

American Legion

Charles F. Thomas IV Post 117

July / August
2014
Issue No. 4



Monthly Events At A Glance . . .

JULY

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- ◆ Taco Night - On-Hold Till September
- ◆ Haley's Awesome Wings - Every Wednesday 3 to 7 pm
- ◆ 4th July Steak Dinner - Friday, 4 July - See Flyer
- ◆ Post Officer Training - Saturday, 12 July, 8am Registration
- ◆ Officer Installations - Sunday, 20 July, 12 pm Post Hall

AUGUST

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- ◆ Taco Night - On-Hold Till September
- ◆ Haley's Awesome Wings - Every Wednesday 3 to 7 pm
- ◆ 40 & 8 Picnic - Saturday, 16 August - See Flyer

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ Karaoke - Every Friday 8 to 12 pm and Sunday 4 to 8 pm
- ◆ Taco Night - Every Tuesday, 5 to 7 pm
- ◆ Haley's Awesome Wings - Every Wednesday 3 to 7 pm

Post Meetings:

Legion Meeting – 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm
SAL Meeting – 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Auxiliary Meeting – 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Legion Riders Meeting – 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm
40 & 8 Voiture 1621 – 3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm
La Femmes – 1st Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Post Website: www.al117.com

Legion Riders Website: www.alr117.com

American Legion, Charles F Thomas IV Post 117 Inc.
189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, FL 32909
Veterans Organization Certificate #15-00-064930-58C
Florida Department of Revenue

American Legion Officers

CommanderJim Fournier
1st Vice ComBruce Thurber
2nd Vice ComGene Baker
AdjutantJesse Figueroa
Finance OfficerDuane Podhola
ChaplainBarry Roberts
Sgt. At ArmsMatt Zirwas
Asst. Sgt. At Arms ...Ray Yarnell
HistorianTim Morris
Judge AdvocateTom McCausland
Service Officers.James Stewart & Barry Roberts
Exec. Committee.....Mike Demarte & Tom Giampino

American Legion Auxiliary Officers

PresidentSharon McCausland
1st Vice Pres.....Kerry Baker
2nd Vice PresSheila Cline-Burns
Treasurer.....Kim Oaks
Secretary.....Sheila Cline-Burns
Sgt. At Arms.....Karen Humann
Asst. Sgt. At Arms....Takeema Lewis-Figueroa
Chaplain.....Barbara Simons
HistorianMaryann Spellman
Membership.....Janet Podhola
Executive Members at Large:

Boots Kimber, Linda Lanier, & Sheila Culnan

Sons of the American Legion Officers

Squadron Commander.Bruce Thurber
1st Vice S.C.....Ray Yarnell
2nd Vice S.C.....Tony Gannon
Sgt. At Arms.....Fred Hooley
Finance Officer Ray Mohr
Asst. Sgt. At Arms.....Russell Flieschman
Historian.....Ed Milnor
AdjutantJesse Figueroa
Chaplain.....Dick Kissinger

American Legion Riders Officers

DirectorDick Kissinger
Asst Director.....Jim Fournier
Secretary.....Sheila Cline-Burns
Treasurer.....James Stewart
Chaplain.....James Stewart
Sgt. At Arms.....Duane Podhola
Historian.....Dawn Hanner
Safety Officer.....Terry Doiel

Commander's Corner

Dear Legion, Aux, and SAL Members,

First I would like to say how humble and blessed I am to be elected as Commander of this post. Many great accomplishments have taken place under our outgoing Commander Duane Podhola, and I hope to serve you just as successfully. As we move into summer, we already have many events planned and new ideas are encouraged to support our Post, Auxiliary, SAL and Rider Programs.

I would also like to congratulate our Legion Riders, SAL and Auxiliary for a great year. Many awards were given at Department Convention in June. Your commitment to Post 117 and our veterans surely shows, and our Post is very well recognized in the State of Florida for the positive work we do.

