



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.com

E-Mail: amlg327@yahoo.com

MARCH 2024

POST OFFICERS

Commander: Roger Kelly
1st VCDR: Byron Pianalto
2nd VCDR: Linda P. Blaker
3rd VCDR: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
Adjutant: Evan Glendinning
Finance: David Seate
Service Officer: Bob DeChamplain
Chaplain: Keith Palmer
Sgt-at-Arms: Michael Encalade
Historian: Paulmichael Youngmills

Exec Board

Tim Gonyea
Michael McCann
Bryan Blaker

LEGION RIDERS

Director: Keith Palmer
Asst Dir: (DJ) Derrick Johnson
Secretary: Jackie Wilson
Treasurer: David Seate
Safety Officer: Keith McCauley
Chaplain: Mike Moranha
Sgt-at-Arms: Dennis Rosario
Road Captain: TBD

Exec Board

Al R. Gnome

SAL SQUADRON

CDR: Fred Vaccarella
1st VCDR: Wayne Turner
2nd VCDR David "Benski" Vernon
Adjutant: James Doty Jr
Treasurer: Jeff Evans
Chaplain: Rocky English / Frank White
1st Sgt-at-Arms: Gary Stull
Historian: Evan Glendinning

Exec Board

Steve Gower
Milo Cross
Kenneth O'Bryan

AUXILIARY

President: Kathy Morrison
Vice President: Helen Lynum
Secretary: Angie Hernandez
Treasurer: Martha Martin
Chaplain: Marcia Brothers
Sgt-at-Arms: Patty Hibner
Historian: Teresa Clay

Exec Board

Mary Taggart
Laquetta Joe
Jeanne Hartman

COMMANDER: FIRST NOTICE: Election of Post Officers for 2024-2025 will be at the May Post Meeting. I can't believe it's March already! That means Department Conference is here, March 1st thru the 3rd. Remember any member in good standing can register and attend these meetings and events. You do not have to be a Post Officer. I hope to see everyone out marching or riding the float, in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. So come on out and show the pride you have in Post 327 to our community. Speaking of pride in our Post, I just want to take a moment thank all the volunteers that have come out faithfully to help with all our events. For God and Country Roger Kelly

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: With new and renewed Members for 2024 we are currently just over 92% of our goal for 2024, let's keep those renewals coming in. You are now able to renew **online** for 3 years, if you renew before 1 July you can renew at the current rate of \$40 before the dues go up on 1 July 2024 for the 2025 Membership year. **Remember anytime you are at the Post you are required to have your Membership card in your possession.** Post, Auxiliary and SAL Members can also use legion.org/renew to renew your Membership online, there are links for the Auxiliary and Sons on this website. For God and Country, Byron Pianalto

SECOND VICE COMMANDER Hello March! Will this March come in like a lion and leave like a lamb? I think so, especially with the last day of March being Easter. This Months trivia is "The colors of trivia" (hint movies, songs, color wheel... Basically anything dealing with colors!) This month is also Women's history month, Easter, The Seabees are turning 82 years old, The American Legion will be having their 105th birthday!! Also the Saint Patrick's Day Parade is on Saturday 16 March. All participants will meet at the post NLT 0700. Just like last year there will be pizza, subs and soda's for everyone who joins the honor guard in the parade! For God and Country, Linda P. Blaker

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: Hello Legionnaires!! I would like to extend my thanks to you for continuing to help us upgrade and provide you with better Social Quarters. We have made some much-needed changes and are bringing new and exciting events for your enjoyment!! The playground has been built and is ready for the kids! We would also like to thank the riders for purchasing a new deep fryer for the kitchen! For God and Country, Derrick (DJ) Johnson
ADJUTANT: Hello everyone! Lots of information to put out! **First notice, first notice for upcoming elections.** If you want to run

