

Charles E. Murray

American Legion Post 186



NEWSLETTER

No. 2019

January - February 2019

Canteen Phone 352-597-9995
Office Phone 352-597-9524

E-Mail: americanleg186@bellsouth.net
Website <http://www.flpost186.org>

Check out our Website for photos of some recent activities

COMMANDER
Steve Tyler
americanleg186@bellsouth.net
Flpost186@hotmail.com

Greetings Legion family! I imagine by the time you read this we may have seen both Christmas and Thanksgiving (and maybe New Year's Eve) transpire. Regardless, greetings to one and all. I hope you had wonderful and memorable times with family and friends.

This month I would like to address the subject of engagement at the Legion. Now first, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone for your support of the Legion. To everyone who participates in Queen of Hearts, Bingo, Show Me the Money, Thirsty Thursday, Friday Fish Fry and Karaoke, Steak Shoot, Sunday NFL and Wings and Bloodies and Mimosas, and everything else, your participation and contributions to the Post are very much appreciated by myself and all of my officers.

The type of engagement I am talking about goes beyond the income we receive from the above, which is vital of course. I am talking about time and volunteerism. Folks, we have over 1500 members of our Legion family, including Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons (the Riders derive from all three groups). 1500. That's a big number, putting us pretty much in the top ten or so in the Department of Florida.

And yet, with this large family, we seem to always struggle to get people to help out with the many programs and projects in which the Legion is involved. Remember, we are not just a social club. We are a veteran's organization founded on the Four Pillars of the American Legion:

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

An organization as large as ours can do so much good for our veterans and our community if we could just get more people to participate. I'm not asking for a huge commitment. Just a few hours per month is all that's needed. For example, Show Me the Money. If you were to arrive at 4:30 and leave at 7:30, that's a mere 3 hours if you volunteered to do just one week a month. I'm not asking for a huge commitment of time, just for more people to step up and help. A small commitment of time from each member can make such a huge difference. Folks, the small cadre of volunteers who put forth the majority of the effort are, quite frankly, getting burned out.

A true family helps and supports each other. Reach out, step up, lend a hand. Go out to Bushnell and place a wreath as part of Wreaths Across America. Volunteer to help with Boys or Girls State. Attend a Four Chaplains event. Attend the Memorial Day service at Aripeka Cemetery. Offer to help with a dinner sponsored by your organization. Be a Bingo caller, sell 50/50 tickets at Queen of Hearts, etc.

My Legion family means a lot to me. I really look forward to hearing from you. The Post e-mail address is flpost186@hotmail.com, and there is still a notebook at the bar if you want to sign up for the post email. Our Facebook page is Legion Post 186. And the last Friday of every month I have my "Commander's Table" at the post from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

I sincerely hope you will all take my words to heart, and that I will see a burst of participation here at our Post.

For God and Country
Steve Tyler – Post 186 Commander

FIRST VICE COMMANDER

Barbara Smith

americanleg186@bellsouth.net

csmith1404@tampabay.rr.com

Happy New Year to one and all and a great big welcome to our snow birds that are back or still in the process of coming back!

The Early Bird dinner is over and we had an excellent turnout. I appreciate all of you who paid your dues in advance. We all know the cards are valid for one year, but Department and National runs membership different with competitions going on between posts and money incentives for those that hit the goal. By not paying early, we miss out on some of these opportunities.

Second renewal notice has now gone out in the mail from National Headquarters. Your 2018 card will expire on December 31, 2018 and you will lose your privileges at Post 186 and come off the newsletter mailing list. This will mean you will not be able to participate in activities, fundraisers, eat or drink at the legion. Please check your cards and get paid up to date.

I am asking each of you to support the Legion by renewing your membership. We are five months into the 2019 membership year we are at 75.6 % but it has been a long and hard road.

There is a lot of activity going on at the post. We have something going six days a week. Without you attending functions or paying your dues – we cannot support the programs for Children and Youth, Scholarships, Boys State, Homeless Veterans and stand downs to name a few. Also, don't forget our monthly meetings are always the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00. You are encouraged to attend the meetings and see what is going on and also you opportunity to ask questions and vote on what is happening at the legion.

Don't forget we are gearing up for the New Year's Eve Party. This will be at no cost to you except for you drinks! We are doing a pot luck, bring a dish to share. **There is a sign-up sheet at the bar** so we can get a variety of different foods coming in. We will provide hats, horns, noise makers, Champagne toast at midnight and a light continental breakfast. "Shoe" will be our entertainment for the night as he will DJ the latest tunes for us.