Coming up on July 12 we will be hosting a American Legion training workshop and every member is welcome to attend. This workshop will be led by Department Officers and they will provide a lot of information to help us continue our success. Registration will be at 8 am and the training will start at 9 am, lunch is provided. Our new officer installation will be on Sunday, July 20th at noon. And as a reminder, all incoming officers must have their 2014-2015 dues paid before installation. Membership dues are now being collected for 2014-2015 and it would be great to get the 100 percent family banner this coming year. (Renew early for the free early bird dinner - date tbd). Membership and volunteers are what it takes to make the programs and fundraisers so positive for our veterans and community. Please volunteer if you can find time--even an hour or two a month can make a huge difference!

I encourage you all to attend the meetings every month. Your ideas and commitment to the Post, Auxiliary and SAL are the backbone of this great organization, and I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

For God and Country,

Jim Fournier

Commander, American Legion Post 117



Ways and Means Committee

Chairman: Jim Fournier
Members: Bruce Thurber
Tony Gannon
Sharon McCausland
Sheila Cline-Burns
Gene Baker
Sheila Culnan
Dick Kissinger
Duane Podhola



Meeting: 1st Monday of Month, 7:00PM

House Committee

Chairman: Tom Giampino
Members: John Jones
Charlie Christy
Brenda Miskow



Meeting: 2nd Monday of Month, 7:00PM

Canteen Staff

Canteen Manager: Sheila Cline-Burns
Volunteer Bartenders: Shirley Domonousky
Sheila Culnan
Linda Abbott
Barbara Mohr
Linda Pollock
Haley Farris
Terry Rook



Honor Guard

Commander: Matt Zirwas
Members: Jim Fournier
Bruce Thurber
Tom McCausland
Ray Yarnell
Bruce Walkowiak
Donna Walkowiak
Stephan Raspante
Mike DeMarte
Jesse Figueroa
Brandon Thurber



Dear Members,

Greetings from your incoming Auxiliary President. I would like to thank each and everyone one of you for coming out to vote. I am very proud to announce your new incoming Auxiliary Officers for the years 2014 - 2015.



**AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY**

<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>Kerry Baker</i>
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	<i>Sheila Cline Burns</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Janet Podhola</i>
<i>Sgt. At Arms</i>	<i>Karen Humann</i>
<i>Asst. Sgt. At Arms</i>	<i>Takeema Lewis Firueroa</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Maryann Spellman</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Sheila Cline Burns</i>
<i>Executive Members</i>	<i>Boots Kimber</i>
	<i>Sheila Culnan</i>
	<i>Linda Lanier</i>

I am looking forward to a very exciting year will all our Auxiliary Team. Please come to our installation on July 20, 2014 at 12:00 P.M.

Please remember if you want to know what's going on with your Auxiliary please attend our meetings, they are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. I will try my very best to keep the meetings under one hour, keep them interesting, and keep all members informed of our Auxiliary activities.

Sincerely,

Sharon McCausland

American Legion Auxiliary President, Unit 117

SAL Members,

I want to thank everyone for electing me to the office of Squadron Commander for the best Squadron anywhere, Squadron 117, Detachment of Florida. I am proud to serve you as Commander and will make you proud of electing me. Last year we raised \$3,529.00 in cash donations and \$2,511.00 in in-kind donations for Special Olympics. We also made donations to many other youth and veterans programs. With help from the riders we were able to purchase a second fryer for the post kitchen. We also made a donation to the post for the roof on the overhang. This year I hope we can do even more for those charities you wish to support.

Our membership grew from 115 to 142 for 123% of our goal. Let's start targeting our membership for the coming year. We were the 4th Squadron to hit 100% last year let's be first this year. Renew early and get your early bird stamp as I hear this year's dinner will be special. We set a goal of 145 members this year, 3 more than last year so it's not that large a gap. We have to try to retain and sign up new members. Talk to the new and one year members and find their likes and interests and try to use that knowledge to go along with one of our projects. Help get them involved.

