



The Legionnaire

Tidewater Post 327
705 Lesner Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23518

Service Officers: (757) 227-5296 (Fax) 961-5537
Club Room Phone: (757) 587-2641 Post Office: (757) 937-3146

WEBSITE: www.legion327.org
E-Mail: amlg327@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY 2021

POST OFFICERS

Commander: Tony Moore
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Roger Kelly
3rd VCDR: Chuck Clark
Adjutant: Evan Glendinning
Finance: David Seate
Service Officer: Bob DeChamplain
Chaplain: Rickey Brown
Sgt-at-Arms: Brendan Morrison
Historian: TBD

Exec Board

Gene Niedholdt
Tim Gonyea
Anthony Valentin

LEGION RIDERS

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

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: Mike Atkinson
2nd Sgt-at-Arms: Wayne Turner
Historian: Dan Schmidt

Exec Board

Steve Gower
Milo Cross
Kenneth O'Bryan

AUXILIARY

President: Crystal Cross
Vice President: Yvonne Thibeault
Secretary: Ashley Matheny
Treasurer: Jan Dumstorff
Chaplain: Marcia Brothers
Sgt-at-Arms: Ashley Evans
Historian: Jane Evans

Exec Board

Anne Starke
Heather Matheny
Brenda Massarella

COMMANDER: February is here, and the COVID-19 restrictions are still in place. March will mark one year of total shut down and restrictions. Some people have received the vaccine shot, either through the VA or Portsmouth Naval Hospital. Hopefully, the vaccine will soon be available to everyone. I would encourage everyone to get the shot when it is available for your group. Your Post home is still serving members, although in a more limited way. Friday dinners are still available. Yvonne volunteers to make a lunch on Thursdays and it is not only delicious but the best deal in town. We have no idea when we will be allowed to have bar seating or bring our tables back into the clubroom. The Post is looking forward to business as usual once the COVID restrictions are relaxed. For God and Country, Tony Moore

UPCOMING EVENTS: Annual Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale, February 6th 1-4pm

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: For 2021 we currently have just over 780 new and renewed Members. If you have not renewed yet and have a key fob, it will not work after midnight the 31st. If have renewed and your fob does not work please let me know, you don't need to buy another fob. Anyone that has an **honorable** discharge after Dec 7th, 1941 is able join the American Legion. Post Members are able to renew for 2021 online at www.legion.org/renew website and pay with credit card, you can also check your personal information and make any corrections if necessary, if you make any changes please notify me at email address in the header of this newsletter so that I can keep my database up to date. For God and Country, Byron Pianalto

SECOND VICE COMMANDER: Stay safe and healthy. For God and Country. Roger Kelly

ADJUTANT: I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do that as soon as possible. Also, the next time you come to the post, please take a look at the table next to the ATM. The table has a tablet. If you would like to receive occasional text messages for updates to the calendar, alerts, etc. please enter your cell phone number in the tablet. We do not send out a lot of text messages. I do hope all is well. Stay safe. Hopefully 2021 will be better than 2020 for you! For God and Country, Evan Glendinning, Post Adjutant

SERVICE OFFICER: In the month of December our service officers Spoke with 116 veterans, spent 206 hours and logged 964 miles. Thank you for all the hard work you do. **VA Contact Centers Single Access to All at 1-800-Myva411 (1-800-698-2411)** The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced 16 DEC, the formal launch of 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411), a single access point to all VA contact centers. The number is available 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year to serve Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Responding to Veteran feedback on the challenges of knowing the right number for VA assistance, 1-800-MyVA411, serves all members of the Veteran community seeking information or help. Veterans and their families can still reach the Veterans Crisis Line directly at 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, by Chat or by texting 838255. The White House VA Hotline is also still available at 1-855-948-2311 for Veterans and their families to share compliments and concerns. "1-800-MyVA411 provides easy access to specialized contact centers as well as an option to immediately talk to a live agent." When dialing 1-800-MyVA411, callers have the option of pressing 0 to be immediately connected with a customer service agent to answer questions or provide a warm hand off to the appropriate VA expert. 1-800-MyVA411 provides information on: COVID-19 updates. Health care eligibility and enrollment. VA benefits, such as disability, compensation and pension, education programs, caregiver support, insurance, home loans, and burial headstones and markers among others. The nearest VA medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries to Veterans, VA Medical Center operational updates and connection to VA Medical Center operators. Directory assistance and technical support for www.VA.gov. Debt and payment options. **VA Covid-19 Benefits** Disability Pay for Troops with Debilitating Cases, or Their Survivors Under sweeping veterans legislation approved 16 DEC by Congress, service members who contract COVID-19 while on duty and suffer disability or death as a result will be eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. A provision in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans' Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 designates COVID-19 as a presumptive illness – a descriptor that paves the way for affected service members or veterans who suffer long-term consequences of the virus to receive