For God and Country
Barbara Smith

2ND VICE COMMANDER

ED SNYDER

anita-m3@hotmail.com

Happy New Year, Everyone!!

Wishing you and your families all the best for the coming year.

Please refer to your Calendars (which are enclosed in your Newsletter) for Events and Entertainment schedule.

For God and Country,
Edward A. Snyder

ALR DIRECTOR

americanleg186@bellsouth.net

Greetings, salutations, and Happy New Year from the saddle of my beautiful 2017 Indian Springfield! Yes, that's my baby you have seen parked in the Post Commander's spot.

But seriously folks. I pray you all had an amazing and happy holiday season, hopefully spent in the warm, loving company of family and friends. On a personal note, I officially became a motorcycle riding grandpa on Tuesday, November 27th when Lachlan Alan Tyler arrived into this world, my first grandchild. My wife Cheryl and I are thrilled to finally be grandparents. And yes, we will spoil him!

By the time you read this, lots will have transpired. Your Legion Riders have proudly represented the Post on weekly "awareness" rides. We have done funeral escorts, charity events, participated in the "Ceremony for the Unattended" at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell (a quarterly service for interred veterans who have no known living family), and laid wreaths at Bushnell as part of Wreaths Across America. (We donated 100 wreaths).

I want to thank all the Bingo players who donated food for the 24 Thanksgiving food baskets (well, boxes really) we gave out to local families in need. This year we donated to post members and employees, nine families from the local Air National Guard Blackhawk helicopter unit, and for the first time, ten Boy Scout families. I especially want to thank Joe and Margie Ruggiero, who for the third or fourth year donated 5 turkeys to the Riders.

Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, we had to cancel our Chicken Marsala dinner. I have looked at the calendar for next year and we hope to reschedule for Saturday April 6th. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements. One dinner we will definitely be having is our Annie's Famous Lasagna Dinner on Saturday, January 26th. You all know how awesome her lasagna is. Tickets are \$9 and will be on sale after January 1st.

That same night we will be drawing the winner for our "Rollin' in the Dough" fundraiser to benefit the Legacy Scholarship Fund. We have 200 tickets available (at the bar) for \$10 each. If we sell all 200 tickets the winner will receive \$1000 (50/50 split). Tickets will be available up to the night of the dinner.

That's about it for now. As always, please keep your eyes open and watch for motorcycles as you travel the roads of our beautiful Nature Coast.

For God and Country
Steve Tyler
Riders Director

Greetings from the Canteen
Bud Conaway – Manager

The staff hopes all our members had a great Christmas with family and friends! We experienced a slight decline in revenue in November and have had to make some adjustments to our staffing and hours. This will be an ongoing thing as we balance our income and expenses. December looks pretty good as a lot of snowbirds have returned. Additionally, I was surprised how many returnees did not know the outcome of the smoking vote. As you well know, there is NO smoking in the building ! However, there is a nice pavilion outside our side door where smoking is allowed!

Speaking of staffing, I have hired a new waitress and bar staff. Schedules may change! But the level of service by our staff will NOT change!

The pavilion is available for rental. I maintain the schedule but the commander gets the contract signed, provides conditions of rental, and gives approval! We have already had a wedding and engagement party and another wedding is scheduled for January. In addition, the submariner group meets once a month as does the New York Club! This allows us to increase our revenue base and is a source for new members. Please give our guests a kind word or two and answer any questions they may have about the post !

For God and Country,
Bud Conaway, Canteen Manager

House Committee Report

There will not be a House Committee Report in this issue. Be assured that there are many issues still on the agenda. The ramp to the pavilion has been installed and the sound system replaced.

There is a lot happening at the American Legion seven (7) days a week and it is obvious that the Snow Birds are back.

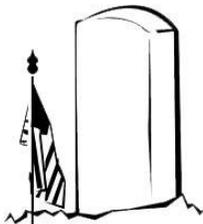


COMMANDER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Monthly Meeting December 20th, come join us. Give us an hour of your time. Please get your Dues payments in by December 31st. Without your 2019 card you will lose Legion privileges.

For God and Country,
Jim Ness

POST CHAPLAIN
Rick Woods
harley03@tampabay.rr.com



Recent Passings: Paul Walters (Past Commander), Blake G. Smith, Steven Mickelson, Dick Fillrettaz & Edward Ferreira

POST SERVICE OFFICER
Bob Manning
50calgunner1969m@gmail.com

Office Hours: Please call the Post

Lynda J. Anderson
Auxiliary President
352-596-4436
lynda6260@aol.com



Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays and were able to spend time with family and friends. Here's hoping 2019 is your best year yet!

