



The Legionnaire

Tidewater Post 327

705 Lesner Avenue
Norfolk, VA 23518

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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: Dave Samson / 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: Greetings Post Family! Can you believe it's September already! Looking forward to the Labor Day Picnic. Remember to renew by then to get in on the P.U.F.L. raffle. I hope that all that were in attendance both in person and through Zoom found the "fireside" chat a good time. I enjoyed being able to recognize as many members as we could for all that they do around the Post. I'm very sorry if we missed anyone, it doesn't mean that what you do isn't important. Thank you again to the entire Post 327 family for all that you do! For God and Country, Roger Kelly

FIRST VICE COMMANDER: We have started off great with new and renewed Members for 2024. We are currently at 50% of our goal for 2024, let's keep those renewals coming in. All Post Members that **renew** their membership on or before Labor Day will be entered for a drawing for a Paid Up for Life (PUFL) membership. Remember anytime you are at the Post you are required to have your 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 Happy September and back to school!! I want to thank my Legion family for enthusiastically coming out for the first ever Boots & BBQ event we held last month. \$220 was raised for the Junior ALA and plans are being discussed for a

bigger event next year. This year's winners were 1st place Robert Sullinger with Apple wood smoked ribs. 2nd place Kenny Parker with Carolina BBQ and a side of homemade picante' sauce. 3rd place David "Benski" Vernon with Asian BBQ!! Our Flag disposal day went incredibly well. 15 post members helped to properly dispose of 65 to 70 flags. The event took about 3.5 hours and resulted in 10 huge trash bags! Thank you everyone for the help! We are planning to do this every 3 to 6 months as needed.

Upcoming events: Labor Day Picnic this Sunday 3 September @ 1:00 PM till 3:00 PM! We need sides and desserts! All donations welcome and appreciated. We will be setting up at 10:00 AM and can use help!

I am not going to list all the dates here in the newsletter as all the information is on the calendar! For God and Country, Linda P. Blaker

THIRD VICE COMMANDER: Greetings! As with many things in our Social Quarters, it is YOUR participation and patronage that keep things returning for your pleasure. Basically, "show up and show out" to the events you like! We will keep them on the menu/schedule! With that being said...BREAKFAST is returning!! Stay tuned!!

For God and Country, Derrick (DJ) Johnson

ADJUTANT: Hello everyone, I do have three events in the month of September. The first one is our blood drive on September 27th from 1 PM to 6 PM. Walk-ins are welcome until 4:30 PM. We do have multiple ways to schedule an appointment. The first way is to call 1-800-REDCROSS and talk to the Red Cross Representative. The second way is to download their app and use their app to schedule the appointment. The third way is by going to redcrossblood.org and use their website. The final way is to get with me, and I can schedule your appointment. The second one is our walk for the Alzheimer's Association. It is on September 23rd. The Walk starts at 10 AM. If you would like to join us for the walk or make a donation, please see me. The final event that I have is our Job Fair on September 30th from 12 PM to 3 PM. We literally have enough employers coming to have over 1,000 positions available. So, come ready to impress for the job fair. **IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, MAKE SURE YOU DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** If you are a legionnaire, make sure you get your dues paid up before September 4th. So, you can be put in the PUFL Raffle. Paying your membership dues are important. They help fund important programs that help veterans, disabled veterans, and our children. We are also competing for membership awards. So, please get your membership dues paid up. So, we can fund these important programs and win awards!!!!!! I do hope all is well. If you have any questions, comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to reach out. For God and Country, Evan Glendinning, Post Adjutant

SERVICE OFFICER: During the Month of July service officers spoke with 225 veterans, spent 407 hours, and logged 451 miles. I want to thank all the service officers for the hard work they do. Post Service Officers are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 1000-1500. Closed holidays. For God & Country, Bob DeChamplain
CHAPLAIN: When your plans don't work out the way you want, you may need to momentarily eat some humble pie. Then a little bit down the road, it really starts to workout, not as one plans it, but better. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, Proverbs 3: 5, for God and Country, Keith Palmer, Chaplain.

