



# The Legionnaire

## Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23518

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### NOVEMBER 2023

#### POST OFFICERS

Commander: Roger Kelly  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR: Byron Pianalto  
2<sup>nd</sup> VCDR: Linda P. Blaker  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR: Wayne Turner  
2<sup>nd</sup> VCDR David "Benski" Vernon  
Adjutant: James Doty Jr  
Treasurer: Jeff Evans  
Chaplain: Rocky English / Frank White  
1<sup>st</sup> 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:** Greetings Post 327 Family, I can't believe we find ourselves in November already. I hope everyone is ready for the Holiday Season as the year just seems to be flying by. This month we have the Veterans Day parade and dinner that night back at the Post. If you'd like to be in the parade, please let us know as we do have the float that you can ride in. I can't believe the year is going so fast, but we have the annual Thanksgiving Dinner coming up as well. Last month we were finally able to host the veterans from the VA Hospital in Hampton. This was the first time since Covid they have been allowed to visit. The Auxiliary did a wonderful job planning the evening. Everyone I talked to had a great time with the fish fry dinner and bingo with our own John Schenk as the bingo caller. I was extremely proud to see how many members of our entire Post family showed up to volunteer and make sure the vets wanted for nothing. The 2nd District Honor Guard also did a fund-raising dance that all enjoyed. Many of us also attended the American Legion Department of Virginia Conference in Williamsburg.

With all the entertainment that is going on, I want to extend a "Bravo Zulu" and well done to our 2nd Vice Commander Linda Blaker for the Adult Halloween Party, and for lining up so many

fun and new activities and events all year long. Also "DJ" the DJ, our Third Vice Commander with his themed dance and music nights. I've been told that there's much more entertainment and new events coming soon! I'm also glad to see that we are having a few more kid events and more family activities such as Trunk or Treat and the family Halloween Movie night. Speaking of events and things going on in the clubroom, after spending countless hours and many meetings going over the old rules, the House Committee and the Executive Board revised and have approved the new House Rules. They are posted if you would like to read through them.

I would like to take the time to recognize the hard work of our First Vice Commander Bryon Pianalto and Adjutant Evan Glendinning, as we have made every membership goal so far this year! With that being said there are still quite a few Legion Members that need to renew their memberships and receive their 2024 card. Please do so as soon as you can! We are also doing a great job again this year recruiting new members to the Legion. Yes, we've hit all our goals, but membership has slowed down a bit. We're at around 62% of our membership goal as I'm writing this. We need to be at 75% as of December 13th to make that monthly goal. Knowing that the American Legion fiscal year

starts in July, it is said to be unrealistic to be anywhere around 100% by the end of the calendar year. I may be a little biased, but I believe that Post 327 is quite able to accomplish anything. That is why I'm challenging all Legion members to be at 90% by December 13th. So yes, keep recruiting new members, but more importantly reach out to your fellow Legionnaires. Maybe you haven't seen someone in a while, reach out and see how they are doing. There is a relatively new Legion concept called "Buddy Checks". So, let's check on our fellow members and let them know we are still thinking of them. See if they are in need of anything. Maybe we will find out that they really need some help. Maybe they are in a nursing home or hospital and would love a visit. This can lead to not only membership, but you might just make a huge difference in that person's life. The time you spend doing any "Buddy Checks" can also be turned into the Adjutant and it goes towards our end of year reports as well. Keep volunteering around the Post.

Thank you to all Post members, the SONS Squadron, the Auxiliary Unit, and the Legion Riders, all you do, makes it an honor representing such a great Post and Legion Family!

For God and Country Roger Kelly

**FIRST VICE COMMANDER:** With new and renewed Members for 2024 we are currently just over 62% of our goal for 2024, let's keep those renewals coming in. Remember to renew early to avoid the lack of funds at the end of the year because of the holiday spending. All Membership cards with 2023 on them will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have not paid by 12/31 your key fob will not work after midnight on 12/31. **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](https://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 everyone! Happy Thanksgiving! I am so very thankful for this Post family and my new committee members Rob & Janet Sullinger, Kieth Shanesy, Kenny Parker, Tricia Hochaeter and Suzanne Fields! You have made this job so much easier. For God and Country, Linda P. Blaker

**THIRD VICE COMMANDER:** No input at this time. For God and Country, Derrick (DJ) Johnson

**ADJUTANT:** Hello, On November 18TH from 11 AM to 1 PM we will be having a mortgage broker specialist and a realtor come in. They will be talking about the different loans that are available to veterans. Such as the VA Home Loan, The loan program through USDA, etc. They will also be talking about do's and don'ts with buying your first house. We will also be having our November Blood drive. You can sign up multiple ways. The first way is by calling 1-800-REDCROSS, utilize their app, or go to their website. See me for more information. For God and Country, Evan Glendinning

**SERVICE OFFICER:** During the Month of September service officers spoke with 222 veterans, spent 292 hours, and logged 590 miles. 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:** Let's welcome November, Happy Thanksgiving!!! the month that reminds us to be thankful for the many positive things and many blessings in our lives. "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus," 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 18.