Bruce Thurber

**Sons of the American Legion Commander
Squadron 117**



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION**

Fellow Legion Riders,

Here we are the end of my first year as Director. It was a great year with the help of all the riders and officers. A special thanks goes out to our Commander, Duane Podhola, for all his work and letter he sent to the ALR Adjutant telling what we have accomplished throughout the year. At the riders meeting at the convention, I was very proud to accept two awards for our riders. One was for the Winner Best Post, Large Category, American Legion Riders Program, and the other one was Overall Chapter of the Year. All the riders should be proud of this accomplishment.



By the time you read this we would have had our Project Suds poker run and our Fourth of July steak cook-out. Again I want to thank all the riders and officers for a great year. I hope this one is just as great.

Richard Kissinger

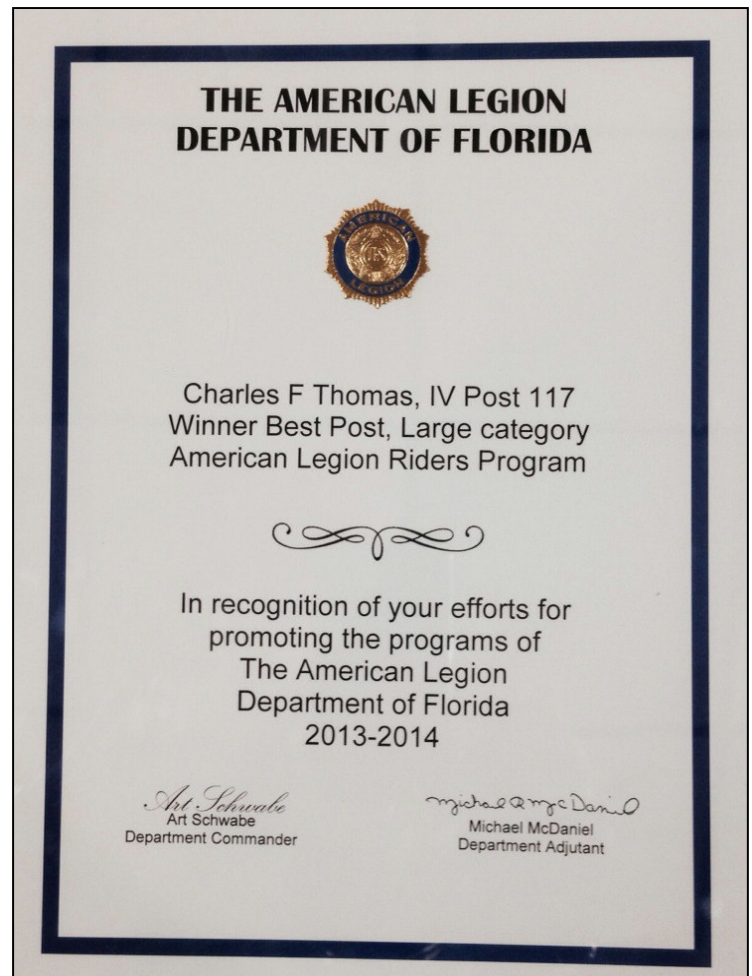
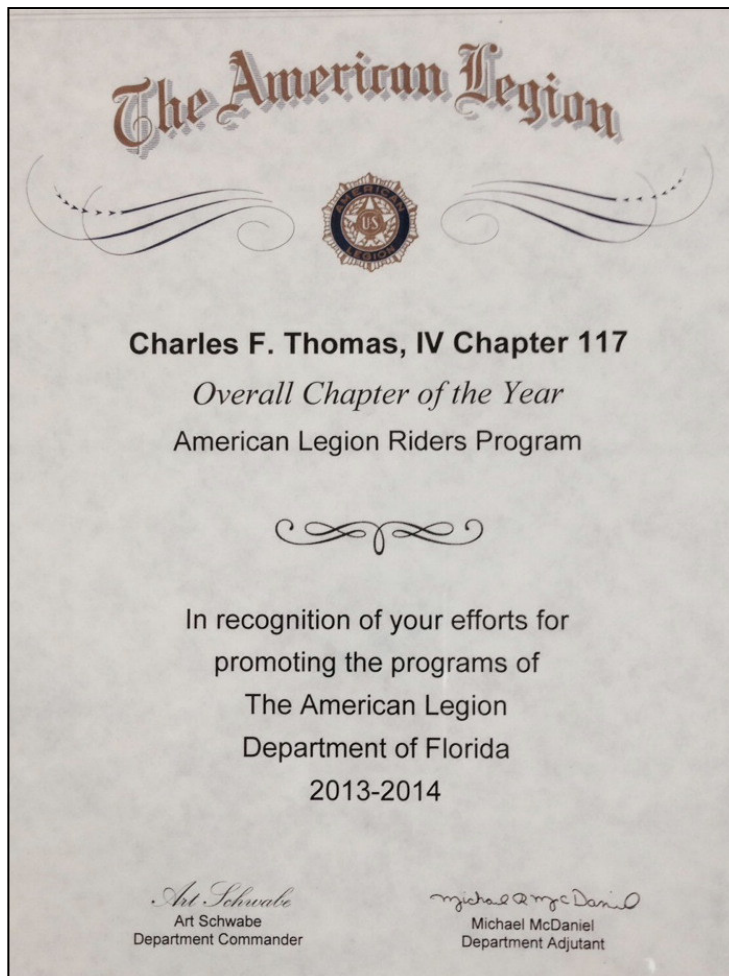
Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 117