HISTORIAN: Hello Post Family. I am the new historian for Post 327 and am so very excited to get our "history" down. Please help me to make our history visible! Please send me all your pictures from events to me at pmyoungmills@gmail.com. Be sure to give me the date and event information when you send me the pictures so I may properly document the event! For God and Country, Paulmichael Youngmills

LEGION RIDERS: Greetings riders. It has been a hot one, but we still have been doing some rides. Thank you, Michael, "Sailboat" Moranha for planning the lunch ride into North Carolina and the awesome lunch at Barry's on Walnut Island Restaurant & Lodge. We had riders volunteer their time to assist the Auxiliary packing back packs for the school children and participated in the Flag disposal day at Post 327, Kenny Parker and all others who participated, thank you. We are looking forward to some more upcoming rides. Southern Virginia American Legion Riders Post 284, 3rd Annual Fish Fry and Car Show September 16, 2023, from 11:00am – 4:00pm, 505 Springdale Ave Colonial Heights, VA.

Virginia American Legion Riders 13TH Annual State Rally September 29 – October 1, 2023, hosted by American Legion Battlefield Post 144, 1717 Old Hanover Road Sandston VA 23150. The Department of Virginia American Legion Riders High Mileage and Safety Award from 1 April to 15 September, recognition, the

rider with the most mileage and meeting all criteria will be appropriately recognized at the Annual Virginia Rider's Rally and at the Department of Virginia Fall Conference by the Riders Sub-Committee. Riders must submit their final mileage prior to 15 September 2023.

American Legion Post 280 Legion Riders First Annual Poker Run SEPT 30, 2023, KSU@10:30AM Registration starts @ 0930AM, 469 N Battlefield BLVD Chesapeake, VA. If you are aware of an event that Chapter 327 American Legion Riders could participate in as a group, please do not hesitate to reach out to us anytime. If you know of anyone that wants to be a Chapter 327 ALR 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: No input this month. For God and Country, Jeff Evans, A. O.

SQUADRON COMMANDER: Greeting and salutations American Legion family and friends. Greetings to our Legion Family and Friends

WOW! Only 3 months before 2024! Tempus Fugit or Time Flies! 1st Vices **Dave Samson** and **Wayne Turner** say we are already at about 30% membership between renewals and new members for 2024. Although we haven't received our goal for 2024, I think our goal will probably be 210, up 7 more for 2024 over 2023's goal of 203. We ended up one more over our 203-member goal with 204 as our final 2023 total. Great job members! Great job 2nd Vices. Remember to sign up @ mylegion.org. You can renew online or print a damaged or lost member card.

2nd Vice Commander **Benski** thanks all of you for the successful Sons Roast Beef dinner night in August. Your support adds to the charity fund allowing your Squadron to give back to our military and civilian community. Our squadron is noted by the Detachment of Virginia for our sizeable donations to total Detachment donations annually. Last fiscal year your Squadron donated 55% of total Detachment donations.

So, **Benski** says his treat to all will be bringing a touch of Louisiana in September. **Benski** will serve his delectable Chicken, Andouille Sausage and Shrimp Jambalaya on a bed of Rice along with Veggie, Cornbread and **Sandi Wright's** deliciously refreshing Watergate Salad for Dessert. Sons' dinner night in September is the 15th from 6 to 8 pm or until sold out. I guarantee this will be a lip smacking, tongue licking, savory tasting dinner! All this for a paltry donation of \$10 to the Sons charity account.

Congratulate our Son of the Year for 2023 when you see him. Mr. **Greg Kennedy** was selected by his peers as Son of the Year for 2023. **Greg** is a kind of *behind-the-scenes* guy who faithfully helps on Sunday breakfast days. **Greg** was recognized by the Post and earned a Letter of Appreciation by our Post Commander **Roger Kelly**. The Sons at their August Meeting awarded **Greg** a Letter of Appreciation and a certificate for Squadron Son of the Year for 2023. Again, congratulations **Greg**!

