



The Legionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23518

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AUGUST 2021

POST OFFICERS

Commander: Roger Kelly
1st VCDR: Byron Pionalto
2nd VCDR: Rick McDonald
3rd VCDR: Tony Moore
Adjutant: Evan Glendinning
Finance: David Seate
Service Officer: Bob DeChamplain
Chaplain: Rickey Brown
Sgt-at-Arms: Ian Gorman
Historian: Alex Bascom

Exec Board

Gene Niedholdt
Tim Gonyea
Fred Knall
John (JB) Richardson

LEGION RIDERS

Director: Derrick Johnson
Asst Dir: Shane Kelly
Adjutant: Rob Buckhalter
Treasurer: David Seate
Safety Officer: Keith McCauley
Chaplain: Mike Moranha
Sgt-at-Arms: Vacant
Road Captains: Keith Palmer

Exec Board

Al R. Gnome

SAL SQUADRON

CDR: Fred Vaccarella
1st VCDR: Dave Samson
2nd VCDR Mike Schmidt
Adjutant: James Doty Jr.
Treasurer: Jeff Evans
Chaplain: Rocky English
1st Sgt-at-Arms: Wayne Turner
2nd Sgt-at-Arms: Frank White
Historian: Dan Schmidt

Exec Board

Steve Gower
Milo Cross
Kenneth O'Bryan

AUXILIARY

President: Crystal Cross
Vice President: Yvonne Thibeault
Secretary: Salina Kiel
Treasurer: Jan Dumstorff
Chaplain: Marcia Brothers
Sgt-at-Arms: Kellee McCarty
Historian: Jane Evans

Exec Board

Karen Stull
Patty Hibner
Linda Woody

COMMANDER: Can't believe it's August already and events are in full swing here at Post 327! We just had our annual July 4th picnic. A big thank you to Executive Board member **Fred Knall** for stepping up and planning this year's picnic. It's really no small task planning these events and even harder with the short notice due to a family emergency. Thank you to all that volunteered to help out! This was a little late as it occurred after my last newsletter input, but a huge congratulation is in order for our Legion Riders and their Director **Derrick Johnson (DJ)**. On June 26th, Post 327 was honored as the last stop on the Virginia State Legacy Ride. DJ, Post 327's Legion Riders, the Auxiliary, and the 2nd District Honor Guard put on an outstanding event! I was told that there has never been anything like the entrance they had set up for the procession of motorcycles to pass through when they arrived at the Post. A shout out to Norfolk Fire Dept, as Ladders 7 and 9 were on hand to make an arch over Lesner Ave for the Riders to pass under. It was a great cause and a wonderful

display of Americanism! The 2nd District Convention was held this past month and I was able to attend in person. Thank goodness we are starting to get back to at least a little bit more normalcy this year. The new incoming 2nd District Commander is Ted Price from Post 60. He was previously the 2nd District Vice Commander for Children and Youth. The Depart of Virginia's Convention was also held, and the new state commander is Frank Hillyard. I am very pleased and proud to congratulate one of Post 327's very own, **Eric Isaksen**. At the convention Eric was installed as the Department of Virginia's Service Officer, a position very well deserved! Eric is extremely devoted to helping veterans, and he is personally responsible for making Post 327's Service Officer program what it is today! I can't wait to see what he can do at a State level. Yet another huge congratulations goes out to Post 327's Auxiliary President **Crystal Cross!** At the Auxiliary's District Convention, she was installed as this year's District 1/2 Auxiliary President! Crystal also serves as

our Post's Children and Youth Chairman. Just from the events we've hosted so far this year, to our very own being installed at a District and State level, I cannot help from feeling extremely proud of, nor extend enough gratitude to the entire Post 327 Legion Family on how well you've represented Post 327! Let's keep this rolling! For God and Country! Roger Kelly

UPCOMING EVENTS: Aug 15th Bowling Meeting @ 1pm, Aug 25 @ 12-4pm Job Fair, Aug 28th-ALA Open House @ 1pm.

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: We are off to a strong start for 2022 renewals. Please renew as soon as possible for the upcoming year. **Currently with the NEW MyLegion.org rollout on Apr 1st the system seems to be working for our Post. If you have problems registering your account please contact us.** Anyone that has an **honorable** discharge after Dec 7th, 1941, is able to join the American Legion. For God and Country, Byron Pianalto

SECOND VICE COMMANDER: No input. For God and Country. Rick McDonald

ADJUTANT: Hello everyone, I hope everyone is doing well, staying safe and healthy! We will be having a Job Fair here at the Post on August 25th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. If you know of any local businesses that are hiring, please let me know and I will reach out to them to come to our job fair. Also, make sure that you are keeping track of all your volunteer hours and projects. If you would like to you can regularly turn in your hours or turn them all in at the end of April. I have been asked a couple times of when our next blood drives are and the next two scheduled blood drives are on September 22 from 1 PM to 6 PM and on November 24th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about the job fair, blood drives or about recording your volunteer hours, please reach out! I do hope all is well!