For God and Country, Keith Palmer, Chaplain

**HISTORIAN:** No input at this time. For God and Country, Paulmichael Youngmills

**LEGION RIDERS:** Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving!!! Chapter 327 Riders attended and supported American Legion Post 280 Legion Riders First Annual Poker Run, held on Saturday, October 21, 2023. Riders from Post 327 won the best hand, worst hand and raffle prizes, awesome riders. The Riders volunteered numerous hours assisting the Auxiliary bag candy and participated with the Trunk a Treat. The Breakfast was a success. Thanks to all those who volunteered. Chapter 327 American Legion Riders are looking for new riders to join. If you know of anyone that wants to be a member, please talk to them and invite them to our third Thursday of the month meeting at 6:30pm. Keep both wheels on the ground and be safe, For God and Country, Keith Palmer, Riders Director.

**ATHLETIC OFFICER:** Greetings to all, Tis the season to give thanks. Among other things I'm thankful that Jennifer York stepped up and volunteered to handle our Tuesday night dart league. Seriously, let us not forget our service members who cannot be with their loved ones. May our Supreme being watch over them. Till next month, For God and country, Jeff Evans  
**SQUADRON COMMANDER:** Greetings American Legion Family and Friends, Well, here we go! It is November and the beginning of the 2023 Holiday Season with Thanksgiving followed by HO, HO, HO time!

We are doing a good job with SAL membership. Squadron membership is 91 members or 42.13 % as of October 19th. We are ahead of our target percentage. Target for October was 25%. December target is 45%, so we have already attained our December target percentage. Renew before Christmas so you can avoid an extra expense during the shopping season.

On another note, a past Squadron Commander and our 1stVice Commander Dave Samson, regrestfully has "retired" as 1st Vice Commander. The 1st Vice Commander's responsibility is membership. My brother Joe Vaccarella and I have been SALs for 17 years and Dave signed both of us up. So, Dave has admirably held this position for probably at least 20 years or more. Dave is a 32-year SAL member. Under Dave the squadron has maintained excellence in membership, and we have won countless 100% plaques and pennants for our SAL squadron. Congratulate and thank Dave on his dedication and his unselfish sacrifice of many hours and years. It will be hard filling Dave's shoes. As far as membership I, PNVCs Jeff Evans, Steve Gower, Dual Evan Glendinning, Post 1st Vice Byron Pianalto or C0- 1st Vice Commander Wayne Turner can assist you in your membership needs. Don't forget to sign up to mylegion.org and establish your own account whereby you can renew your membership yourself online. With mylegion.org you can manage your profile e.g.- change of address, phone number and even

print a replacement membership card if need be.  
SAL member Kenny Parker delighted all with his Spaghetti and Meat Sauce Dinner with his homemade Apple Cobbler for Dessert. We went through 50 lbs. of spaghetti. I wanted to thank Debbie Norton, Jane Evans, Cathy Conte, and Chris Carney for their help.  
Chef Benski, and our 2nd Vice Commander will be serving slabs of Chicken Pot Pie, a Healthy Salad, and Dessert for our November dinner night on November 17th. And yes, I said a slab not a piece!

There will be no Sons dinner night in December.  
At the Fall Conference your Squadron presented \$4000 in checks to be handed out to VCF, Fisher House and HVAMC. Without your support for dinner and fundraisers we would not be able to make these large donations.

**VAVS/CDCE:** I attended the quarterly HVSMC VAVS Zoom Meeting for FY1st Quarter. Post 327 was applauded for the \$500.00 donation to VANR accounts.

The Sons donated \$1000.00 to various appropriate VSA&R accounts at the VA.

Atalaya Horton- Keyes is officially the new CDCE R/T Chief at the VA and we congratulate her for her appointment. A new needs list for 2024 will be published November 1st and I will share this list with all when I get the official list. For right now critical items needed are bar soap, soap holders, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, denture sealer, flip flops, reading glasses, t-shirts, and underwear (all sizes), long johns, hats, stamps, puzzle books and composition books.

Upcoming events at the VA: Vets Day 11/9 @ 11am memorial lawn, Christmas tree lighting 12/5 @ 5pm memorial lawn, Domiciliary Christmas party 12/25 @ 9am Bldg. 148  
Orientation for current and new volunteers is tentatively scheduled for 11/13 and 11/14.

**VE&E:** The post donated \$500.00 to VE&E accounts specifically for winter clothing items, backpacks, blankets, haircuts, etc. The Squadron donated \$1000.00 to go towards winter clothing items and homeless Veterans along with Suicide prevention treatment and women's care.