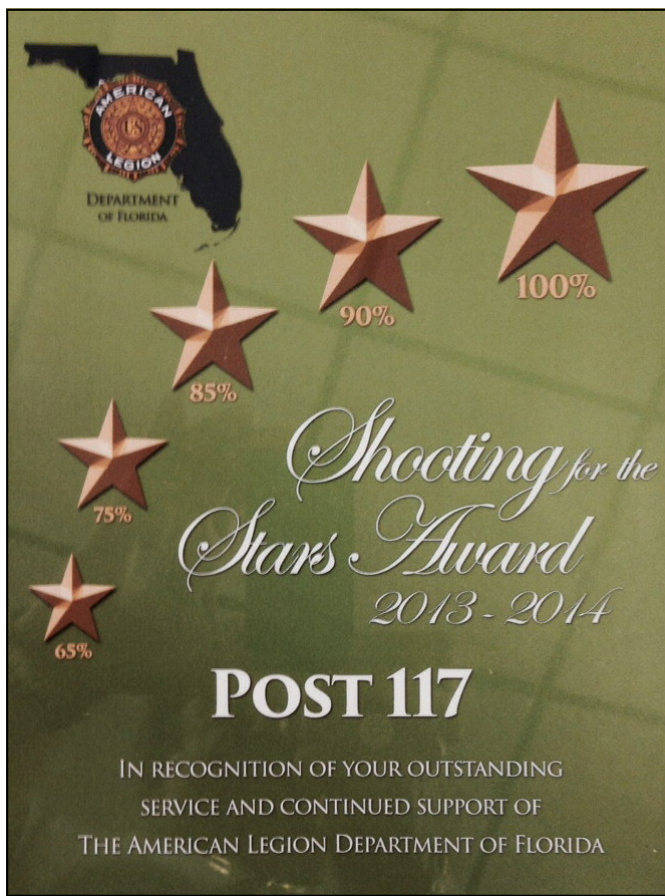
Legion Riders Awards

During the 2014 Department Convention Legion Riders Session, American Legion Riders Chapter 117 received the "Overall Riders Chapter of the Year" Award and "Best Post, Large Category Riders Program" Award. These awards were presented to Chapter 117 for their accomplishments during 2013-2014. Some of the items include: holding the Legion Riders State Rally, holding the Eastern Area Riders Meet & Greet, participating and supporting the State Legacy Ride, support to a Special Olympics Benefit, support to South Brevard Stand Down, completing improvements to the Post facility and property, participating in numerous runs, escorts, and events, and donating over \$8,600 to veteran causes and support to the community. Please join me in thanking them for all they do for our Post, community, and our Veterans.

