



# 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](http://www.legion327.com)

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OCTOBER 2022

### POST OFFICERS

Commander: Roger Kelly  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR: Byron Pianalto  
2<sup>nd</sup> VCDR: Rick McDonald  
3<sup>rd</sup> VCDR: Larry Turner  
Adjutant: Evan Glendinning  
Finance: David Seate  
Service Officer: Bob DeChamplain  
Chaplain: Keith Palmer  
Sgt-at-Arms: Linda Blaker  
Historian: TBD

#### Exec Board

Ashley Wehrle  
Tim Gonyea  
Michael McCann  
Michael Encalade

### LEGION RIDERS

Director: (DJ) Derrick Johnson  
Asst Dir: Keith Palmer  
Adjutant: TBD  
Treasurer: David Seate  
Safety Officer: Keith McCauley  
Chaplain: Mike Moranha  
Sgt-at-Arms: Vacant  
Road Captain: Keith McCauley

#### Exec Board

Al R. Gnome

### SAL SQUADRON

CDR: Fred Vaccarella  
1<sup>st</sup> VCDR: Dave Samson / 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: Mike Schmidt  
Historian: Evan Glendinning  
Historian: Dan Schmidt

#### Exec Board

Steve Gower  
Milo Cross  
Kenneth O'Bryan

### AUXILIARY

President: Mary Taggart  
Vice President: Helen Lynum  
Secretary: Jeanne Hartman  
Treasurer: LaQuetta Joe  
Chaplain: Marcia Brothers  
Sgt-at-Arms: Patty Hibner  
Historian: Jane Evans

#### Exec Board

Karen Stull  
Jan Dumstorff  
Crystal Cross

**COMMANDER:** Greeting Post 327! Can you believe it's October already! September started with another great Labor Day Picnic to get the fall season started and ended with another successful Blood Drive. The Auxiliary, as always, did an awesome job with their back-to-school drive. They were able to help 7 local schools with backpacks full of supplies for students in need! We also hosted the 2nd District Fall Conference. It was great to see that 327 lead the way with the most members of any Post at the meeting! Thank you to all that attended. As a reminder, District and Department meetings are open, not only to the Post's elected officers, but to all Legionnaires. So come on out and find out what your District and Department leaders' goals and thoughts are, as well as listening to the ideas and activities other Posts have come up with for membership drives and to take care of our fellow veterans. We sent our 40+ Senior Softball travel team to compete in a National Tournament in Las Vegas. They qualified for the tournament by being one of the top teams on the entire East Coast. Our pool leagues are in full swing. The Coed Softball team started up again this fall, and our Dart league is finally starting back up for the first time since Covid. The Dart league is on Monday nights and starts

early here in October but if you're interested, I believe there's still room for a couple teams. As always, we are looking for more members to step up and volunteer. With the holidays upon us we will need many volunteers to help with such things as the Halloween and Christmas parties. We will also need help with Thanksgiving Dinner at the Post. Chef Tommy Turner has decided to retire from his annual duties in the kitchen this year. A huge thank you to Tommy for the many, many years that he dedicated to preparing such a wonderful meal for all of us! We are also going to need volunteers in December. Saturday December 17th is Tidewater Post 327's 75th Anniversary Party! Planning is coming together for the special night and hopefully will be a night to remember! So please come on out and volunteer sometime around the Post, and don't forget to document your time to turn in for our end of year reports. It should be a very busy Fall and Holiday season so be sure to watch for all the upcoming events! For God and Country, Roger Kelly

**FIRST VICE COMMANDER:** Congratulations to Ronnie Lylston for being the lucky winner for the PUFL Membership.

We are currently at 55% goal so please keep these renewals

coming in. As some of you have noticed that the renewal notices that are being sent out by National Headquarters shows "**Member since 2022**" please disregard this as National has gone to a new system and is still working out some bugs.

You may also use [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) to renew your Membership online. Anyone that has an honorable discharge after Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, is able join. For God and Country, Byron Pianalto

**SECOND VICE COMMANDER:** Well, it's that time of year! We have Halloween party at the Legion it will be on Saturday 29 October from 2000 to close. There will be food, snacks, door prizes, and more. Don't forget about the costume contest either! On 13 October we will be celebrating the United States Navy's 247th birthday. There will be announcements and cake and ice cream For God and Country, Rick McDonald

**ADJUTANT:** No input. For God and Country, Evan Glendinning

**SERVICE OFFICER:** During the Month of July service officers spoke with 167 veterans, spent 219 hours, and logged 785 miles. I want to thank all the service officers for the hard work they do.

