American Legion Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117

May / June 2014 Issue No. 3





Monthly Events At A Glance . . .



- Karaoke Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- Taco Night Every Tuesday 5 to 7 pm except Shirley's Fish Fry
- Haley's Awesome Wings Every Wednesday 3 to 7 pm
- Cinco-de-Mayo Tiki Party Sunday, May 4th, See Flyer
- District Constitutional Conference Saturday, May 10th, Post 22
- Mothers Day Sunday, May 11th, Free Breakfast for Mothers
- Shirley's Fish Fry Tuesday, May 13th, 2 to 7 pm
- Legion Riders Rally Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 16th 18th
- Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 26th, 10am & 2 pm

JUNE

- Karaoke Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- Taco Night Every Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Haley's Awesome Wings Every Wednesday 3 to 7 pm
- Department Convention June 12th 15th
- Fathers Day Sunday, June 15th, Free Breakfast for Fathers

JULY

- Karaoke Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- Taco Night Every Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- Haley's Awesome Wings Every Wednesday 3 to 7 pm
- 4th of July Celebration Friday, July 4th, 2 pm
- Post Officer Installation Date & Time 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 – 1st Wednesday, 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

CommanderDuane Podhola
1st Vice ComBob Wiseman
2nd Vice ComBruce Thurber
AdjutantJesse Figueroa
Finance OfficerDavid Fox
ChaplainCharlie Christy
Sgt. At ArmsMatt Zirwas
Asst. Sgt. At Arms Ray Yarnell
HistorianOpen
Judge AdvocateJim Fournier
Service OfficersJames Stewart & Barry Roberts
Exec. CommitteeMike 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 Commande	er.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	
Chaplain	Matt Burns
Sgt. At Arms	Duane Podhola
Historian	Dawn Burgess
Safety Officer	-

Commander's Corner

Dear Legion, Aux, and SAL Members,

Well Spring is here and it is that time of the year when we elect our new officers and turn over the operations of our Post. I know there are many of you out there that wished I would run as your Commander again this year but I have been in this position for three years and it is time for someone else to take command. I will tell you that being your Commander for the past three years has been exciting and rewarding as well. We have accomplished a lot of things over that period of time and I need to thank many of you who provided time out of your busy schedules and your hard earned dollars to help make this Post what it is today. You all share in the credit for making those accomplishments.

We have a lot of things happen within the past few months, many of them are noteworthy. Our visit from the American Legion National Commander and American Legion Auxiliary National President was something this Post can be very proud of. Our Post has received a lot of recognition locally and nationally because of the support we continue to give to our community. In addition, the Department Commander and several Officers from the Department continue to visit our Post on a routine basis

In mid May, the Florida Legion Rider Rally will take place at Post 117. This will be a huge event for our Post. We are guessing that there will be at least 400 bikes here during that event. We will have vendors, food, music, raffles, 50/50s, and much more for your enjoyment. Our Tiki Bar will be full as well as our picnic area. All vehicle parking will in the grass area so please cooperate with our parking police. Come join in the fun and show your support to the Florida American Legion Riders, they are big supporters of our Post, veterans, community, and our organizations.

Thanks again for a great year,

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: Jimmy Donovan Doug Elv

Canteen Manager:



Sheila Cline-Burns Volunteer Bartenders: 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



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

Bob Wiseman

Jesse Figueroa

Mike Demarte









Canteen Staff

Dear Members,

This year has been full of some great accomplishments for our Unit. I want to thank each of you for all your hard work and help in making our events shine. Our National President's Dinner for Nancy



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Brown-Park on April 1 was a great success, and I was so proud of everyone who helped pull it together with very little notice. The Kids Easter Party also went off without a hitch, and the children enjoyed the day and visit with the Easter Bunny. (Thank you Millie Donovan for filling the role last minute!)

Our year end reports are finished, and were sent to District on time. You really don't realize how many things our Unit does throughout the year until you see it in writing! Whether in our community or here at Post 117, we found many ways to give and help others. We will be going to Constitutional Conference on May 10 to give our report, and submit our votes for District President for 2014-2015.

Our next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 pm. We will hold our final nominations and election of officers for Unit 117. Remember, you MUST have your membership card with you or you will not be allowed to vote.

And finally, I want to thank you all for your support during my year as President. Overall, we accomplished most of our goals, and found new ways to help Veterans and our community. Namely, Project Suds and the Children's Hunger Project. We have also formed an alliance with Brevard School Foundation, and I look forward to continuing to help our Unit serve and honor our veterans and community.