Duane Podhola,

Past Commander, American Legion Post 117





Membership is the lifeblood of any Post. This year American Legion Post 117 exceeded all membership goals throughout the year. Many thanks goes out to Post Adjutant, Jesse Figueroa, for managing the membership for our Post and ensuring we met those goals. At the recent Department Convention two of our Post members and myself received the Top Ten Membership Award for recruiting new members to our Post. We are now in a new year and new membership cards for 2015 are available. Our new 1st Vice Commander, Bruce Thurber, and Adjutant, Jesse Figueroa, will be happy to assist you in renewing your membership. Renew early and get the early bird stamp on your card and receive a dinner on the Post. Help us make 100% plus again next year.

Duane Podhola,

Past Commander, American Legion Post 117

Honor Guard Accomplishments

The Honor Guard unit of Post 117 is one of the best in Brevard County, all members of this Post can be proud of their outstanding accomplishments. May was a busy month for the Honor Guard with four Memorial Day ceremonies plus the opening ceremony for the Stand Down at our Post. Again I must say that I am proud to be their Commander. They work as a team and perform ceremonies with professionalism.

We received two really nice thank you letters from the East Ministries Church in Indiatlantic and the Century Oaks Veterans Assisted Living Center with all the Veterans and widow's of Veterans present that day signing the card for the Memorial Day ceremony. It is a nice feeling to get this recognition and being there for them.

I would like to express a thank you to the Post Auxiliary members Dawn Burgess and Linda Lanier for participating at Century Oaks Assisted Living with the Honor Guard. It was a great Day. Thanks to Barry Roberts for his support as our Chaplain. As a reminder, the last week in July will be the Honor Guard steak shoot and Friday night dinner. Please support them. Thank You.

Matt Zirwas

**Commander, American Legion Post 117 Honor Guard
Sergeant-At-Arms, American Legion Post 117**



Boosters

Bill Butler (5/15)
Elaine Griswold (7/16)
Duane & Janet Podhola (1/15)
Barbie & Ken (7/14)
Howard & Kathy Print (3/16)
Ruben & Asia Rodriguez (9/14)
Ernie & Shirley Winslow (1/15)
Barb & Ray Mohr (4/15)
Tom Sullivan (7/14)
Robert & Sandra Mack (9/14)
Dianne Thibodeau (11/15)
Jimmy "D" & Millie (11/14)
John & Judy Greed (3/15)
Tom & Les Giampino (3/15)
Matt Zirwas (5/15)

~ FROM OUR CHAPLAIN ~

Our Chaplain can be contacted regarding deaths, illness or requests for help

Barry Roberts (863) 661-9999

Booster Information

Due to the rising cost of printing and postage for the newsletters, we are asking you to help defray the cost by participating as a booster every year. A \$15 donation will allow you two names for one year.

Note: The numbers after your name indicate what month & year you need to renew your booster check made out to the "American Legion Post 117".

Hall Rental Information

Our Post Hall is available for special functions, weddings, anniversary & birthday parties, etc.

Call the Legion at 321-729-8089 for prices & booking info

Service Officer Support

We now have two new Service Officers assigned to Post 117. They will both be going to the Department Convention in June for training and certification. Please join me in welcoming James Stewart and Barry Roberts to the Legion Officer staff and to their new positions. If you need their services they can be reached at the numbers below.

James Stewart - (832) 315-7670

Barry Roberts - (863) 661-9999

Volunteers

Our Post is currently made up of around 1200 members, 700 Legion, 350 Auxiliary, and 150 Sons of the American Legion. One would think that out of that quantity we would have plenty of volunteers to help with meals, bingo, steak shoot, and support for Post activities. However, this is not the case. We are always in need of more volunteers to avoid burning out those that are continuously tasked to make meals, decorate, serve food, etc. If you have some spare time please get involved with your organization and give a little of your time. You will be greatly appreciated and who knows, you might even have some fun doing it. Please attend your Post meetings and get involved. Become part of the team.