For God and Country, Evan Glendinning, Post Adjutant
SERVICE OFFICER: During the Month of June service officer spoke with 177 veterans, spent 287 hours and logged 1317 miles. I want to thank all the service officers for the hard work they do. Thanks to the passage of H.R. 6395, the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, VA added bladder cancer to its list of presumptive conditions linked with exposure to Agent Orange.

Presumptive conditions are certain health problems that are automatically considered by VA to be connected to a Veteran's military service. If a Veteran was exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam and was diagnosed with bladder cancer, they or their survivors can file a VA disability compensation claim. If a claim was previously denied, it will be automatically reviewed. For God and Country, Bob DeChamplain

CHAPLAIN: Good morning to all. The eighth month of the year - YEAH. Summertime is here and I'm looking forward to enjoying family members and friends. Last month's cookout was good with a few friends. We're (I'm) looking forward to our Family Reunion, just to see the new members of the family, is great. Enough about me. I have been listening and viewing

the two billionaires that are and have gone into space - MAN! I never thought that a company/incorporation outside of NASA could or would do that. Yes, they were short trips, but they were space trips. Proverbs 3: 5, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding".

Enjoy your life. For God and Country, Rickey Brown

LEGION RIDERS: Hello Legion Riders Supporters!! We are pleased to announce we have helped to raise over \$40,000 this year for the American Legion Scholarship! Over 100 bikes descended on Post 327 for the final stop festivities. It was a great time by all! Special thanks go out to the Legion Auxiliary, District Honor Guard, Post 327 Bartenders, and the various volunteers who helped throughout the event. I cannot thank you enough. There has been an increasing amount of interest in the riders, and we ask that you come to a meeting and introduce yourself! The riders are looking for a few local nonprofits or veteran charities to support. Please contact a rider to give your suggestions! For God and Country, "DJ" Rider Director

ATHLETIC OFFICER: Greetings to all. Our baseball team has finished their short season. They were in many close games. It was good to see young men on the field. Here's a CALL to female softball players. Our co-ed Friday night season will be starting later this month. Contact Commander Roger or me if interested. I will post a schedule on the hallway cork board. It will be cooler, come watch your team represent. Till next month...For God @ Country, Jeff Evans A.O.

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Greetings and a Salute to Our Legion Family and Friends We had a great kick off for 2022 SAL membership during the 4th of July picnic with a total of 64 renewals including 1 transfer and new members. Vice Commander **Dave Samson** was ecstatic. We also have attained our 100 % goal of 193 members for 2020 membership year. I am asking for your assistance for more member attendance at our SAL meetings that are held every 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. If you have a buddy that is a SAL member that has not been to a meeting for a few months, then ask him to join you. If you have a friend that is eligible and may be thinking about joining the SAL, then bring him along to see and hear what the SAL is all about. When the weather is nice, we hold meetings outside in the pavilion. We have 193 members and on average only 12-15 members attend our meetings. It is true that we need membership, and that membership is vital but we need to put our heads together to figure out how to get more attendance at our meetings. Like Uncle Sam says, "We need You!!". We need your ideas and input. We need your involvement. Please try to take just 1 hour out of your month to attend a SAL meeting. I guarantee if you attend a meeting, you will enjoy the meeting and we will each get something out of it. One other thing to mention is that as a member you have an opportunity to win a free membership. Each time you come to a meeting or participate in a SAL/Legion function you are eligible to drop your name in the raffle bucket.

Adjutant **James Doty** won a free membership for 2022. He nobly donated his free membership back so that it could be passed on to some other SAL member that may be in need. I tell you what, we sure do have some healthy "appetited" Spaghetti eaters! We went through a cauldron of ground beef sauce, ground pork, meatballs and Italian sausage and lbs. of pasta. A big thank you to **Frank & Maureen White** for the delicious brownies they made for dessert. Thank all of you that support our dinner night and help us to raise money for our Veteran's charity fund.

Our August dinner, due to the Summer heat, will be a Scrumptious Crispy Crunchy Cold Plate Salad with Crackers and Dessert. Dinner night is August 20th from 6-8 pm.

After dinner make sure that you visit our social quarters in these dog days of August and let our SAL Co Sgt-at-Arms and Mixologist **Wayne Turner** impart upon you a libation of hydration and merriment.

CDCE/VSO: I attended the quarterly CDCE virtual meeting July 15th. It was held at the HVAMC CDCE building. Hopefully things will lighten up and we will be able to participate in volunteering time in person at the HVAMC. There has been no "ok" yet from the upper realm saying that it is opening up volunteering in person. **Mrs. Curtis**, Chief of CDCE, and her team are waiting for the time when they can open their doors to us volunteers. The Post also sent a check for \$500.00 donating to the general fund account.