Fondly,

Dawn Burgess

American Legion Auxiliary President, Unit 117 dburgessFL@gmail.com



Poppy Days

Poppy Days will be held on Friday May 9th and Saturday May 10th, 2014 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. If you can help please put your name on the signup sheets on the bulletin board for the locations you can support. If you have any questions please contact me at 321-266-9109.

Linda Lanier

Poppy Chairman American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117

SAL Members,

It is that time of the year for elections. We have nominations for officers. We will be voting May 8th 2014 before our general meeting.



The voting committee will be setup from 6pm to 6:45pm. Please take the time to vote.

We will have an all you can eat chicken dinner May 9th 2014. Come on down and enjoy a great meal with us. Tony and Bruce T and friends will be doing the cooking, so you know it will be delicious.

The 42nd Annual Detachment Convention will be held June 13-15, 2014 at the Renaissance Orlando at Sea World. We have had a few sons step up to be delegates for this event. Anyone interested in attending we need to know soon, so we can make arrangements. If you are interested in attending on Saturday only, we have the agenda.

The SAL week is back to the second week of the month, starting in May 2014. Steak Shoot on Thursday night, Friday night Dinner, (All You Can Eat Fried Chicken), Sunday Breakfast. Shout out for anyone who would like to volunteer. Please offer and we will gladly accept.

Bruce Walkowiak Sons of the American Legion Commander Squadron 117

MERICAN



Fellow Legion Riders,

Where has the time gone? Here is the end of my first term as your Director and it seems like time has just flown by. I want to thank everyone that supported me and our officers through out this year. Secondly I want to thank everyone that supported the Riders in their Steak Shoot, Friday Night Dinners and Sunday Breakfast. Without your support we would have failed. Then I would like to thank the Riders that work on these activities.



In the next two months we will be busy with Riders State Rally, May 16,17, & 18. Next we have the Stand Down that will be held on May 31st. Volunteers are needed and I was hoping to get a lot of riders to work this. Next we have the Department Convention June 12-16.

One of the fun things we do to raise money for veterans is the Mis-ter America Pageant and you will get the chance to see the big mean bikers in a dress. That will be on June 7th. It is a fun time, I hope you all come out and have a good time. On June 28th we will be doing a Poker -run for the Suds project.

Richard Kissinger

Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 117



On 10 April 2014, several of our Legion Riders supported the police escort of "The Eyes of Freedom" Memorial from Space Coast Harley Davidson to Ammen Family Cremation and Funeral Care facility on Malabar Road. They rode with other Legion Riders and members of local motor cycle clubs. There were around 80 riders in the escort. After the escort, Riders from our Post assisted the transporters in unloading and setting up the displays. The memorial was on display the 10th, 11th, and 12th of April. Many thanks to the Riders who supported this effort.

The Eyes of Freedom, is a remembrance for all who have answered the call of service. The Memorial now travels to tell the story of love and sacrifice, as a reminder of the great price men & women are willing to pay for their country.

The Lima Company Memorial, The Eyes of Freedom was created as a result of a vision of an Ohio artist, in which she saw the finished memorial and felt she was being asked to create it. With the help of the families of the fallen and the returned Marines of L3/25, the work was created and unveiled in the Ohio State House Rotunda in 2008, as the vision foretold.

Although the paintings in this Memorial specifically depict the 23 fallen Marines from Lima 3/25, it has become much more: a Remembrance of Spirit & Choice for all who have answered the call of service. Behind each portrait we feel the hearts and spirits of the thousands of men and women who have served, fought and died for their country, in every branch of the armed forces.



Legion Riders In-State Legacy Run

On 28 March 2014 around 40 plus Legion Riders from across the state pulled into Post 117 in support of the State Legacy Run. The Riders enjoyed a free dinner on the Post and stayed to have some refreshments before they called it a day. Many of them planned to complete the more than 2,000 mile trip around the state. Post participants included Dawn Burgess and Jim Fournier, Lorrie and Dave Fox, and Duane Podhola. In all we made a 510 mile trip and visited 14 Posts during our three day run. It was great meeting other Riders and seeing Posts and areas we have never visited before. All of the funds collected from the Legacy Run go directly toward the Legacy Scholarship Fund for children whose parents have been killed while serving our country. If you are interested in supporting this fund go to http://www.legion.org/donate/legacy_scholarship

