Meyers Beach, 110 Miles Posts 30, 159, 110, 103, 336, 274 Day 5 - Fort Meyers Beach - Port St. Lucie, 154 Miles Posts 323, 130, 64, 318 Day 6 - Port St. Lucie - Fruitland Park, 235 Miles Posts 25, 74, 69, 72, 55, 219 Day 7 - Fruitland Park - Jacksonville, 155 Miles Posts 41, 6, 45, 137 - Toll Roads US Highw Interstate Highway

First Responder Picnic Saturday, March 22nd, 2014 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

100 KM 100 Miles



Free spaghetti lunch for First Responders and their families · Palm Bay Police

- · Palm Bay Firefighters
- · Palm Bay Paramedics
- · Palm Bay EMTs







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