VE&E: We had our first education fair at the Post July 11th with 14 colleges/universities and 2 Tech schools. We also logged 14 people that attended the fair that gathered information concerning furthering their education and information regarding grants and the usage of post 911 GI Bill. All in all, it was a very fruitful endeavor. August the 25th we will host a job fair for our transitional military as they embark into the public employment sector. Please share this information with associates that you may know that are perhaps future employers or employees. Keep all of our sickly and in need members, family, friends and neighbors in your prayers. "Buddy" check those you have not seen or heard from to make sure they are ok. For God and Country, Fred Vaccarella

ALA PRESIDENT: Hello everyone! Our August meeting is on the 3rd, and we hope to see you there! We are still looking for volunteers for many of the committees so we can fulfill our mission this year. If you are interested in helping, even for just an hour now and then or helping with calls or other ways that does not involve a lot of time or even leaving the house please let us know. The ALA will be holding an Open House in the Meeting Hall on August 28th at 1pm. Please come out and enjoy some snacks, see what we do to meet our mission and get to know our members! It was great to see so many folks at the July 4th picnic, those we haven't seen in so long and meeting our new members! Our 2022 Membership drive has started and a big thanks go out to Yvonne and Jan for the hard work at the picnic! We would also like to welcome our new members and the transferred members. We look forward to your new ideas and look forward to getting to know all of you! Our dinner on August

6th will be Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Beans, roll and dessert, come on out on the 6th to enjoy a great meal and support our ALA mission. All proceeds from the August dinner fundraiser will be going towards 2022 Girls State. If you would like to know more about Girls State let us know and we will be more than happy to provide you information and you can also visit the Virginia ALA and National ALA websites for information on this program and all the ALA programs. Unit 327 attended the Department Convention via Zoom on July 11th. It was a bittersweet meeting with outgoing President Dawn Thomas of Unit 327. Dawn did a wonderful job this year, but it was not the year that was expected due to the Pandemic. Our new Department President for 2021-2022 is Staci King and Unit 327 wishes her a great year and we look forward to working with our new Department Officers in supporting The ALA mission. Unit 327 was one of the 14 Units in Virginia that received the Citation for Meritorious Service and one of the 19 Units in the Top 100+ Membership for the 2020-2021 year. Thanks to everyone for their hard work to receive these awards, everyone who crocheted, donated supplies throughout the year, helped with fundraisers and to all our members! The Unit Planning meeting was a great chance to see some new faces and some great ideas for this year. Stay tuned for upcoming events! School will be starting before we know it and it is time to think about school supplies. We will be collecting school supplies in August to distribute to 7 local Norfolk Elementary Schools. We are working to get a list of needed supplies together and we hope to have that us very soon on the monitor at the Post and we will send out in the Unit monthly email. There is a box for donations set up in the entrance to the Post under the display case. For God and Country, Crystal Cross

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: Summer is going strong and so is the Guard. We have performed a post everlasting at Post 60, firings details for veterans' funerals and posting colors at our 4 of July picnic. We are always ready when needed. Enjoying the rest of the summer. For God and Country, Gene Niedholdt

CLUBROOM MANAGER: Hello everyone! Hope y'all are enjoying your summer! As we move forward things are surely returning to a new normal. Breakfast at the Post will start Sunday, 1 August, however, not as a buffet. Marisa will be preparing each breakfast ordered in the kitchen and you will be served at your table. Ricky is here the second and fourth Saturday nights of each month to play your favorite song to sing, Thursday lunches and Friday night dinners are going really well, please be respectful of each other when in the Clubroom and please no profanity! For God and Country, Sandra Wright

BOWLING LEAGUE SECRETARY: Our annual pre-season league meeting will be held on Aug 15th at 1pm. I will be sending out an email reminder of the meeting but if you know someone that would like to bowl please let them know about the meeting even if they are not yet on a team. For God and Country, Byron Pianalto

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 - 11 Breakfast by Marisa	2	3 7:00 PM ALA Exec Mtg 7:30 PM ALA Regular Mtg Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	4 7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327 Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	5 12 - 2 Lunch Special- Turkey Reuben Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	6 6:00 PM ALA Dinner - Fried Chicken	7 Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10
8 9 - 11 Breakfast by Marisa	9 7:00 PM Son's Executive Mtg	10 7:00 PM Post Executive Mtg 7:30 PM Post Reg Mtg Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	11 7:00 PM Corn Hole Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	12 12 - 2 Lunch Special - Lasagne Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	13 6:00 PM Dinner by Patty - Meatloaf	14 9:00 AM -11:00 AM Mu Beta Phi Fraternity 7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10
15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 1:00 PM Bowling Mtg </div> 9 - 11 Breakfast by Marisa	16 7:00 PM Honor Guard Mtg	17 Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	18 6:30 PM VVA Chapter 48 Reg Board Mtg Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	19 6:30 PM Legion Riders Mtg 12 - 2 Lunch Special - Chicken Salad Slider Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	20 6:00 PM SAL Dinner - Cold Plate Salad	21 Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10
22 9 - 11 Breakfast by Marisa	23	24 Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	25 7:00 PM Corn Hole Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> Noon to 4 PM Job Fair @ the Post </div>	26 12 - 2 Lunch Special - Soppo Joes Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	27 6:00 PM Dinner by Patty - Chicken Parmesan <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> National Conv. Phoenix </div>	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 1:00 PM ALA Open House </div> 7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10
29 9 - 11 Breakfast by Marisa <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> National Conv. Phoenix </div>	30	31 Kitchen Open - 5 pm til 10	<div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> Service Officers are available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 10AM to 4PM. </div>			