We made it through a very hectic November and December, and once again had a successful Angel Tree Christmas Giveaway. While this is one of our most ambitious and demanding projects, it is also one of our most gratifying uplifting undertakings. Knowing that you have brought Christmas cheer to children and their families brings forth a full range of emotions.

And now, on to other ventures. In January our focus turns to learning ventures. We start our scholarship program, getting our Unit, as well as National, scholarship forms and information out to the local high schools. That process continues through May, and culminates with the presentation of scholarships at the high school Awards Ceremonies. Preparations for the Girls State program are also in full swing, with their application and selection preparations and process. The Girls State Program is currently running a TV raffle, with the drawing to be held on February 1, 2019. Tickets are \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00 and are available from Girls State Chair, Eileen Wilson, or at the Canteen. Buy a chance on this State of the Art TV.

Our Valentine's Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 6:00 pm, with the proceeds benefitting our Americanism program. Details will be posted as the date draws near.

We are also planning some informational sessions during January and February where our programs and basic auxiliary information will be discussed. This will be a great question and answer opportunity for all members. As details are finalized, flyers will be posted on our board and e-mails will be sent to our contact list members.

Upcoming Auxiliary Events:

January 10: Auxiliary General Meeting - 7:00 pm
February 1: Drawing for Girls State TV Raffle
February 9: Valentines Dinner, 6:00 pm, benefitting the Americanism Program
February 14: Auxiliary General Meeting – 7:00 pm

Check our Auxiliary Boards at the Post for updates or changes to events.

For God and Country,
Lynda Anderson

**AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN
716-474-7425**

After many years of service our Auxiliary Chaplain, Betty Lou Bennett, is retiring. With Betty Lou's departure, Annette Snyder, our First Vice President, has agreed to fill the Chaplain position. Annette can be reached at 716-474-7425, or by e-mail to Anita_M3@hotmail.com. Thank you, Betty Lou, for your years of service, and Annette, for assuming the Chaplain position

Centurion Veterans



Forest Oaks of Spring Hill Senior Center

Sandy Walker 11/22/18

Richard Chitco 12/04/18

2018 Angel Tree Project



Unit 186 American Legion Auxiliary accepting a \$500 Walmart Foundation Grant from Walmart Manager Steven Smith. Patti Motzer, Steven Smith, Lynda Anderson and Joanne Holobinka.



Betty Weiner and Jack Frain survived the inclement weather on the way to Bushnell on 12/15/18



Veteran's Day 11/11/18



Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell, Florida

As of January 1, 2019, the following are proud members of the American Legion Post 186 Booster Club. You, too, can be a member. Just \$10.00 per year and your name will be published on our Bulletin Board and in our Post Newsletter. This donation will help the ever-rising cost of printing and mailing. Your generosity is appreciated. The Memorial Section of the Booster Club is supported by the generosity of our members. Thank you.

2058

Carlton & Beth Ann Terrell

2030

Lloyd Sellers

2029

Joseph & Donna Greenwald
SONS Squadron 186

2028

Joseph Federico

2027

Anna Pellegrini
George Coon

2032

Frank & Sharon Sevick

2025

Glen and Beatrice Ohanesian

2024

Lloyd Gross
Vincent Gigliotti
American Legion Riders
Marion & Frank Hauck
Don and Joan Jernstrom

2023

Frank J. Smith

2022

Gloria Murray
Steve Small
R. Larry Taddei
Joe & Marge Ruggiero

2021

Jimmy Schultz
Post 186 Color Guard
Ruth Oppert
Diana Austed
Don St. Pierre

2020

Bob Burch
Bob & Linda Conte
James Lackey
Raymond Frattini
Doris Webster
William Hartill
Paul Andrews
Barbara G. Smith

2019

Donna Greenwald
Janet Bowman
Fellip & Beverly Zielinski
Anonymous
John Keller
Joe & Mildred Garza
Robert Eudeikis
David Salomski
Jim & Eleanor Krakowiak
John Carvendar
Frank & Carole Babicz
James Millsapps
Ronald Rehurek

In Memory of Past Members

Olisse Pellegrini
Dorothy Henderson
PFC Cody Grater
Bern Cottingham
Joe Sabol
Linda Harper
Donnie Holmes
Betty Jefferies
Paul Webster
Nanette Keller
Marie Meglic
Charlie Fox
George "Fitz" Hudock
Russell L. LaBaron Jr.
Leon Girard
Luis Hernandez
Frank J. Smith
Philip Cecere
Denny Stewart
William Mackubian
John Higgins
Richard Irish
Ed Kolbasiuk
Paul Howard
Fran Swartz

PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION: \$ _____ NAME: _____