Remember our Veterans, families, friends, members, and our neighborhood communities that need our prayers and help. Remember to use the "Buddy Check" to check on those we haven't heard from in a while. Thank all of You for what You do!  
For God and Country, Fred Vaccarella

**ALA PRESIDENT:** October sure has been a busy month. The month started out with a visit from our Veterans from the VA hospital in Hampton for dinner and bingo. The Veterans enjoyed their time away from the hospital for dinner and bingo. There were many prizes comprised of crocheted blankets, sewn blankets, caps and canteen cards. Hopefully we have rounded the turn of COVID and they will be able to come again in April. I would like to thank everyone who showed up to volunteer. We were overwhelmed with the number of volunteers. If you came to volunteer and were not needed, we truly appreciate all of you and hope you will volunteer again. We have our dinners on the first

Friday of the month if anyone would like to volunteer again. I would like to thank Doc and his wife for their donation of money for the bingo prizes.

Our trunk or treat was on the 29th of October before the printing of the newsletter, but we would like to thank everyone who donated candy and helped fill the bags for the kiddos. We will be having our annual turkey bowl on Saturday November 18th from 5-8p.m. in the hall. We will need volunteers for this event, especially someone who knows how to score the pins. If anyone knows of places that will donate prizes and can reach out to them, we would greatly appreciate it. All funds received from this event goes to our homeless veterans' children for Christmas gifts. The ALA Dinner is 3 November and we're having chicken & dumplings with a salad and dessert!

I believe Benski is planning Thanksgiving dinner as always for these events no matter who is sponsoring the event volunteers are needed. Preparation for Thanksgiving dinner starts 3-4 days before Thanksgiving so if you have free time prior to Thanksgiving please reach out to Benski. As always desserts are needed to go along with the meal that is being provided for everyone's enjoyment.

We also have a donation box out for our deployed member and his command. They are asking for liquid IV, snacks, protein bars, no chocolate please because they are in Djibouti. We have a box in the club room for donations. We will be taking donations until Thanksgiving so that we can get the packages in the mail.

We will be putting the Christmas tree up the Saturday after Thanksgiving 11/25/2023 at 1 p.m. And again need some volunteers to decorate it. For God and country Kathy Morrison  
**HONOR GUARDS CORNER:** October was a very busy month for us. We several assisted families with honoring their deceased loved ones. Helped the Auxiliary and Post to welcome Veteran's from the VA hospital to dinner for the 1st time in several years. The Guard presented colors at the Post birthday celebration for the Navy. The Honor Guard had the honor of leading the Driver Day parade. Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets or made donations to our fundraiser dance, the chef of the night Benski, our awesome bartender Ashley and our very own DJ the DJ. Please contact Otha Newton, if you need our services. Remember clocks fall back on November 5th this year. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

**CLUBROOM MANAGER:** Hello everyone! As the holiday season approaches, I need to remind everyone of the rules for having a personal bottle in the Clubroom. There is a limit of two (2) bottles behind the bar, all bottles must be labeled with your first and last name (NO nicknames) and the date you bring the bottle in. Bottles need to be updated every 90 days. Any bottle not updated will be disposed of three (3) days after the 90 days. I also want to wish each of you and your families a very happy Thanksgiving. Check the newsletter calendar for all upcoming events, dinners, lunch specials, breakfasts, meetings, etc. Hope to see you at the Post.

For God and Country, Sandra Wright

# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Kitchen open for lunch Mon thru Thur 12:30 - 2:30 and for dinner 6 PM to ? and Sat 6 PM to ?</b></p>			<p><i>1</i> 7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i> 6:00 PM ALA Dinner - Chicken &amp; Dumplings</p>	<p><i>4</i> 8:00 PM DJ the 'DJ' Modern Karaoke</p>
<p><i>5</i> 1:00 PM Legion Bowling  Daylight Savings Time "Fallback"</p>	<p><i>6</i> Meatloaf Monday \$10</p>	<p><i>7</i> 7:00 PM ALA Regular Mtg  Election Day</p>	<p><i>8</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i> 6:00 PM Dinner - Pork Tenderloin  7:00 PM Trivia Night  Marine Corps Birthday</p>	<p><i>11</i> 7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still  Veterans Day</p>
<p><i>12</i> 1:00 PM Legion Bowling</p>	<p><i>13</i> 7:00 PM Son's Executive Mtg 7:30 PM Son's Regular Mtg</p>	<p><i>14</i> 7:00 PM Post Executive Mtg 7:30 PM Post Reg Mtg</p>	<p><i>15</i> 6:30 PM VVA Chapter 48 Reg Board Mtg</p>	<p><i>16</i> 6:30 PM Legion Riders Mtg</p>	<p><i>17</i> 6:00 PM SAL Dinner - Chicken Pot Pie  7:00 PM 'Northern Lights' Paint night</p>	<p><i>18</i> 10:00 AM Alzheimer's Walk 11:00 AM Home Buyers Class 5:00 PM -8:00 PM ALA Turkey Bowl 8:00 PM DJ - Harold Witham</p>
<p><i>19</i> 1:00 PM Legion Bowling</p>	<p><i>20</i> 7:00 PM Honor Guard Mtg</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i> 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Blood Drive</p>	<p><i>23</i> Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p><i>24</i> No Dinner - Thanksgiving leftovers</p>	<p><i>25</i> 1:00 PM ALA Christmas Tree Lighting 7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still</p>
<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>		