Thanks,
Commander



Karaoke Entertainment Schedule



<u>Date</u>	<u>Entertainer(s)</u>
04 July	Jimmy "D"
06 July	Jimmy "D"
11 July	Dan Haber
13 July	Dan Haber
18 July	Tropical Nights
20 July	Tropical Nights
25 July	Chuck Body
27 July	Chuck Body

<u>Date</u>	<u>Entertainer(s)</u>
01 August	Jimmy "D"
03 August	Jimmy "D"
08 August	Dan Haber
10 August	Dan Haber
15 August	Tropical Nights
17 August	Tropical Nights
22 August	Chuck Body
24 August	Chuck Body
29 August	"Doc"
31 August	"Irish"



Taco Tuesday

During the months of July and August the Post will not be selling tacos on Tuesday evenings. We will resume our Taco Tuesday dinners in September.

Eastern Area Training for 12th District

Saturday July 12th

8am Registration - 9am Start

AM Coffee & Donuts & FREE Lunch
Consists of detailed training on the American Legion, provides insight on scheduling, management, this years membership plan plus other valuable information.



Pet Services

Free Services for Member's Pets

- ◆ Nails Trimmed or Dremeled
- ◆ Ear Hair Removed
- ◆ Ears Cleaned
- ◆ Anal Glands Drained

When: Second Tuesday of the Month
Time: 9:00 am till 3:00 pm
Place: American Legion Post 117
Provided By: Sharon McCausland



"PETS MUST BE ON LEASH OR IN CRATE"

Legion Shirts For Sale

T-Shirts (Tan)	\$12
Polo-Shirts (White)	\$25

Riders Items For Sale

Men's Tank Tops (Black).....	\$10
Men's T-Shirts (Black).....	\$10
Men's Muscle Shirts (Small to XL).....	\$10
Men's Muscle Shirts (2XL to 3XL).....	\$12
Men's Muscles (Black, White, Red)	
T-Shirts (Maroon) (Small to XL).....	\$16
T-Shirts (Maroon) (2XL to 3XL).....	\$18
Denim (Lt Blue) (Small to XL).....	\$25
Denim (Lt Blue) (2XL).....	\$25
Long Sleeve (Black).....	\$20
Ladies Tank Top (Black).....	\$15
Ladies V-Neck (Black).....	\$18
Small Riders Patch.....	\$5
Large Riders Patch.....	\$20
Hat	\$15

SAL Items For Sale

Flag Poles (20' Expandable)	\$50
US Flag (3x5)	\$20
POW/MIA Flag.....	\$30
SAL Hats.....	\$10

South Brevard Stand Down

South Brevard Stand Down was a tremendous success. A total of 101 veterans received services from close to 200 volunteers. The services included the routine stand down care; i.e. medical care, legal advice, Service Officer referrals, showers, hot meals, hygiene, new clothes, haircuts and packages of food to go. What we had in addition was a tremendous hit. There were 15 female veterans from the Women's facility on Grissom Parkway who attended with their children and while the moms received the services and were pampered with manicures and pedicures, the children were well supervised in the Post play area. Several Service Dogs received grooming treatment from our resident dog groomer. Many veterans received dental exams and it is estimated that 13 will actually receive teeth!!! That's right, full and partial dentures. Many received cell phones for the first time from the on site vendor and ten yes that's right ten veterans were referred into housing!!! A new record!!!!

The community of Brevard really stepped up with in kind and monetary donations due to the media blitz in the days prior: Florida Today, Hometown News ran articles the day before, Radio Station 98.5 "The Beach" aired it hourly and Channel 13 ran a segment on it hourly for days before the stand down. It was pretty incredible. We even had veterans come from Orange and Indian River Counties. On-site the day of stand down, Mary Kemper from Veteran's Voice was there to interview several of our veterans and take pictures, there's a great article in the June 12th edition.

Despite the rain - the day was phenomenal - yes there were some glitches - and we intend to iron them out before the next one - yes we will be making this an annual event. So stay tuned.

I can't say enough about the wonderful volunteers who pulled together to make this happen - without them our guys and gals wouldn't have left smiling and happy the way they did!! Special thanks to our Commander Duane Podhola and the amazing Team Leads - leadership at its finest!!!!

