March/April 2017

AMERICAN LEGION CHARLES F. THOMAS IV POST 117
189 VETERANS DRIVE • PALM BAY, FLORIDA 32909

The Thomas Times

Photo shows the banner the SAL and Legion Riders paid for sponsoring the Bayside Women's Varsity Softball team. The banner is displayed at the Bayside High School baseball/softball field'

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The 2017 Department of Florida Children and Youth Picnic will be hosted at American Legion Post 117 on Saturday, 1 April 2017 from 12 noon until 6 pm.

Bring out the whole family - there is something for everyone!

Admission is just $10 per person and children under 12 years old are free!

The Legion Riders are hosting a Poker Run in conjunction with the picnic. The run begins and ends at Post 117 - registration starts at 8 am and kick stands up at 9 am. Cost is $10 per rider or passenger. Cars are welcome!

For more information, please contact Jim Fournier at postcommander@al117.com or visit www.floridalegion.org.

Post 117 Directory

American Legion Officers

Commander	Jim Fournier
1st Vice Commander	Bruce Thurber
2nd Vice Commander	Gene Baker
Adjutant	Duane Podhola
Finance Officer	Chris Hess
Chaplain	Barry Roberts
Sergeant-at-Arms	Matt Zirwas
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms	Gene Pilot
Historian	Tim Durham
Judge Advocate	Charlie Christy
Service Officer	Don Overton
Service Officer	Chris Hamrick
Executive Committee	Dave Fox
Executive Committee	Tom Giampino

Auxiliary Officers

President	Wanda McDermon
1st Vice President	Beverly Hall
2nd Vice President	Millicent Donovan
Treasurer	Diane Wood
Secretary	Haley Farris
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joann Wright
Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms	Phoebe Chilcott
Chaplain	Barbara 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 Commander	Bruce Walkowiak
2nd Vice Squadron Commander	Tony Gannon
Adjutant	Ed Milnor
Finance Officer	Ray Mohr
Chaplain	Ed Milnor Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms	Dylan Young
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Keith Durham
Historian	Bob Humann

Legion Riders Officers

Director	Bob Wiseman
Assistant Director	Bruce Walkowiak
Secretary	Sheila Cline-Burns
Treasurer	Ray Mohr
Chaplain	Donna Walkowiak
Sergeant-at-Arms	Duane Podhola
Historian	Michelle Bucher
Safety Officer	Ed Milnor

Honor Guard

Commander:	Matt Zirwas
Members:	Phoebe Chilcott
Randy Chilcott	Dawn Hanner
Bob Menard	Ed Milnor
Eddy Milnor	Bruce Walkowiak
Donna Walkowiak	

Ways & Means Committee

Chairman:	Gene Baker
Members:	Randy Chilcott
Millicent Donovan	Bev Durham
Tim Durham	Jim Fournier
Chris Hess	Bruce Thurber
Bob Wiseman	Ray Wright

House Committee

Chairman:	tbd
Members:	Leo Bellanger
Randy Chilcott	Chris Hamerick
Don Jochum	Brenda Miskow
Sherry White	

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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

Commander's Corner

Where has the time gone? It's almost summer time already. I want to thank everybody that provided support and volunteered their time to help the SAL with the Special Olympics fundraiser & Poker Run. What a great success! Even bigger than last year. Great job by all.

Our next event is the 12th District picnic on March 11th. This year the picnic is being hosted by and at Post 117. Please come on out to Post 117 and show your support for the district as we raise money for Boys and Girls State. Following the District Picnic, Post 117 will be hosting the Department of Florida Children and Youth family picnic on April 1st.

We are always looking for volunteers and Helping Hands. Please let myself or Gene Baker know and we will be more than happy to put you to work. This event will be our 2nd annual and we look forward to it being bigger and better. If you would like to be a sponsor, please fill out a sponsor form and give it to the bartender or a Post officer.

Reminder: Post Officer nominations will be offered at the general meetings on March 15th and April 19th.

The election will be held on May 13th from 10am - 2pm. Be sure to come out and cast Your Vote for Your Leadership!

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 • Post Meetings • Post Meetings • Post Meetings • Post Meetings

Legion Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Legion EC Meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 pm

SAL Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm

Auxiliary Meeting, 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Auxiliary EC Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Legion Riders Meeting, 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm

Legion Riders EC Meeting, Last 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 FAMILY

Wanda McDermon
President, Unit 117

Unit 117 American Legion Auxiliary

Hello my sisters of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 117 hope you had a good January and February. We have been somewhat busy; so many functions have gone on with many more to come.

March 11, 2017 we start out with District 12 Picnic, at our Legion home. All monies are going towards our Girls and Boys State Conference to help pay for the transportation to Tallahassee and back. We have been called upon once again to furnish sides; such as potato salad, macaroni salad and Cole slaw. Please let us know if you will be able to contribute any of these items. The Legion has many things that they will be selling tickets for, check it out when you come in, buy some tickets and take a chance; this is a very worthy and important function that we hold each year.

April 1, 2017, we will be hosting the Annual Department of Florida Children and Youth Picnic, this function is sponsored by the Department of Florida, and it is open to the public.

Many volunteers are needed to help pull this off, please give us some of your time and energy to make it happen. We may also be called upon to furnish some side dishes, so check out the bulletin boards when you are in the Canteen for any important information

Also, it is that time of year again to be thinking about who you would like to nominate to serve as an officer for the 2017-2018 year.