American Legion Boys State

Each year, Post 117 and other posts sponsor delegates to the Florida American Legion Boys State held in Tallahassee for one week in the summer. Bill Craig and Les Lanier head this effort and can answer questions or use your help. These boys are high school juniors with superior grades and good citizenship. This year's attendees are Blake Catroneo, Kenny Stanek and Alex Cunningham from Heritage High in Palm Bay. Blake and Kenny are officers in JROTC and Alex plays varsity basketball. These outstanding young men are a great credit to their generation and our community, and well deserve our support. Congratulations, Blake, Kenny and Alex! Each of our recipients will receive \$50 to purchase items while attending Boys State.

Bill Craig & Les Lanier

Boys State Chairmen American Legion Post 117



Legion Membership

Our membership status is doing great! According to the Department our membership as of 1 April 2014 is over 100%. We reached every monthly goal this year and we are still increasing our membership on a weekly basis. Many thanks to Jesse Figueroa for his hard work in keeping us on track and accomplishing our monthly and yearly goals. We have received our 100% banner and award from the Department. Thanks to everyone who has brought on new members and paid your dues on time so we could achieve this status. Please join me in thanking Jesse for his hard work this year.



Honor Guard Accomplishments

The Post Honor Guard has been doing an exceptional job. April was a very busy month. We Posted the Colors for the Auxiliary National President, performed as a Color Guard for the Lima Company Memorial and Flag Pole Dedication for the Ammen Family Cremation and Funeral Care facility on Malabar Road, and provided Honor Guard services for a veterans at Fountainhead Cemetery. During May we will have two Memorial Day services, one at Fountainhead Cemetery for Charles F. Thomas IV, and one at our Post.



In those months where there are five weeks, the Honor Guard gets an opportunity to do a

Steak Shoot, provide a Friday Dinner, and do Sunday Breakfast for the Post. This will occur in the Month of May so please try to support our group. It is one of the only ways the Honor Guard can make money to support what it does and purchase items it needs to perform at functions and memorial services.

The Honor Guard has accomplished a lot in the past year and they are becoming very proficient in what they do. If you are interested in joining the Honor Guard please contact myself or one of the members of the Honor Guard.

Matt Zirwas

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



Bill Butler (5/15) Elaine Griswold (7/14) Duane & Janet Podhola (1/15) Barbie & Ken (7/14) Howard & Kathy Print (3/16) Ruben & Asia Rodriguez (9/14) Ernie & Shirley Winslow (1/15) Barb & Ray Mohr (4/15) 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) Matt Zirwas (5/15)

~ 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".



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 May	Jimmy "D"
04 May	Tropical Nights
09 May	Dan Haber
11 May	Jimmy "D"
16 May	Tropical Nights
18 May	Dan Haber
23 May	Chuck Body
25 May	Chuck Body
30 May	Stacy "Irish"

Date Entertainer(s)

01 June	Tropical Nights
06 June	Jimmy "D"
08 June	Jimmy "D"
13 June	Dan Haber
15 June	Dan Haber
20 June	Tropical Nights
22 June	Chuck Body
27 June	Chuck Body
29 June	Bobby Neal

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

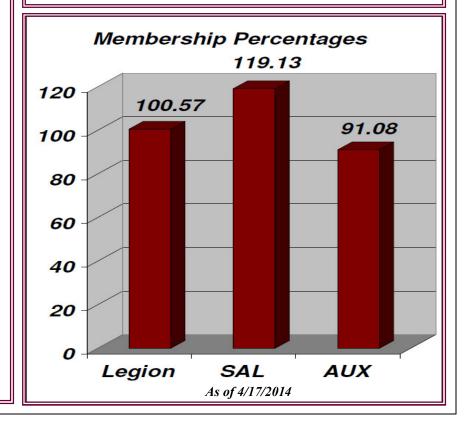
When: Second Tuesday of the Month Time: 9:00 am till 3:00 pm Place: American Legion Post 117 Provided By: Sharon McCausland



"PETS MUST BE ON LEASH OR IN CRATE"

Elections

Legion Riders - May 1st, 2014 **Legion** - May 3rd, 2014 **SAL** - May 8th, 2014 **Auxiliary** - May 20th, 2014



Florida Legion Riders Rally 16 - 18 May 2014 American Legion Post 117 189 Veterans Drive SE Palm Bay, Florida