I will fill you in on news from the American Legion 2023 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina held August 25th to 27th. (these are the dates of the SAL part of the Convention) Both Steve Gower and I attended the Convention. I received the National VE&E award on behalf of Evan Glendinning who had scheduling conflicts and could not attend. I wish to honor **Evan Glendinning**. There are approximately 3563,500 total Sons in our organization and only 1 Son per year can win. **Evan Glendinning** won the National Robert

P. Nay Award for being the top VE&E Son in the World! This is simply amazing and an outstanding example of how your Squadron rolls! Squadron 327 can boast: 2 Past National Vice Commanders, 2 National Award winners, and 3 Past State Commanders who also held prior Detachment Officer positions and 3 past Detachment Sons of the Year. Several are or have served on National Committees and Commissions. These are great reasons to recruit new members or to bring an older member back into the fold. **WE ARE WINNERS!**



On a more serious note, we have several downed Sons that need your Prayers: **Wayne Turner, Dan Schmidt, Jeff Evans,** and Dual member **Bill Gardner.** Similarly, Legionnaire and Past Commander **Tony Moore** and an Auxiliary Past Unit Officer who will remain unnamed. All have faced significant medical issues and need your support and prayer for their continued recoveries. Don't be afraid or hesitant to contact a member who you haven't seen or heard from in a while. Life is short!

VE&E: Our Post and Squadron VE&E leader **Evan Glendinning** says the Post is hosting a Job Fair September 30th from Noon to 3pm. There will be a total of nine employers, including the city and government, who are offering over 300 employment opportunities. All these employers are vetted and Veteran friendly.

VAVS/CDCE: There will be a "Day of Caring September 14th from 11-3 pm. This will be held outdoors on the campus and will be similar to the Country Fair Day that was held traditionally in May before Covid restrictions were implemented. It is going to be cold shortly. The needs list still lists cool weather apparel like hats, scarves, gloves, socks and always undergarments, shower shoes and personal hygiene items are welcomed. We are still in need of volunteer signups and certifications so that we are ready when things open up for volunteers. Our next quarterly meeting will probably not be virtual but in person. Hallelujah!

Keep all those who are troubled financially or medically in your prayers. Be The One to help those who are troubled.

For God and Country, Fred Vaccarella

ALA PRESIDENT: It seems like summer just started and here we are kids are back to school and Labor Day is almost here. Please be aware when you are driving that those flashing red lights on the school bus mean you need to stop. I see so many people who just disregard the lights either because they are distracted or are in a hurry.

I want to thank everyone who donated to our back-to-school drive and also to all the volunteers who helped to stuff the backpacks. Now that fall is upon us it is time to start thinking about our deployed military and the holidays, what do we want to do as a Legion family to support our service members and their families? Jan Dumstorff is tossing around ideas on care packages and has been in contact with the voter registration people in Richmond about having a voter registration drive.

There is a clipboard on the Auxiliary office door for Auxiliary members to record their volunteer hours. In the past I know people

just kept track at home and that is fine, but I think that we can better track our volunteer hours if we have both in place. Please only record in one place. If you want to keep track at home, please at least turn the hours in quarterly.

The Labor Day picnic is coming up, side dishes are welcomed along with desserts. We also need volunteers to help serve the food and various other things from setting up, cooking and clean up. This is a Legion Family event come out and help.

Starting in September dinners will be ten dollars due to the rising cost of food. Where can you go and get a home cooked meal for the low cost of ten dollars. I know fast food is ten dollars and it is not as good as a home cooked meal.