for a specific position, please submit your letter of intent. You can email it to me at AMLG327@yahoo.com, you can print it off and hand it to me. You can fax it to us. Our fax number is 757-961-5537. You can also mail it to us. Our mailing address is at the top of this newsletter. When you are writing/typing your letter of intent, please include your name, your membership number, current phone number and the position that you are running for. If you would like to see a description of each position's duties, responsibilities, and requirements to run for that position, please read our constitution and by-laws. You can find them on our website. If needed, I can also print those out for you. **I NEED YOU LETTER OF INTENT, NO LATER THAN 5 PM ON MAY 12, 2024.** This will give me enough time to make ballots for the election meeting on May 14th. If you have any questions on any elected position, feel free to reach out and we will do our best to answer your questions. So, the first weekend of March, will be the Spring Department conference. It will be at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth. All Post 327 legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons are welcome to attend. If you attend, please consider donating blood. The blood drive at the conference will be from 9 AM to 2 PM. We will be having a blood drive here at Post 327 on March 20th, from 1 PM to 6 PM. Volunteers and donors are needed for both blood drives. As of the Day that I am writing this (2/21/24), we still have 188 people that need to renew. If you haven't renewed, please do so as soon as possible. Also, be advised that during our March meeting, we will be voting on a change to our by-laws during our March meeting. We will be voting to increase Legion Membership dues from \$40 to \$50. This will go in effect for the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year. If you would like to vote on the dues increase, please come to the meeting on March 12, 2024. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM and please arrive a little early to help ensure that the meeting starts in time. You can also go online to legion.org and renew for the next three years at the \$40 rate. This will save you \$30 and you will save the hassle of having to renew for the next three years.

I will be starting to work on the year end Consolidated Post Reports soon. So, for those who have to turn in hours, please start getting that ready. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to reach out! I hope all is well! For God and Country, Evan Glendinning, Post Adjutant

SERVICE OFFICER: During December service officers spoke with 131 veterans, spent 211 hours, and logged 408 miles. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined approximately 96,000 Veterans may be eligible for a refund of their unused Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) contributions totaling up to \$2,700, but the VA only has contact information for 25% of them. We need to reach the other 75% and need your help. While we search and cross-reference other VA databases for contact information, you can notify those of your members who might be eligible so they can reach out to us and request a refund of their VEAP contribution.

Below, we have provided talking points you can use to inform your members nationally or share with individual chapters to help them identify potentially affected members and explain the situation to them. VA has informed us that approximately 96,000 Post-Vietnam Era Veterans or their dependents may be entitled

to a refund of contributions they made to the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). If you don't know, VEAP was a service member education and training savings program for Post-Vietnam Era Veterans.

Why are some service members owed refunds?

In general, Veterans have ten years from their date of discharge to use their education benefits. Some ineligible Veterans still have unused contributions and are entitled to a refund.

Who might be missing their refund?

Veterans potentially eligible for a refund would have: Entered Active Duty between 01/01/77 to 06/30/85 Contributed to VEAP while on active duty and before 4/01/87 Not used all their contributions Not have been dishonorably discharged Completed 24 months of continuous service or have been discharged early due to: Convenience of the government within three months of the end of their enlistment (an "early out" under Title 10, Section 1171) Hardship (under Title 10, Section 1173) Service-connected disability (this includes those rated for a compensable service-connected disability even if they were not discharged for that disability)

What should an eligible, or potentially eligible, Veteran do? If you have unused VEAP funds, you should submit VA Form 22-5281 after completing sections 1-6, 14, 15, and 18. It will take 3-4 weeks to receive a response and/or refund via U.S Treasury check. If you are unsure whether you are eligible for a refund or whether you participated in VEAP, you can call the Education Call Center at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442 4551) domestically or 001-918-781-5678 overseas, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. CT. I want to thank all the service officers for the hard work they do. Post Service Officers are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1000-1500. Closed holidays.

For God & Country, Bob DeChamplain

CHAPLAIN: The low temperatures and then the tease of warmer weather, and then the temperature drop again is a constant lately. Springtime, I'm so looking forward to the Spring season and leaving this cold 30 degree weather behind us, until next year. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. - Romans 12:12. For God and Country. Keith Palmer, Chaplain.

LEGION RIDERS: The Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Ocean View, Norfolk, Saturday, March 16, 2024, show time is 0800 at post 327. The following week the calendar leads us into Spring season. (Although, this current temperature still feels like jack frost, cold.)