#### **State Retirement Income Tax Latest Changes Virginia**

Virginia military retirees 55 years and older will be able to keep more of their retirement income

thanks to language in the state budget passed this spring by the state's General Assembly.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin on June 21 signed the two-year budget, which exempts the first \$10,000 in

military retirement income in the 2022 tax year. This number will jump to \$20,000 in 2023,

\$30,000 in 2024, and \$40,000 in 2025 and beyond. The new law also applies to surviving spouses

of military retirees. That's an estimated \$575 in tax relief per \$10,000 of exemptions.

Retirees from the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA will not be eligible for exemptions.

**SPREAD THE WORD** Suicide Helpline. Effective 16 July 2022, "988" will serve as the new direct dial number for the National Suicide Prevention Helpline

#### **PACT ACT**

1. The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.
2. Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.
3. Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures.
4. Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation.
5. Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care. More info at [va.gov/pact](http://va.gov/pact).

For God and Country, Bob DeChamplain

**CHAPLAIN:** You are not alone. As we conclude the suicide prevention month. We must not put it on the back burner but keep in the forefront. (See the attached Schuyler checking back in letter). Self-check quiz go to, [www.vetselfcheck.org](http://www.vetselfcheck.org). Veterans Crisis Line dial 988 then press "1".

"Place your hand over your heart, can you feel? That is called purpose. You're alive for a reason so don't ever give up." -

Unknown. Matthew 22:37-50. For God and Country Chaplain, Keith Palmer

**LEGION RIDERS:** Happy Riding!! This is the best time of the year to ride! Want to know more about the Riders?

**Today over 425 American Legion Riders programs, organized by chapters, districts, or departments, support Americanism and Children and Youth programs in virtually every state in the nation, and more are organizing each month. One of the fastest-growing and most highly visible of the many programs offered by The American Legion, The American Legion Riders are a very diverse group, and so are the programs that they support. What do American Legion Riders do? The activities are far too many to mention in this space, but here are a few examples: American Legion Riders chapters and districts, nationally, have become some of the most generous donors for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund, raising as much as \$5,000 or more in a single event.**

**Legion Riders sponsor or participate in local and national charity events in support of the sponsoring American Legion Post.**

**Legion Riders ride to raise money for such organizations as local VA Hospitals, Battered Women and Children's Center, Varied Children and Youth programs, a School for Blind Children, Veterans Relief, Needy families and many, many others.**

**Legion Riders founded a national movement called "Patriot Guard" ([www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org)) that honors and protects the sanctity of military funerals and memorial services. Legion Riders have formed special motorcycle Honor Guards and ceremonial teams highlighting the special bonds formed in military service and the motorcycling community.**

**Remember: American Legion Riders are a very dedicated group of Legion Family members. When your Post or district sponsors a new Riders organization, you create a win/win situation for your post, district, and Department! Become a Legion Rider or Supporter today!!, For GOD and Country, Derrick "DJ"**

**ATHLETIC OFFICER:** Greetings to all, The month of September was busy. Our fun time Friday co-ed softball team started. They have one win so far; however, it was against the first-place team. The team's schedule is on the cork board in the hallway. Our travel softball team went to Vegas representing the east coast and represented well. They played eight games over two days in oppressive heat. They won six games against the best of competition. The next time you see these gentlemen cooking dinner, let them know Post 327 is proud. We had our organization meeting for Monday night DARTS. We will start October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:30. As of now we have eight teams signed up. If you would be interested in subbing come down, there will be a need. Till next month...For God and Country, Jeff Evans, A.O.

**SQUADRON COMMANDER:** Happy October Legion Family & Friends. With the cooling temperatures and relief from some torrid summer days you can now smell the fireplaces and hot apple cider. This year is fast in passing.

I want to start off bragging about your little **Squadron # 327** here in Norfolk, Va.