We are still waiting to hear if the veterans from the VA in Hampton are going to be able to come over in October for the fish fry. If they are allowed to come, we will need volunteers to help serve in the hall and the social quarters. If there are any handy people who crochet, knit, or sew we are looking for people to make lap blankets for the vets. We also hold a baby shower for our military if you prefer to make baby blankets.

I want to thank the post for donating the proceeds from the Boots and BBQ to the junior's program.

I would like to thank Engine company 15 The Knight Riders for coming to the post and teaching our Junior's about fire safety. The kids had a great time and engaged with the fire fighters and asked a lot of good questions. Otha presented the fire fighters with a ball cap and the Junior's bought the fire fighters' lunch from Firehouse subs. For God and Country, Kathy Morrison

HONOR GUARDS CORNER. Happy September from the Honor Guard! We took part in the Coast Guard birthday celebration and appreciation night/ fireside chat at the Post during August. Along with presenting color at the Moose Lodge convention. Be on the lookout for children and schools' buses as school has started. Moving into October the Honor Guard will be having a fundraiser dance.

When: October 21, 2023

Where: Post 327 in the meeting hall

Time: 8 pm- midnight

A donation of \$15.00 for one ticket and \$25.00 for two tickets

Featuring our very own DJ the DJ

Please contact an Honor Guard member for tickets. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the dance. For God and Country, Mary Taggart

CLUBROOM MANAGER: Hello everyone! Please if you do not have a handicap placard or license plate do not park in any of the parking spaces reserved for our handicap members. If you have not added your cell number in the text tablet, please do so then you will always get any updates or special messages via texting; a sure way not to miss out on an event. Be sure to refer to our newsletter calendar for events and dinners. Hope to see you at the Labor Day picnic this Sunday. For God and Country, Sandra Wright
Greetings from the Kitchen, the staff is looking forward to another great month of food in the kitchen. We look forward to seeing each & every one of you this month for lunch or dinner or both! We are also getting closer to a system for pre-ordering starting in October, as well as a brand-new dinner menu. We are continually trying to better the service and availability of food for all our members! For God and Country, Chef Benski

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kitchen open for lunch Mon thru Thur 12:30 - 2:30 and for dinner 6 PM to ? and Sat 6 PM to ?					1 3:00 PM Celebration of Life for Rodger Dawson No Dinner	2 8:00 PM DJ / KJ - Harold Witham
3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> 1:00 PM Labor Day Picnic </div>	4 LABOR DAY	5 6:30 PM ALA Exec Mtg 7:00 PM ALA Regular Mtg	6 7:00 PM 40/8 Promenade @ Post 327	7	8 6:00 PM Seafood Boil - \$25.00	9 7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still
10 1:00 PM Legion Bowling	11 7:00 PM Son's Executive Mtg 7:30 PM Son's Regular Mtg	12 7:00 PM Post Executive Mtg 7:30 PM Post Reg Mtg	13	14	15 6:00 PM SAL Dinner - Chicken, Andouille Sausage and Shrimp Jambalaya over Rice	16 8:00 PM DJ / KJ - Harold Witham
17 1:00 PM Legion Bowling	18 7:00 PM Honor Guard Mtg <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Air Force Birthday </div>	19	20 6:30 PM VVA Chapter 48 Reg Board Mtg	21 6:30 PM Legion Riders Mtg	22 6:00 PM Dinner - Chicken Alfredo Tortellini <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> 7:00 PM Open Mic night w/ DJ as M.C. </div>	23 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> 10:00 AM Alzheimer's Walk </div> 8:30 PM 80's Extravaganza w/ DJ the 'DJ'
24 1:00 PM Legion Bowling	25	26	27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> 1:00 PM -6:00 PM Blood Drive </div>	28	29 6:00 PM Dinner - Baja Shrimp or Chicken Tacos Dinner <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> 7:00 PM Trivia Night </div>	30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> 12:00 PM -3:00 PM Job Fair </div> 7:30 PM Karaoke - Ricky Still