-The American Legion Riders from the 2nd and 3rd Districts, along with Chapters 25, 190, 280, 327 and 368 rode several hours to Valentines, Virginia to deliver hundreds of Valentines Cards to the Post Office there. It was a success and we all returned home safely.

-Donated a 20' flagpole with a solar light to Mr. Louie, a veteran that has managed and upkept lawns, while maintaining hundreds of acres of land over the many years for many other veterans. He was given a WWII veteran flag, now that flag flies 24/7.

-Donated a new Gas deep fryer to Post 327 Kitchen that feeds thousands of veterans and people in the local community. Chapter 327 American Legion Riders are always looking for new riders to join. We meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30

p.m. Keep both wheels on the ground and be safe, For God and Country. Keith Palmer, Riders Director.

ATHLETIC OFFICER: Greeting to all, My wife has asked me to announce the luck of the draw dart tournament. This will take place on Fridays starting @7:30. There will not be a tournament on trivia night. No weekly commitment, just come have fun when you can. Tournaments start on March 15th. There is currently a sign-up sheet on the foyer door for men's softball. Games are on Tuesday nights @northside park. Everyone is invited to attend opening day @ OV little league. The date is March 23rd @ 10 AM. The field is located @ the corner of Tidewater & Mason Creek. It's time to play ball. Till next month...For God and Country, Jeff Evans, A.O.

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Greeting Legion Family and Friends! The Ides of March are upon us. St. Patrick's Day just ahead. Daylight savings time starts March 10th. Spring starts March 19th and Easter is the 31st!

Great News! Our membership is ahead of last year's numbers and the Squadron is at 81.48% or we only need 40 more members whether renewals or new members. Please Sons help us reach our 100% goal before May. Here are the monthly target goal percentages: March 80%, April 90%, and May 100%. So, as you see we have already hit our March goal in February.

Yes, elections are coming up and this is the 1st Notice:

If you wish to run as an incumbent or want to step up and run as a new officer then now is the time.

There will be a nominee list posted on the SAL office door. Just print your name and phone number and see either PNVCs Steve Gower or Jeff Evans who are the squadron nomination committee. Let one of these two gentlemen know your desire to run and what office you wish to be elected for. This list is for incumbents or new men looking to run for an office. We encourage nominees and competition. Be part of a national and state award winning squadron! May the best men win!

Benski's delicious Chicken Fajita dinner was a well-received dinner and we sold out! Thank all of you for supporting our SAL charity fund that allows us to give back to our Vets, their Families and to our Community. Since St. Patrick's Day parade is the day after our Son's Friday night dinner, we will have something special for you. 2nd Vice Commander David Vernon aka Chef Benski is serving an all-time favorite Irish Style Guinness Stew with Bread, and a surprise dessert. Yes, dinner night is March 15th from 6-8 pm or until we sell out. Thanks to all the kind folks that help on the SAL dinner nights.

Thank all of you that attended the Spring Conference March 2nd at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth.

Please keep SAL member Mike Atkinson and a past Sgt-at-Arms in your prayers as he recovers from a broken Femur. He is now in rehab and can accept visitors. Sgt-at-Arms Gary Stull is almost back to normal after his full knee replacement.

The Post and the SAL have teamed up and bought 450 boxes of Girl Scout cookies which will be sent to our troops overseas via the USO.

VAVS/CDCE: The VA hospital thanks the Post for their \$500.00 donation to VA&R accounts.

VE&E: See Evan Glendenning, our VE&E Chairman for future

dates of blood drives, career and education fairs. Evan also has a "Needs List" of items that are needed by our homeless Veterans and Veterans at our VA Hospital. The VA thanks the Post for their \$500.00 donation earmarked for VE&E accounts. Please remember all our troops that are deployed overseas in some of the worst trouble spots on earth. Remember our fellow members and their families that may be suffering from medical or financial troubles. For God and Country, Fred Vaccarella

ALA PRESIDENT: 1st notice for TALA Unit Officer Elections for the 2024-2025 year. Elections to be held at the May regular meeting. We encourage anyone interested to run for office. All officers are open for election. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Sgt. At Arms, Historian and three Executive Committee members. The Nominating committee is Carla Sherrill and Phillisa Marable, you can make your intent known to them or any officer.