**We earned -> Three (3) National Awards** at the 2022 American

Legion National Convention held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in August. Here is what we received:

**2021-2022 Children First Gift Club Guardian Level, 2022 National Best Children & Youth Southern Regional Award** (beating out 12 Detachments) and **the 2022 National Best Children & Youth Squadron Report** (best out of all the Sons of the American Legion's total 55 Detachments -- **best in the world!**).

I find this to be almost unbelievable because out of 367,798 SAL members nationally and with 55 State/Territory Detachments **WE ARE NUMERO UNO...NUMBER # 1!!!**

Here are some more reasons to become a SAL:

We have 2 past National Vice Commanders who have also served on various National Commissions and Committees, 3 Past State Detachment Commanders, 3 SALs are serving the Post, one is Post Adjutant, one is the Athletic Officer and the other is the Post VA&R Rep for the HVAMC. We have a dual member chairing the State Detachment's VE&E Committee and 1 son is appointed to the National VE&E Commission. We have 2 Sons appointed by Washington, DC to serve as a VAVS Representative and one as a Deputy to the HVAMC, we have 1 national VAVS Charles Rigsby National Volunteer of the Year Winner, 3 past State Detachment Sons of the Year awardees, 1 Department Eagle Scout of the Year and several SAL Detachment and Department Scholarship winners. We even have an SAL shaking a US President's hand. I also mention that several of our duals have or currently hold high offices in the Legion, Department and 40/8.

**Commander Roger Kelly** wants to design a nicer and more up to date SAL Award wall.

The reason why I am bragging about your Post Squadron is because it gives you reasons to join as a Dual or to sign up your son or grandson. WE ARE WINNERS! So, join us and enjoy the success.

Speaking of membership, **1st Vice Commanders, Dave Samson** and **Wayne Turner** report that our membership for 2023 is at 29.5% for September. They are proud to say that we have hit both our September and October goal. Our November goal is 35%. They remind you to go to legion.org and set up your own personal account. You can edit any changes to your personal account. You can pay your dues online. You can download a membership card if you lose or wash your card or forget to carry your card while travelling. How convenient.

Membership is so very important to our Legion Family's existence.

**Chef Benski** came through again with his excellent Savory Pork Alfredo dinner night in September. Next month, with probably chillier weather, **Chef Benski** is serving his Luscious Baked Lasagna with Cesar Salad, Garlic Bread and dessert on our SAL dinner night which is October 21<sup>st</sup> from 6pm to 8 pm or until we sell out. This is very good comfort food that you do not want to miss. I want to remind all that the proceeds go to the SAL charity fund and your support is a big reason why we were awarded the National Children First Gift Award "Guardian Level".

**VAVS/CDCE:** Not much activity currently for our volunteers at the HVAMC due to Covid restrictions and VA policy. With Autumn and Winter approaching we need to collect warm clothing items for our displaced Veterans. Socks, underwear, gloves, scarfs, mittens, hats, lap blankets, sweaters, coats, ChapStick, sweatshirts and

sweatpants, hoodies, etc. are all examples of items on the seasonal needs list.

Remember if you are suffering medical issues due to burn piles and/or exposure to other toxic elements that you can now receive care through the VA due to the recent passage of the 2022 PACT Act. Here's a helpful link: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

This is also pertaining to those that were exposed to benzene and other chemicals in drinking water in Camp Lejeune from August 1953 to December 1987. This is an ongoing class action suit.

**VE&E:** Adjutant, VE&E Detachment Chairman and SAL Historian Evan Glendinning is a man with several hats. He has reported back the success of the Career Fair and has announced a future education/job fair coming up in October.

The SAL extend their most heartfelt condolences and sympathy to those of us in the Legion family that have recently lost relatives or friends. Keep all of those in your prayers that are suffering from malady or "hard times". Remember to use "Buddy Check" to keep in touch with our shut-ins.

For God and Country, Fred Vaccarella

**ALA PRESIDENT:** Hello Fall! In September we kicked off a non-perishable food drive. All donations will help active-duty families have a delicious Thanksgiving meal. Thank you, Jan, for spearheading this drive. The last day to drop off donations is October 30. A red donation box is located in the social club. Jane and Debbie, thank you for your monthly support our dinners. Ladies you make it look so easy. **As of October 2022, our monthly time will change to 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month.**

**October**

4 Unit meeting at New time 7pm

7 Unit Dinner 6-8pm

Grill Cheese sandwich, Chili, house salad and cinnamon roll.

