



The Thomas Times



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ISSUE 4

JULY/AUGUST 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 3 July - Doris Kissinger Fun Run
- 4 July - Independence Day
- 16 July - Paw For Veterans Run
- 23 July - 40&8 Installation

Save the Date

- 5 September - Labor Day
- 24 September - 12th District Picnic, Wickham Park



**EARLY BIRD
MEMBERSHIP
SEE PAGE 6**

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Did you know that the 4th of July has only been a paid federal holiday since 1941? It's true, but patriotic Americans have been celebrating the birth of our Country for a lot longer than that!

The 4th of July – or Independence Day - commemorates the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on the 4th of July in 1776. The City of Philadelphia started

the annual celebration of the event the very next year even though the war to secure our independence was still going on. And in 1781, Massachusetts became the first to make the 4th an official state holiday several months before the key American victory over the British at Yorktown.

Interestingly we may actually be celebrating on the wrong day! John Adams, the second President of the United States, believed that the holiday should be celebrated on the 2nd of July, the date that the Continental Congress voted in favor of the resolution proposed by Robert Henry Lee and elegantly documented by the five-man committee led by Thomas Jefferson, that the colonies declare their complete independence from Great Britain. Adams maintained his belief throughout his presidency and the remainder of his life, reportedly turning down invitations to events scheduled on the 4th in protest. In an ironic twist John Adams and Thomas Jefferson would both die on the 4th of July in 1826 – the 50th anniversary.

Today we celebrate the 4th of July with summer picnics and family barbeques – we bask in the freedoms obtained for us by our forefathers and maintained for us by the men and women who have served in our Nation's military in the 240 years since that momentous day in Philadelphia. The American Legion Family at Post 117 wishes you and your family a very Happy and Safe 4th of July!

Monthly Events at a Glance . . .

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm
- ◆ Doc's Karaoke & Open Mic Night - Every Saturday 7 to 12 pm
- ◆ Auxiliary Bingo - Every Sunday 1 to 4 pm
- ◆ Tacos - First and Third Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Haley's Wings - First and Third Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Quarter Auction - Canceled for the Summer - See You in September!
- ◆ Sandwich Tuesdays - Second Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Big-Azz-Burgers - Second Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Fired Up Wednesday! - Fourth Wednesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Honor Guard Dinner - Friday, 1 July, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Riders Dinners - Friday, 8 July and Friday, 5 Aug, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ SAL Dinners - Friday, 15 July and Friday, 12 Aug, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ AUX Dinners - Friday, 22 July and Friday, 19 Aug, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Post Dinner - Friday, 29 July and Friday, 26 Aug, 5 to 7 pm

Post 117 Directory

American Legion Officers

Commander.....Jim Fournier
 1st Vice Commander.....Bruce Thurber
 2nd Vice CommanderGene Baker
 AdjutantDuane Podhola
 Finance Officer.....Chris Hess
 ChaplainBarry Roberts
 Sergeant-at-ArmsMatt Zirwas
 Asst. Sergeant-at-ArmsGene Pilot
 HistorianTim Durham
 Judge AdvocateCharlie Christy
 Service Officer.....Barry Roberts
 Executive Committee.....Tom Giampino
 Executive Committee.....Dave Fox

Auxiliary Officers

President.....Wanda McDermon
 1st Vice PresidentBeverly Hall
 2nd Vice PresidentMillicent Donovan
 TreasurerDiane Wood
 Secretary.....Haley Farris
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Joann Wright
 Asst. Sergeant-at-ArmsPhoebe Chilcott
 ChaplainBarbara Simons
 Historian.....Karen Humann
 Membership.....Beverly Hall
 Executive Committee.....Linda Lanier
 Executive Committee.....Millie Jochum
 Executive Committee.....Kim Oaks

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander.....Randy Chilcott
 1st Vice Squadron CommanderBruce Walkowiak
 2nd Vice Squadron CommanderTony Gannon
 AdjutantEd Milnor
 Finance Officer.....Ray Mohr
 ChaplainPhil Wright
 Sergeant-at-ArmsDaniel Wood
 1st Assistant Sergeant-at-ArmsKeith Durham
 2nd Assistant Sergeant-at-ArmsDylan Young
 HistorianBob Humann