We hope to see you at the spring conference being held in Portsmouth, VA from 3/1/24-3/3/24.

The Auxiliary will be serving Cabbage Roll Casserole, corn bread muffins, red roasted potatoes, fried apples and dessert on 3/1/24 all for the low price of \$10.00 come out and get in the mood for St. Paddy's day food. Don't forget the St. Patrick's Day parade on 3/16/2024.

Congratulations to Kenny Parker for entering the winning Chili. It was yummy along with all the others who entered. We truly appreciate your participation we couldn't have as much fun without everyone participating.

Please report your service hours for the Unit by March as we need to compile the hours for our year-end reports. Driving someone to a doctor's appointment, grocery store, helping with housework all count. For anyone volunteering with dinners or any other events those hours count as well. If you are crocheting, sewing, making hats, scarves, or blankets all those hours and money donated count. Help us get our funding by reporting your hours.

We will hopefully be hosting the Veterans from the VA Hospital at our April 5th dinner which will be a fish fry again. Fingers crossed that respiratory illnesses don't spike before then. We will keep everyone informed as soon as we get a definite answer that they will be allowed to come. For God and Country, Kathy Morrison

HONOR GUARDS CORNER: Hello the Honor Guard. During February we supported several families during their time of need. At the Second District's annual 4 Chaplains ceremony, the Honor Guard helped honor members that moved on to Post Everlasting during the past year. Learn about the 4Chaplains at <https://www.legion.org/belovedveterans/220498/four-chaplains>.

We continue to support the American Legion family and the community A big shout out to all the Honor Guards for volunteering their free time. Honor those that have served, support their families, and educate our future Thank you for all you do! Did you know? The American Legion recognizes the 1st of each month as Be The One Day. Ask, Listen and Reach Out. Happy 105th Birthday to The American Legion on March 15th. Happy Birthday ! Please contact Otha Newton with any questions or requests. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p><i>1</i></p> <p>6:00 PM ALA Dinner - Cabbage Roll Casserole</p> <p>Dept Spring Conf.</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still</p>
<p><i>3</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Breakfast</p> <p>1:00 PM Legion Bowling</p> <p>Dept Spring Conf</p>	<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>7:00 PM ALA Regular Mtg</p> <p>Navy Seabees 82nd Birthday</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>6:00 PM Dinner - Corned Beef & Cabbage</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>8:00 PM DJ the 'DJ'</p>
<p><i>10</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Breakfast</p> <p>1:00 PM Legion Bowling</p> <p>Daylight Savings Begins set clocks ahead</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Son's Executive Mtg</p> <p>7:30 PM Son's Regular Mtg</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Post Executive Mtg</p> <p>7:30 PM Post Reg Mtg</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>6:00 PM SAL Dinner - Irish Style Guinness Stew</p> <p>7:30 PM Dart Tournament</p> <p>American Legion 105th Birthday</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>10:00 AM St. Patrick Day Parade</p> <p>7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still</p>
<p><i>17</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Breakfast</p> <p>1:00 PM Legion Bowling</p> <p>Happy St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Honor Guard Mtg</p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>1:00 PM -6:00 PM Blood Drive</p> <p>6:30 PM VVA Chapter 48 Reg Board Mtg</p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Legion Riders Mtg</p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>6:00 PM Dinner - Chicken Cordon Bleu</p> <p>7:00 PM Paint Night</p> <p>7:30 PM Dart Tournament</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>8:00 PM Karaoke - Harold Witham</p>
<p><i>24</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Breakfast</p> <p>1:00 PM Legion Bowling</p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>6:00 PM Dinner - Ham Steak & Potatoes O'Brien</p> <p>7:00 PM True Colors Trivia</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still</p>
<p><i>31</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Breakfast</p> <p>HAPPY EASTER</p>						