compensation and benefits. To be eligible for disability, the individual must have served on active duty for more than 48 hours at one time and developed the illness during service or within 14 days after the qualifying period of duty. The department has the ability to decide whether a veteran qualifies should they develop COVID-19 after the 14-day time frame. The benefit would apply to active-duty service members and Reserve members, as well as National Guardsmen on training duty under Title 10; activated Guard members serving on or after 13 MAR; or those working full time during the national emergency as declared by the president. Why should the number 288 never be mentioned? It's two gross. For God and Country, Bob DeChamplain

CHAPLAIN: Number 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie: neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? KJV We are held, in the palm of His hand, and I love Him! For God and Country, Rickey Brown

LEGION RIDERS: The riders have many things going on and continue looking to increase our membership! Only \$1 a month to be a member!! Valentines Card box is available at the bar. We will be mailing them off Feb 6th! Get your cards in early! Please affix \$1 to the cards. We will be selling a limited number of raffle tickets for a chance to win up to \$5,000! Find a Legion Rider and stay tuned for available times they will be available! For God and Country, "DJ" Rider Director

ATHLETIC OFFICER: Greetings to all, American Legion baseball got some good news this past month. Applications for registering teams have opened at National. Baseball and many programs were cancelled last year. Discussions between other Post A.O.'s and the District Athletic Officer have begun. I have contacted our coach from Maury High school. They are ready. Our last and most important hurdle is approval from the Governor. It's time to get these players back on the field, let's go. Lastly our very own Malik Newton has enrolled at the University of Pittsburg. Malik is his name; football is his game. Best of luck. Till next month...For God and Country, Jeff Evans, A.O.

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Greetings Legion Family and Friends. Well, we made it through the holidays and the election, so it is time to get ready for Spring projects for our Veterans, their families and our community barring any further pandemic interference. If you know of any members needing help with grocery shopping, Doctor visits or if they need meals delivered to them on Fridays or any day please inform any officer of the Post, ALA or Sal to see what we may be able to do as a family effort to help our fellow members. The American Legion is world's largest Veteran service organization. Spring Conference and NEC is coming up shortly. It is time to

think about nominations for Legion Department and Sons Detachment Scholarship Awards. It is also time for nominations for Department Eagle Scout of the Year. Winners of these scholarships and awards are available to any member's son graduating in 2021. I know we have had 3 Detachment winners in the past along with an Eagle Scout of the Year. Every little bit of \$\$\$ helps with the costs of higher education. 1st Vice Cmdr. **Dave Samson** is ecstatic. Our squadron is over 85%. We only need 20 more renewals and/or new members signed up to hit our goal of 193 SAL members for 2021. Great job!! We have 20 new members this year so far and this new blood helps us to grow along with a lot of new ideas and spirit. Quite a few of our Sons are dual members and I encourage dual members because they are supportive of the SAL. Our ALA is also an excellent ally and so supportive of the SAL. I thank all of you. Our Brunswick Stew night was successful. We sold out. Two big buckets, 30 lbs. meat...all gone including all the Cornbread and its Crumbs. Thank you so much for supporting our dinner nights thereby helping us to raise money for our SAL Charity fund that helps our Veterans, their families and our local community. Our dinner night in February is on the 19th. We will be serving Boneless Pork Chops Smothered with Gravy, along with Mashed Potatoes, American Legion Green Beans, Dinner Roll and Dessert. All of this for only an \$8.00 donation to the SAL Charity account. Time 6-8 p.m. or until we sell out.

VA&R/VAVS: I attended the 1st Quarterly VAVS meeting of 2021 via Zoom. The HVAMC is issuing COVID-19 shots if you are interested. Here is a link concerning COVID shot procedure and information: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/> The Chief of Recreation Therapy and Voluntary Service, Mrs. **Judith Curtis** believes that after the higher risk Vets and frontline medical staff get their shots that HVAMC may be able to give shots to all HVAMC volunteers. FYI: Director **Collins** resigned, and **Dr. Shawn Alexander** is now the new interim Director at HVAMC. Thank all of you for bringing in the 2021 calendars. We accumulated about 4 dozen. Mrs. Curtis is looking for more volunteers. If you can spare a few hours a month to volunteer, please do so. See me or Anne Stark. In closing, remember National Cmdr. Oxford's "Buddy Check" movement to check up on those we have not seen for some time that may now be "shut ins". Pray for those of us that are less fortunate or suffering from medical issues. For God and Country, Fred Vaccarella