American Legion Riders Officers

DirectorBob Wiseman
 Assistant DirectorBruce Walkowiak
 Secretary.....Sheila Cline-Burns
 TreasurerRay Mohr
 ChaplainDonna Walkowiak
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Duane Podhola
 Historian.....Michelle Bucher
 Safety Officer.....Ed Milnor
 Membership.....Neil Dagata

Honor Guard

Commander: Matt Zirwas
Members:
 Randy Chilcott Jim Fournier
 Dawn Hanner Bob Menard
 Ed Milnor Bruce Walkowiak
 Dan Wood Donna Walkowiak
Bugler: Joann Wright
Color Guard: Phoebe Chilcott
 Ed Milnor Jr.

Ways and Means Committee

Chairman: Gene Baker
Members:
 Kerry Baker Sheila Cline-Burns
 Randy Chilcott Beverly Durham
 Tim Durham Jim Fournier
 Duane Podhola Bruce Thurber
 Bob Wiseman

House Committee

Chairman: Tom Giampino
Members:
 Randy Chilcott Jeff Davis
 Don Jochum Ron Lawton
 Brenda Misko Sherry White

Visit the Post 117 Facebook Pages

American Legion Post 117
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117
 American Legion SAL Squadron 117
 Legion Riders FL Chapter 117

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Editor: Bev Durham <email: newsletter@AL117.com>

*Contributors Please Submit Articles
 by the 21st of the Month Prior to Publication.*

Commander's Corner

Dear Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members,

First I want to say thank you to all that helped put out and retrieve the flags at Fountainhead Cemetery and for supporting all of the Memorial Day services. A great job put on by the Post Honor Guard again.

There are a lot of activities that are put on by the Legion family and it takes volunteers to make them happen. Unfortunately, we seem to be struggling to get volunteers to help lately and it would be greatly appreciated if we saw some new faces stepping up to help out. If everyone volunteered just for one activity a year, we would have plenty of help and you wouldn't need to volunteer again for a year! It may sound crazy but it's true. It's not hard work and maybe you'll have fun.

Again, I want to thank all of the officers for another good year. I look forward to working with each and everyone of you and making 2016/2017 an even better year.

There are a few projects that need to be completed and we are always looking for help with fundraising to assist with the financial portion. Please contact any of your officers with ideas, suggestions and support.

Lastly, it's that time again. Membership dues are being accepted so hurry up and get the early bird stamp on your card so you can get your free dinner. (The Early Bird cut-off date is 11 September 2016 - the dinner date will be determined soon)

As always, please make sure to read the posters and flyers hanging in the canteen, tiki bar and on the AL117.com website for the most current information on events here at the Post. Thank you all for your help and support.

For God and Country,

Jim Fournier

Commander, American Legion Post 117

Post Meetings

Legion Meeting
3rd Wednesday, 7:00 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

Ways & Means Committee
1st Monday, 7:00 pm

House Committee
The Monday before the
Legion EC meeting, 7:00 pm

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to community, state and nation drives an honest advocacy for veterans in Washington. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veterans community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives. (From www.legion.org/mission)

Hall Rental Information

Our Post Hall is available for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc. Please contact Sheila Cline at 321-243-7396 for rental availability and price information.

We Want To Hear from YOU!

Do you have comments or items to submit to the newsletter?
Email: newsletter@AL117.com
Items for the September/October 2016 issue are due no later than 21 August 2016.



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117 installed their 2016-2017 Officers on the 25th of June as part of the Post 117 Installation Ceremony held in the Post Hall.

The updated list of Auxiliary Officers is included on page 2.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Sons of the American Legion,

Let me start by thanking all of you for placing your confidence in me to serve as your Squadron Commander. We are very fortunate that many of our officers will be staying on and serving our organization in different capacities. Thanks again to all of you, especially Tony, you guys did an awesome job!

As we start our new year, I'd like to refocus our efforts to energize our membership. We not only need to retain current members and gain new ones, we need to get more of our members actively involved in our activities. Too often I see all the same faces working big azz burgers, steak shoot, serving Friday night dinner and fixing the Sunday breakfast as well as volunteering at all events.