We will be establishing a Nominating Committee at our meeting to help carry out this task, also, delegates must be chosen to represent our Unit at Convention this June, as you can see we have many task ahead of us to complete in the next three months. We will not be hosting the Friday dinner on March 17th, which is St Patrick's Day, as the 40 & 8 will be serving the traditional Corn Beef and Cabbage that Friday night. The Auxiliary will, however, be hosting the breakfast on Sunday, March 19th, all the proceeds will go to our Unit, let us make this really special and enjoyable.

I am sure I have left something out and will think of it later. Remember we are here to serve our Veterans not ourselves. Check out our Facebook pages and calendars to find out what is going on in your Legion home. If you have any questions or concerns, please seek out one of your officers to help.

Randy Chilcott
Commander
Squadron 117

Squadron 117, Sons of the American Legion

Let me start out by thanking Tony Gannon and all the Legion Family who donated money and time volunteering to make this Special Olympics Event a GREAT success!

We raised $7,161.50 in donations and $3,022.00 In-Kind donations. Making for a total of $10,183.50. This is a all time high for Squadron 117.

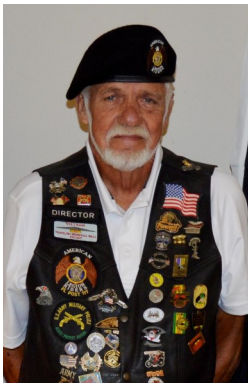
During our March 14th and April 11th regular meetings we will be asking for nominations for SAL officers positions. If you are interested in running for any officer position please let someone know so they can nominate you. The elections of officers will be held on May 9th at our regular meeting.

Our next SAL District meeting is March 4th at Post 163 Melbourne, registration at 9am, meeting at 10am.

As always we need volunteers for Steak shoot, Friday night dinner, Breakfast, and Big AZZ Burgers. Please try and help out all our SAL activities.

Please feel free to talk to me about any ideas you may have.

See ya'll around the post!



Bob Wiseman
Director, Chapter 117

Chapter 117, American Legion Riders

Its coming up on that time of the year again for nominations and election of officers, any one that is interested in running for an office will have to be nominated from the floor and you (he/she) will have to be present to except the nomination. If he/she is nominated and not present at the first reading then the candidate will be ask at the second reading if present if he/she will accepts the nomination, if still absent the candidate will not be added to the ballot. The nominations will start in March 2nd meeting with the first reading of the officers duties and qualifications (if any, some positions don't have any qualifications). The second reading will be @ the April 6th meeting and the voting will be held @ the May 4th meeting.

I want to thank everyone that has stepped up to volunteer for Steak Shoot, Friday Night Dinners, Sunday Breakfast and NFL Sunday.

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 that 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 in the Riders box in the foyer.

"STAY HIGH ON LIFE
AND KEEP RIDING"

Friday Night Dinners and Karaoke

Date	*Host*	*Menu*	*Karaoke DJ*
3 March	Riders	To Be Announced	Jimmy D
10 March	S.A.L.	Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, and a Vegetable	Guest DJ
17 March	40 & 8	Saint Patrick's Day Dinner featuring traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage	Jimmy D
24 March	Post	To Be Announced	Chuck Body
31 March	Honor Guard	To Be Announced	Jimmy D
7 April	Riders	To Be Announced	Jimmy D
14 April	S.A.L.	Fried Fish, Coleslaw, Hushpuppies and French Fries	Guest DJ
21 April	Auxiliary	Phoebe's Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggie and Dessert	Jimmy D
28 April	Post	To Be Announced	Chuck Body

Message from the District Commander

As I travel the District one of the things I see on a regular basis are members becoming upset with Bartenders when they do their job and ask for a membership card before serving them. Under Florida Law you must be a member in good standing to purchase an alcoholic beverage in the canteen.

We, as the Legionaries of the individual Posts, task our bartenders to protect our interests by ensuring that the law is abided by. Any person purchasing an Alcoholic Beverage may be asked at any time to show their current Legion, Auxiliary or Sons card. If they don't show it to a Law Enforcement Officer during an inspection there are liability issues.

I ask that all our family members carry their card and show it with pride when asked. I also ask that when you see a Bartender requesting a card and denying service you respect them for protecting your rights and your Post.

Bruce Thurber, Commander
12th District Department of Florida

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

Auxiliary Ladies V-Neck T-Shirts	$15
Black Half Staff Ribbon	$12

BOOSTERS

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".

Duane & Janet Podhola (3/17)
Bonnie DeCaro (3/17)
Joe & Linda Shipley (3/17)
Gene & Suzie Pilot (5/17)
Dawn Burgess (6/17)
Jim Fournier (6/17)
Elaine Griswold (7/17)
Kevin & Karen McGarry (8/17)
Tom & Les Giampino (9/17)
Howard Print II (11/17)
Ernie & Shirley Winslow (6/18)

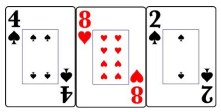
Haircuts by Cathy

3rd Sunday of the Month
10 am to 12 noon

Hall Rental

Our Post Hall is available for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc. Please contact Chris Hess at (321) 729-8089 for rental availability and price information.

Steak Shoot Every Thursday @ 7:30 pm
Join in the Fun!



Pet Services

Free Services for Members' Pets
Nails Trimmed or Dremeled
Ears Cleaned and Hair Removed
Anal Glands Drained
When: 2nd Tuesday of the Month
Time: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Place: American Legion Post 117
Services Provided By: Sharon McCausland
Pets must be on leash or in crate