**Volunteers are needed to serve and clean up. Any time given will be greatly appreciated.**

9 1st and 2nd District Fall meeting 2pm at Post 327. All members are welcome.

**21-23** Fall Conference at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Williamsburg, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Information is on The American Legion Department of Virginia website: <https://valegion.org/tools-and-media/upcoming-events/> Registration fee is 10.00.

**29** Trunk or treat 12-3pm Come out and Trunk or treat with us.

**Save the date**

December 17 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Service, Not Self, For God and Country, Mary Taggart, Unit 327 President

**HONOR GUARDS CORNER.** October all ready, October means Halloween but also Drivers Day Parade and the Honor Guard will be leading the parade so come out and support your Guard. Oh, I need to mention this is a small-town event with locally craft vendors and a great car show lots of good food so mark your calendar October 15th and get there early 9:00am. See you all there. For God and Country, Gene Niedholdt

**CLUBROOM MANAGER:** No Input. For God and Country, Sandi Wright

# October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<i>1</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open
<i>2</i>  9:00 AM -11:00 AM Breakfast  1:00 PM Legion Bowling  Kitchen Open - 4:00 PM til ?	<i>3</i>  6:00 PM til ? Kitchen Open  7:30 PM Legion Darts	<i>4</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open  6:30 PM ALA Exec Mtg  7:00 PM ALA Regular Mtg	<i>5</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open  7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327	<i>6</i>  12:00 PM -2:00 PM Lunch Special - Bean Soup w/Cornbread  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open	<i>7</i>  6:00 PM ALA Dinner - Chili & Grilled Cheese	<i>8</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open  7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still
<i>9</i>  9:00 AM -11:00 AM Breakfast  1:00 PM Legion Bowling  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">                         2:00 PM ALA District                          Fall Conf @ Post 327                     </div> Kitchen Open - 4:00 PM til ?	<i>10</i>  6:00 PM til ? Kitchen Open  7:00 PM Son's Executive Mtg  7:30 PM Legion Darts  7:30 PM Son's Regular Mtg	<i>11</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open  7:00 PM Post Executive Mtg  7:30 PM Post Reg Mtg	<i>12</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open	<i>13</i>  12:00 PM -2:00 PM Lunch Special - Spaghetti  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">                         US Navy Birthday                     </div>	<i>14</i>  6:00 PM Dinner by Patty - Baked Fish  6:30 PM DJ - Omar Coleman	<i>15</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open
<i>16</i>  9:00 AM -11:00 AM Breakfast  1:00 PM Legion Bowling  Kitchen Open - 4:00 PM til ?	<i>17</i>  6:00 PM til ? Kitchen Open  7:00 PM Honor Guard Mtg  7:30 PM Legion Darts	<i>18</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open	<i>19</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open  6:30 PM VVA Chapter 48 Reg Board Mtg	<i>20</i>  12:00 PM -2:00 PM Lunch Special - Beef Casserole  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open  6:30 PM Legion Riders Mtg	<i>21</i>  6:00 PM SAL Dinner - Baked Lasagna   <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         Dept Fall Conf.                     </div>	<i>22</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open  7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still
<i>23</i>  9:00 AM -11:00 AM Breakfast  1:00 PM Legion Bowling  Kitchen Open - 4:00 PM til ?  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">                         Dept Fall Conf.                     </div>	<i>24</i>  6:00 PM til ? Kitchen Open  7:30 PM Legion Darts	<i>25</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open	<i>26</i>  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open	<i>27</i>  12:00 PM -2:00 PM Lunch Special - Chili w/Cornbread  6:00 PM -10:00 PM Kitchen Open	<i>28</i>  6:00 PM Dinner by Patty - Pot Roast	<i>29</i>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         12:00 PM                          -3:00 PM                          Trunk or                          Treat                     </div>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                         8:00 PM                          Halloween                          Party                     </div>
<i>30</i>  9:00 AM -11:00 AM Breakfast  1:00 PM Legion Bowling  Kitchen Open - 4:00 PM til ?	<i>31</i>  6:00 PM til ? Kitchen Open  7:30 PM Legion Darts  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">                         Happy Halloween                     </div>					