I'd like to ask each of you to try and find an opportunity to volunteer at least once a quarter for one of our activities or events. Remember many hands make light work.

I would like to thank the Legion family for helping with Special Olympics Poker Run this year. Squadron 117 won the diamond award at convention. We had cash donations of 5,275 dollars and in kind donations of 1,836 dollars. Great job everybody!

I am really looking forward to serving as your Commander for the next year. As some of you know I grew up in Eau Gallie. My father was in the Legion at Post 163 and a life time member serving in many officer roles, My Mother was three times elected President of the Auxiliary. I am happy and proud to be continuing the family tradition of service as a 41year member of the SAL. Please feel free to talk to me about any ideas you have to make our Squadron great!

See ya'll around the post!

Randy Chilcott

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



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Fellow Legion Riders,

First off, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing Officers - Karen, MaryAnn and Terry—you guys did a bang up job! I would also like to welcome the new Officers, Michelle, Neil and Ed, you guys have some big shoes to fill!

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but even though the numbers in our Chapter membership are increasing we still have a hard time getting enough volunteers to do our Friday Night Dinners (July 8th and August 5th) and Sunday Breakfast (July 10th and August 7th). Please volunteer a little of your time to help support the Riders and your Post.

Please continue to attend the meetings and also support our Rides/Escorts. And this is very important - if you are out riding please keep track of your mileage and the number of riders (don't need names) that are with you. You can e-mail me or just write the information down on a piece of paper and drop it into the Riders box in the foyer.



Bob Wiseman

Director, Legion Riders Chapter 117

**STAY HIGH ON LIFE
AND KEEP RIDING**

Boosters

- Kevin & Karen (8/16)
- Ruben & Asia Rodriguez (9/16)
- Bill Butler (9/16)
- The Durham Family (9/16)
- Barb & Ray Mohr (9/16)
- Dianne & Dennis Boland (11/16)
- Duane & Janet Podhola (3/17)
- Bonnie DeCaro (3/17)
- Joe & Linda Shipley (3/17)
- Gene & Suzie Pilot (5/17)
- Ernie & Shirley Winslow (6/17)
- Tom & Les Giampino (9/17)
- Howard Print II (11/17)
- Jim Fournier (6/17)
- Dawn Burgess (6/17)
- Elaine Griswold (7/17)

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".

MERCHANDISE SALES

Legion Shirts For Sale

- T-Shirts (Tan) \$12
- Polo Shirts (White, Red, Black or Maroon) \$20

Riders Items For Sale

- Men's Tank Tops (Black) \$10
- Men's T-Shirts (Black) \$10
- (Men's Muscle Shirts Available in Black, White, or Red)*
- Men's Muscle Shirts (Small to XL) \$10
- Men's Muscle Shirts (2XL to 3XL) \$12
- T-Shirts (Maroon) (Small to XL) \$16
- T-Shirts (Maroon) (2XL to 3XL) \$18
- Denim (Lt Blue) (Small to 2XL) \$25
- Long Sleeve (Black) \$20
- Ladies Tank Top (Black) \$15
- Ladies V-Neck (Black) \$18
- Small Riders Patch \$5
- Large Riders Patch \$20

SAL Items For Sale

- US Flag (3x5) \$20
- POW/MIA Flag \$30
- SAL T-Shirts (Red or Blue) \$10

AUX Items For Sale

- Black Half Staff Ribbon \$12

Haircuts

by Cathy

3rd Sunday
of the Month

10 am to
12 noon



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 12:30 pm
 Place: American Legion Post 117
 Provided By: Sharon McCausland



"PETS MUST BE ON LEASH OR IN CRATE"

2017 Membership Year Has begun

Submitted by Bruce Thurber, 1st Vice & Membership

The 2017 membership year has begun for the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. The theme for the Department of Florida Commander Joe McGee is Lil Leprechaun Fighting for Vets and the Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Steve Gordon's theme is Hitting Home Runs for Veterans. Both programs have many interesting award incentives.

Anyone renewing their membership before September 11th will receive an early bird stamp making them eligible for the special Early Bird Roast Beef Dinner - date to be announced.

Remember that you must have a current Membership Card to participate in legion programs. It would really be great if 117 could have 100% renewals before the 1st of the year.