ALA PRESIDENT: Hello ALA Members! We hope everyone is healthy and staying warm this winter! January was a bit of a slower month than we have been having lately which has given our volunteers an opportunity to regroup and regather. The February meeting is on Tuesday the 2nd. We hope to see you there. Our dinner on Friday, February 5th will be Comforting Beef Stroganoff made by our Past Unit President Collene Gravitt! Come join us for this wonderful dinner to warm you on

this cold February 5th! The Annual Chili cookoff and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, February 6th from 12-4pm. For those wishing to join the cookoff, please have your chili to the Post no later than 11am on the 6th. We are also looking for baked goods for the bake sale. If you wish to donate baked goods, please have them at the Post also on the 6th by 11am. Please come out and vote for your favorite chili and enjoy some baked treats! We will be sending care packages monthly overseas and we are welcoming donations. A bin will be set up at the Post for donations so we can support our troops. Our Department President, Dawn Thomas's son has been deployed overseas and we will be sending care packages for him to distribute to the troops. Some of the items requested are socks, Vaseline, individual drink mixes (Crystal light, Gatorade, etc.), nuts, crackers, snacks, Chapstick, Visine, beef jerky, candy (no chocolate-it will melt), puzzle books, other small items that will help them pass the time overseas and let them know that The ALA is there to support them. As stated in the Squadron Commanders comments, if you know of anyone needing assistance or meals delivered, our Legion Family is here to assist, please reach out to us and we will do our best to assist you. Our Membership chair and VP, Yvonne, has been busy reaching out to our members with calls for those that have not yet renewed their dues for 2021. If you have not yet renewed your dues, please do so as soon as possible. The ALA is still working daily during the pandemic to support The American Legion Auxiliary mission of service not self and to support our veterans, active duty and their families, and our community. For God and Country, Crystal Cross

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: Let's hope that 2021 is much better for all of us from the Honor Guard happy New Year stay safe and as all ways the Guard is here and ready For God and Country, Gene Niedholdt

CLUBROOM MANAGER: Hello everyone! I'm sure you are all aware of just how COVID cases are increasing nationwide. We must do our part to help stop the spreading of the virus. The CDC has implemented guidelines and these guidelines are now mandatory at the Post. Face coverings are REQUIRED to enter the Post and MUST be worn at all times when moving about in the Post ~ for example going to the restroom, going to the bar to order, playing the jukebox, playing games, shooting pool, etc. Only exception is when you are SEATED at a table enjoying food or a beverage. If simply sitting and having a conversation you MUST wear your face covering. Also, observe the 6' rule for social distancing for the safety of yourself and those around you. Our employees have been given guidelines for sanitizing tables, games, hard surfaces, etc. We all need to follow these rules. Thank you all for understanding and helping all our members stay safe. We are all trying our best to cope with the hardships this pandemic has caused. Please say a prayer for all those who have been affected. For God and Country, Sandra Wright

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post	2 7:00 PM ALA Exec Mtg 7:30 PM ALA Regular Mtg 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post	3 7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327	4 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post Lunch Special 12-2 Fish Sand & Fries	5 6:00 PM ALA Dinner - Beef Stroganoff	6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 12:00 PM Chili Cook-Off & Bake Sale </div> 5:30 PM -7:30 PM Kitchen Open
7 1:00 PM Legion Bowling Kitchen Open - 4 pm til ?	8 7:00 PM Son's Executive Mtg 7:30 PM Son's Regular Mtg 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post	9 7:00 PM Post Executive Mtg 7:30 PM Post Reg Mtg 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post	10	11 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post Lunch Special 12-2 Lasagna	12 6:00 PM Dinner by Patty - Smothered Chicken & Stuffing	13 5:30 PM -7:30 PM Kitchen Open 9AM - 11 AM Mu Beta Phi Fraternity
14 1:00 PM Legion Bowling Kitchen Open - 4 pm til ?	15 8:00 PM Honor Guard Mtg 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post	16 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post	17 6:30 PM VVA Chapter 48 Reg Board Mtg	18 6:30 PM Legion Riders Mtg 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post Lunch Special 12-2 BBQ	19 6:00 PM SAL Dinner - Smothered Boneless Pork Chops	20 5:30 PM -7:30 PM Kitchen Open
21 1:00 PM Legion Bowling Kitchen Open - 4 pm til ?	22 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post	23 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post	24	25 10 AM-4:00 PM Service Officer at Post Lunch Special 12-2 Goulash	26 6:00 PM Dinner by Patty - Meat Loaf	27 5:30 PM -7:30 PM Kitchen Open
28 1:00 PM Legion Bowling Kitchen Open - 4 pm til ?	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Please make sure you are social distancing while in the social quarters and wear masks when possible.</p> </div>					