Thank you!!!!

Yours in Service For God, Country, and our Veterans

Dorothy Walsh



Haley's Awesome

CHICKEN WINGS!

Wings - 50 Cents each
Pitcher of Beer - \$5
With 10 Wings

Wednesdays, 3 - 7 PM
Special Flavors Weekly



Legion, Aux, SAL, and Rider Officers,

Congratulations to each of you for your selection as an Officer of this Post. For many of you, your new position is a stepping stone but to many of you it will be a new adventure, hopefully a satisfying one. I wish you all the best in your assignments and hope that you take them seriously. Members of our Post rely on you to safeguard and protect it. Always present a professional image and handle issues in a professional manner. As your Finance Officer for the next year I will be there if you need assistance. Thanks for supporting me during my three years as your Commander.

Sincerely,

Duane Podhola

Past Commander, American Legion Post 117

Project “Suds” Poker Run



On Saturday, 28 June 2014, American Legion Riders Chapter 117 sponsored a poker run to support funding for Project Suds. For those of you who are unaware of the program it is an activity that provides homeless veterans a means to laundry their clothing weekly. The project provides all cleaning products and provides the Veteran money to wash their clothes. They are also provided breakfast items and are sometimes given food to take back to their camps. The project has been a great success and has been recognized by the Department and National Headquarters. The veterans are extremely grateful and appreciative of the support they are getting from American Legion Post 117 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1005.

The “Suds” Poker Run was a great success and collected nearly \$2,500 to help support the project. Many thanks go out to all the folks who helped support the event, cooked food, helped in setup and cleanup, and all the other items that make an event a success. Special thanks to Tropical Nights DJ, Mr. Harald Albinus, for providing excellent tunes all afternoon. Thanks to all the businesses who supported the run to include Camp Holly, Lou’s Blues, Broken Barrel, Palm Bay Moose, and Crossroads. The ride was great, the weather was outstanding, and everyone enjoyed the day. Thanks again to all the participants, supporters, and volunteers.



Florida Legion Riders Rally



On 16 May 2014, American Legion Riders Chapter 117 held the Florida Legion Riders Rally. The three day event had Riders from all over the state with representation from numerous Chapters. On Friday the Post had food available during the mid day and the Auxiliary provided an Italian dinner. Music was provided by a DJ on Friday and Saturday and the band Slickwood provided music in the late afternoon. On Saturday food was provided by Broken Barrel. They had several smoked meats and side dishes. On Saturday a fun run was scheduled which covered around 80 miles with stops at several Posts in District 12. The event was a great success and enjoyed by everyone who attended. The event was planned and coordinated by American Legion Riders from Chapter 117 and American Legion Post 117 members.

American Legion Post 117
189 Veterans Way SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909

American Legion District 12 Roster of Officers 2014-2015

Commander	Ron Saxby	Post 81	321.914.9046
Vice Commanders	Felix Ayala	Post 318	785.209.1101
	Roger Rhodes	Post 163	772.332.2049
Adjutant	Jesse Figueroa	Post 117	321.507.5296
Finance Officer	Wayne Smith	Post 163	321.698.6989
Chaplain	Tracy Rac	Post 348	321.684.1805
Historian			
Judge Advocate	Mark Johnson	Post 163	321.749.1118
Service Officer			
Sergeant-At-Arms	Linda Walker	Post 348	321.799.1060
Asst. Sgt.-At-Arms	Tim Morris	Post 117	321.557.4437
	Jerry Agerstrand	Post 163	321.543.6847
	Vinny LaFiura	Post 348	321.799.1060
	Bob Franklin	Post 348	321.799.1060
	Allan Raycroft	Post 22	321.636.9720
	George Gray	Post 40	772.461.1480

*Congratulations to all the District Officers.
Best wishes for a great year.*

Newsletter Mail Request

If you are requesting the newsletter be mailed to your residence please fill in the form below and mail to: American Legion Post 117

189 Veterans Drive SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Name: _____ Membership Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____