As of Dec 31st if you have not payed your 2017 dues all rights and privileges will end. If you have signed up for LIT the free life insurance program it will expire and you will need to reapply.

We had a tremendous 2016 but I know we can do even better in 2017! Please renew as soon as possible!



Please Consider Going Paperless .
A full color PDF of this Newsletter is always available at the Post website; visit www.AL117.com

Friday Dinners, 5 to 7 pm & Karaoke , 8 pm to 12

<i>Date</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Menu</i>	<i>Karaoke DJ</i>
<i>July 8</i>	<i>Riders</i>	<i>To be announced</i>	<i>Dan Haber</i>
<i>July 15</i>	<i>SAL</i>	<i>1/2 Oven Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Vegetable and a Roll with Butter</i>	<i>Chuck Body</i>
<i>July 22</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>To be announced</i>	<i>Chuck Body</i>
<i>July 29</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>To be announced</i>	<i>Jimmy D</i>
<i>August 5</i>	<i>Riders</i>	<i>To be announced</i>	<i>Jimmy D</i>
<i>August 12</i>	<i>SAL</i>	<i>Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing with Gravy and a Vegetable</i>	<i>Dan Haber</i>
<i>August 19</i>	<i>AUX</i>	<i>To be announced</i>	<i>Dan Haber</i>
<i>August 26</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>To be announced</i>	<i>Chuck Body</i>



PAWS FOR VETERANS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Summer Run

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

July 16, 2016

SPONSORED BY USA RIVER RATS & AMVETS RIDERS POST 34

NORTH RUN

Start American Legion Post 1 Titusville
 VFW Post 4228 Titusville
 (Breakfast Available)
 Nam Knights Orlando
 Lone Cabbage Fish Camp Cocoa
 American Legion Post 22 Cocoa
End American Legion Post 1 Titusville

SOUTH RUN

Start American Legion Post 117 Palm Bay
 (Breakfast Available)
 AMVETS Post 34 Palm Bay
 American Legion Post 22 Cocoa
 American Legion Post 348 Cape Canaveral
 American Legion Post 359 Port St. John
End American Legion Post 1 Titusville

\$10.00 Per Bike
 \$5.00 per passenger
 Cars & Trucks Welcome @ Same Price
 Meal Included with Complete Run

Registration begins at 8:00 am
 Kick Stands Up at 10:00 am
 Last Bike in at 2:00 pm



SPCA OF BREVARD
 Protecting and Providing a Voice to the Homeless Animals of Brevard County

ADOPTABLE PETS and GENERAL INFO

Brevard County Sheriff



- ◆ Static Displays
- ◆ K9 Unit
- ◆ Bomb Squad Demonstration
- ◆ Animal Control Adoption Trailer



100% of Proceeds goes to Paws for Veterans



SHRIMP SUNDAY



Peel & Eat Shrimp
\$9 per pound \$5 per 1/2 lb

Every Sunday
1-5 pm or until sold out

Prepared by Chef Gene and Crew
American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, Florida!

TACO TUESDAY



Tacos - \$2.00
5 to 7 pm



1st
Tuesday
of the
Month



Presents
BIG AZZ BURGERS
3rd Tuesday of the Month
5 - 7 pm



SANDWICH TUESDAYS

2nd & 4th
Tuesdays
5 to 7 pm

Haley's Awesome



Wings 70 Cents each



1st & 3rd Wednesdays
4 - 7 PM



**AUXILIARY UNIT 117
HAS BROUGHT BINGO BACK**

TO POST 117

EVERY SUNDAY
DOORS OPEN AT 12:00 NOON
BINGO STARTS AT 1:00PM
NON-SMOKING / PERIODIC BREAKS
BRING YOUR FRIENDS !!!



Fired Up Wednesday!

4th Wednesday of Every Month
Kitchen will be open from 5 to 7 pm
Serving an assortment of favorites
Including a featured
Wednesday Night Special

**FREE POOL
EVERY MONDAY
ALL DAY
HERE AT POST 117**



AMERICAN LEGION POST 117

AMERICAN LEGION POST 117



**EVERY
TUESDAY
AT
11:00 AM**