THE AMERICAN LEGION

RIDERS

Friday: Music - DJ (a) Tiki and Karaoke (a) Canteen Food Served 12 - 3pm and 5 - 7pm Happy Hour Prices All Day Games, Raffles, 50/50s, Sales by Vendors Saturday: Music - DJ (a) Tiki 12 - 4pm "Slickwood" (a) Tiki 5 - 9pm Food Served 12 - 7pm by Broken Barrel Happy Hour Prices All Day Fun Ride Planned Games, Raffles, 50/50s, Sales by Vendors Sunday: Auxiliary Breakfast 8:30 - 11:00am Eggs Benedict plus Menu Items

See Legion Riders Chapter 117 Website <u>www.alr117.com</u> for Map and Hotel Information Post 117 POC is Duane Podhola, 321-698-7382 Cell

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Presents: Florida's 27th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion

The Nations Largest Veterans Reunion upported by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc.- VVOF.org

May 1, 2, 3, 4, 2014

Additionally, come visit The Vietnam Traveling Memorial WALL April 27 = 4, 2014

LIVE MUSIC FOOD & DRINKS MILITARY VENDORS MILITARY DISPLAYS POW / MIA CEREMONIES THE LAST PATROL THE MOVING TRIBUTE



Also visit the Reunion Web Page at: floridaveteransreunion.com

Meet Your Vet Brothers & Sisters All Veterans, Families and Public Invited

Wickham Park 321-255-4307 - Melbourne, FL Take 1-95 to Exit 191 or old Exit 73 No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed in the Reunion Area Per Wickham Park: Golf Carls Permitted for the Handicapped Only And Must Abide By FL Highway Laws Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall http://travelingwall.us



Call For Info 321-501-6896 321-627-2843 321-652-4185 Vendor call 321-652-4185 Fax (321) 690-0106 Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com Daydrmr33@aol.com vets2gether@cfl.rr.com roosterusso@cfl.rr.com

American Legion Riders Department of Florida State Rally 16 - 18 May 2014

Friday, 16 May 2014

Tiki Open Time: 12:00pm – 10:00pm Lunch Available: 12:00pm – 3:00pm in Tiki – Hot Dogs/Brats Food Cost: \$2 (Hot Dog & Chips) \$3 (Brat & Chips) Donation Dinner Available: 5:00pm – 7:00pm in Canteen Entertainment: DJ 3:00 – 7:00pm (Tiki Bandstand) DJ/Karaoke 8:00 – 12:00pm (Canteen) Games: Chip Challenge, Corn Hole, Horseshoes Money Makers: Raffles, 50/50s, Jell-O Shots Drink Prices: Happy Hour prices all day, Shot Specials

Saturday, 17 May 2014

Tiki Open Time: 10:00am – 10:00pm Food Available: 12:00pm – 7:00pm provided by Broken Barrel Food Types: Pulled Pork, Smoked Wings, Brisket (Suggested) With two sides - Beans, Cold Slaw Food Cost: \$7 Plate suggested (Not Finalized) Entertainment: DJ 12:00 – 4:00pm (Tiki Bandstand) Band 5:00pm – 9:00pm (Slickwood) Games: Chip Challenge, Corn Hole, Horseshoes Money Makers: Raffles, 50/50s, Jell-O Shots Drink Prices: Happy Hour prices all day, Shot Specials Fun Ride: Frank Sewell to Plan

Sunday, 18 May 2014

Auxiliary Breakfast: 8:30 – 11:00 Eggs Benedict + Breakfast Menu Items Breakfast Cost: Per Menu Item Bloody Mary: \$1.00



Tiki Bar Party

Sunday, 4 May 2014 Taco, Burrito, Tostada, or Tamale Plus Beans & Rice One Entree - \$5 Two Entrees - \$7 Chips & Salsa - \$2

Served 2 to 5 pm





POC: Dorothy Walsh dwalsh9093@aol.com or 321-426-4920

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

Phone Number:
City: State: Zip:
Address:
Name: Membership Number:
<i>Newsletter Mail Request</i> 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

American Legion Auxiliary Members

As we near the end of the membership year it gets more and more difficult for our organiza-

tion to reach its 100% goal for the year. If you have not submitted your renewal for 2014 please send it in. We need your help. If you have any questions please give me a call and I will assist you in any way I can.

Sincerely, **Janet Podhola**

1st Vice President, American Legion Auxiliary Auxiliary Membership Chairman 321-698-7732

